



# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

July - August 2011

### PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

*Selection of activities undertaken by country offices over the last month*



World Development Report 2011  
Conflict, Security and Development

**B**russels, **May 26** - MEPs Ana Gomes (Portugal), Franziska Brantner (Germany) and Maria Muniz (Spain) hosted a presentation of the World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) 2011: Conflict, Security and Development with WDR 2011 co-Director Sarah Cliffe at the European Parliament on 26 May 2011. Chairing the event, Ms. Gomes welcomed the report as an important contribution to the debate on security and development. She said though some of its ideas were not new, the report provided a good opportunity to better raise awareness on the links between security and development within the EU institutions and the World Bank. Ms. Muniz, a commentator on the report, also welcomed the report, particularly its emphasis on the development of legitimate institutions. Ms Brantner on her part as a fellow commentator called on the Bank not to push for privatization indiscriminately as this could undermine the legitimate institutions needed to maintain security and development.

Performance Budgeting and how the role of the Legislative in a context of Performance Budgeting could help address the main development challenges facing the country today. The training was well received and additional sessions are now being planned.

For more information, please contact [rsenderowitsch@worldbank.org](mailto:rsenderowitsch@worldbank.org)

**S**tockholm, **June 9** - Sarah Cliffe, Special Representative for the World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development, briefed members of the Foreign Policy Committee, the Defence Committee and the Justice Committee on the report's findings, in a meeting moderated by Foreign Policy Committee chair Karin Enström. Swedish Executive Director to the World Bank, Anna Brandt also addressed the Members, speaking on how to operationalize the recommendations from the report. In the following discussion, members touched upon the situation in the Middle East; gender equality; country and local ownership of development projects; managing risk in fragile states and environments; and on the possible changes in the World Bank's operations following the report's recommendations. The report was also presented at a public event in Stockholm.

For more information, please see [www.worldbank.org/sweden](http://www.worldbank.org/sweden)

For more information please see [www.worldbank.org/eu](http://www.worldbank.org/eu)

**D**ominican Republic, **June 1st** During the month of May, the World Bank Country Manager in the Dominican Republic delivered a special training to the Human Development Commission of the Lower Chamber of Congress. The training focused on basic techniques for

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**Washington, June 8** - Twenty five staff members from the U.S. Congress visited World Bank Headquarters as part of the bi-annual Congressional Staff Day at the World Bank. The theme of the visit focused on how the World Bank uses and protects U.S. investments. The half day seminar started with a World Bank overview, followed by a briefing from the Institutional Integrity (INT) team who spoke about preventing, investigating and sanctioning corruption in Bank projects. The day ended with a keynote speech by Managing Director, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Ngozi spoke about her personal experience growing up in Nigeria during the Nigeria-Biafran war, fighting corruption as Finance Minister, and why the World Bank's work matters to the United States. The delegation included key staff members that represent authorization and appropriation committees that have oversight of the Bank. The event was organized in partnership with the Bank's North America team and the bipartisan Caucus for Congressional World Bank Dialogue.

For more information, please contact [msteele1@worldbank.org](mailto:msteele1@worldbank.org)

**Brussels, June 17** - Jonathan Walters, World Bank Director for Strategy and Regional Programs in the Middle East and North Africa region, participated in a public hearing at the European Parliament on "Renewable Energy in the MEDA Region" organized by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on 17 June. In his intervention he outlined progress on the deployment of concentrated solar power in the MENA region,

highlighting the potential for export of solar energy towards Europe and benefits to mitigate climate change. Specifically, he praised the Moroccan authorities, represented at the hearing, for their leading role in this sector.

For more information, please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

**Armenia, June 21** - The World Bank staff met with the members of Armenia's Parliamentary Committee on Economic Issues, chaired by Vardan Aivazyan, to discuss key reforms under review by the National Assembly pertaining to mining legislation and fiscal reforms. This meeting was also attended by representatives from IMF. The meeting discussed fundamental conceptual principles reflected in the draft mining code, which the Parliament began debating at its June 22 extraordinary session. It also highlighted key deficiencies of the related tax laws, such as the defects of the Profit Tax Law, which has a direct implication on the level of profitability as the base for calculating the current Royalty (tax on extra-profit).

