



# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

June 2011



### PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT AND WORLD BANK TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT

Midrand, South Africa, May 13-14, 2011 – The World Bank and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), in partnership with the African Parliamentary Centre organized a special seminar on International Development for over 50 members of parliament from Africa. The training focused on the role of International Financial Institutions in meeting Africa’s development challenges. “African Parliamentarians are a very important constituency in the development agenda, and they have shown, in many instances, that they can hold their government accountable and influence the political will for attainment of their set development goals,” said Colin Bruce, World Bank Director for Operations in the Africa Region. The goal of the seminar was to provide parliamentarians in Africa with practical knowledge about international development and expose them to thousands of freely available development resources, as a way of fostering informed debate in Africa as well as equipping the legislators to better exercise their oversight role both at the national and global levels. “One of the aims of the PAP is to encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States and we hope that this training in international development will equip the members with the requisite skills to debate development issues constructively and with the requisite knowledge,” said Hon. Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndélé, President of the Pan-

African Parliament. Participants also had a chance to discuss the new Africa Strategy and concrete development success stories. Presentations were given by experts from the World Bank, IFC and the IMF, parliamentary organizations, parliamentarians and scholars



### NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY DELEGATION VISITING THE WORLD BANK

Members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly’s Economics and Security Committee; and of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Relations visited the World Bank’s headquarters on May 9. The 30 senior members of parliaments, coming from 17 NATO Countries met with Senior Management of the World Bank, including Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Vice President for External Affairs Caroline Anstey. The delegation engaged in discussion on the World Bank’s World Development Report on conflict, security and development, as well as the situation in North Africa and in Sudan. Delegation members were also briefed on the World Bank’s efforts to alleviate the ongoing food crisis; and on the Bank’s groundbreaking work to open and make accessible for free all its data and knowledge



Pan African Parliament Seminar in Midrand

## TABLE OF CONTENT

- Feature Stories	Page 1
- From the regions	Page 1-2
- Upcoming activities for Parliamentarians	Page 3
- News & Publications	Page 4

### PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

Please find after a selection of activities undertaken by country offices over the last month



# World Bank Update

**Istanbul, Turkey, May 9-13** - An MEP delegation attended the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from 9-13 May in Istanbul, and met with World Bank Managing Director Ngozi Okonjo Iweala and Vice President for Concessional Financing Axel van Trotsenburg on May 10. The delegation made up of UK MEP Nirj Deva, Romanian MEP Corina Cretu, Greek MEP Eleni Theocarous and Slovenian MEP Ivo Vaigl, was aiming to exchange views with the Bank on better cooperation with LDCs, looking amongst others at sustainable trade, the fight against climate change, the MDGs, inclusive growth and innovative sources of financing. The EP established its position for the UN LDC Conference in a resolution adopted last month. This calls for amongst others, better opportunities for LDCs to participate in global trade; a focus on food security, infrastructure and climate change adaptation; better international coordination to address the conflict/security nexus; and stronger incentives and support to help countries graduate from LDC status. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

**Moldova** - The World Bank's program in Moldova is linking most of its work (Development Policy Operations, investment lending and Analytical and Advisory Assistance) to the government's reform agenda. In this context, the Country Director and Country Economist did a presentation to the Economics and Finance Committee of the Parliament on May 24, to explain the economic rationale for the reform agenda and how the Bank will support it. The pur-

pose of the presentation was to maintain the focus of all parties in advancing the reform agenda, to strengthen Parliament's support for key areas of reforms and facilitate a common understanding of development issues, to achieve the timely ratification of projects. For more information please contact [vneagu@worldbank.org](mailto:vneagu@worldbank.org).

**Paris, France, May 17** - 'Gender Equality is Smart Economics' said Director of the World Bank Gender Unit Mayra Buvinic, when she addressed the session entitled: "Building Support for Gender and Population in Development" at the 2011 Global Summit of Parliamentarians ahead of the G8 & G20, organized by the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) at the French National Assembly.



Mayra Buvinic at the French National Assembly

The aim of the session was to bring attention to the interplay between the rights of young women, population dynamics and development. It emphasized the need to prioritize and invest in empowering young women in the developing world, and the influence that these policies will have on population dynamics, which will then have an impact on development as a whole. She provided several examples about how the World Bank works to promote gender equality through-

out the world noting that the 2012 World Development Report will focus on Gender. Finally, she urged the 70+ participating parliamentarians who have the power to take the voices of the girls to make policies that will reflect the needs of women and girls for the benefit and empowerment of all. For more information, please contact [nbathily@worldbank.org](mailto:nbathily@worldbank.org)

**Madrid, Spain, May 12** - Vice president for Concessional Finance and Partnerships, Axel van Trotsenburg met with the head of the Parliamentary Committee on Development in Madrid, as part of a tour to update Spanish counterparts on the IDA16 replenishment. Contacts with parliamentarians may increase in coming months, as