For more information, please contact [agrigoryan1@worldbank.org](mailto:agrigoryan1@worldbank.org)

**Berlin, June 28** - As an introductory meeting in his new capacity, Carlos Braga, Special Representative and Director of External Affairs Europe, met with Dagmar Wöhrl, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) during his visit to Berlin. Ms. Wöhrl and Mr. Braga discussed the recently launched Working Group on the World Bank ("Initiativkreis

Weltbank") and possibilities for members of the German Bundestag (MdBs) to join the PNoWB. Further topics included the upcoming Annual Meetings, which Wöhrl will attend, and opportunities for MdBs to visit World Bank projects on field trips.

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**SELECTION OF UPCOMING  
ACTIVITIES FOR  
PARLIAMENTARIANS**

*Consultations on the Bank  
Country Strategies*



The Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Assistance Strategies. In July and August, the Board is scheduled to review the Country Partnership Strategies (CPS) for Costa Rica and Colombia as well as the Interim Strategy Notes (ISN) for Togo and the Kyrgyz Republic. Members of parliament were involved in the consultations.

*August 1-26, 2011-Parliaments and  
Climate Change E-learning Course*

This introductory course provided by the World Bank Institute (WBI) seeks to provide an examination of the impacts of climate change on social and environmental development and their direct



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correlation to the economic sustainability of a nation in the long-term.

More information on E-courses at [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org)

## September 20, 2011 - Workshop for Parliamentarians in Washington

In cooperation with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, the IMF and the World Bank are organizing a one day workshop for Parliamentarians in Washington D.C. on the 20th of September. At the workshop, which will take place just ahead of the Bank and Fund Annual Meetings, participating Parliamentarians will have a chance to discuss current issues with experts from the two institutions.

Interested parties may contact [mtixeront@worldbank.org](mailto:mtixeront@worldbank.org) at the Bank or [givanova@pnowb.org](mailto:givanova@pnowb.org) at the the Parliamentary Network (PNoWB).

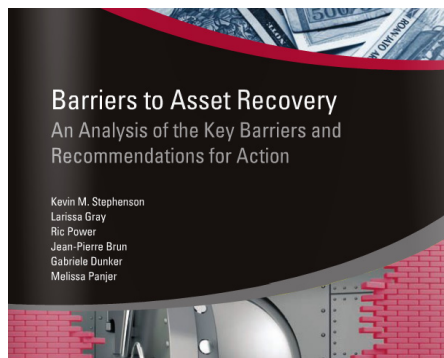
**WORLD BANK NEWS PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES**

## Barriers to Asset Recovery

Despite international commitments, significant barriers remain in the process of recovering the proceeds of corruption from foreign jurisdictions. Released on June 21 by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative – a partnership of the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) - the study advises policy makers on reforms that will enable the recovery of stolen assets. The study analyzes the barriers to recovering stolen

assets in foreign jurisdictions, and introduces examples of good practices.

The report can be accessed at <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821386606>



## Launch of the World Bank’s Trade strategy

Trade is a powerful engine for economic growth and opportunity, and it has been a central feature of the global economic recovery. But even though many countries have benefited greatly from global integration, the gains have been distributed unequally, both between countries and within them. In order to improve the inclusiveness of trade, and to promote its impacts on reducing poverty and inequality, the World Bank Group (WBG) has developed its first Trade Strategy “Leveraging Trade for Development and Growth” to guide its work over the next decade. The strategy was endorsed last week by the Board of Executive Directors, following a six-month public consultation process in 2010.

You can access the strategy at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/TRADE/Resources/WBGTradeStrategyJune10.pdf>

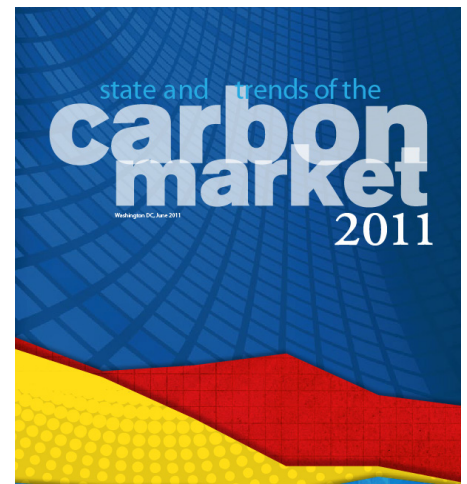
## Food Prices-New Risk Management Product

On June 21, the World Bank Group announced a new risk management product to provide up to an initial \$4 billion in protection from volatile food prices for farmers, food producers, and consumers in developing countries, addressing a key issue that will be discussed later in the week by Group of 20 (G-20) ministers. This first-of-its-kind product will improve access to hedging instruments to shield consumers and producers of agricultural commodities from price volatility. It will also protect buyers from price rises in food-related commodities.

For more information, please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/>

**PUBLICATIONS**

## Growth in Global Carbon Market Pauses amid Uncertainty



The World Bank’s annual review of the global carbon market shows that 2010 was a watershed year



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as the market ended five years of robust growth with a slight decline compared to 2009. *The State and Trends of the Carbon Market 2011*, released on June 1 at Carbon Expo in Barcelona, shows that the total value of the global carbon market was estimated to be US\$142 billion last year.

For more information, please visit [www.carbonfinance.org](http://www.carbonfinance.org)

## ***Global Economic Prospects 2011 June Update***

The June 2011 report focuses on the short and medium-term prospects for developing countries in the context of a global economic environment. This June 2011 update published on June 8, focuses on the short- and medium-term prospects for developing countries in the context of a global economic environment that has shifted quickly from fairly favorable growth conditions to exceptionally more challenging international risks and domestic challenges.



The report examines the growth impact of the developments in the Middle East and North Africa, euro area finance, and of higher oil and food prices for developing countries.

For more information, please visit [www.worldbank.org/globaloutlook](http://www.worldbank.org/globaloutlook)

## ***Joint WB/WHO's Global Report on Disability***



At United Nations Headquarters, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) released on June 9, 2011, the first-ever *World Report on Disability* with new estimates that more than one billion people are living with some form of disability. The report urges governments and their development allies to invest more leadership and financing in services and programs that could unlock the potential of people with disabilities. It provides the first global estimates of persons with disabilities since 1970s, and provides an overview of the status of disability in the world.

For more information, please visit [www.worldbank.org/disability](http://www.worldbank.org/disability)

## ***Doing Business in Southeast Europe 2011***

A new IFC-World Bank report finds that business regulation reform across southeast Europe is saving local entrepreneurs both time and money. Launched in Vienna in June 28, *Doing Business in Southeast Europe 2011* is the second in a series that analyses the ease of doing business in 22 cities from seven economies:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia. Economies of southeast Europe have continued to reform business regulations despite the global financial crisis.

For more information, please visit <http://go.worldbank.org/Z02DI8TV80>

## ***Global Gas Flaring Down by 9%***

Reductions in gas flaring in several countries helped bring down flaring to 134 billion cubic meters (bcm) worldwide in 2010, a 13-bcm drop from 2009, according to the latest satellite estimates. This nine-percent global reduction was achieved even as global crude oil production rose by two million barrels a day over the same period, says the World Bank-led Global Gas Flaring



Reduction partnership (GGFR). The 13-bcm decline, led by Russia and Kazakhstan, is roughly equivalent to 30 million tons of CO2 emissions or to taking 6 million cars off the road.

For more information, please visit [www.worldbank.org/ggfr](http://www.worldbank.org/ggfr)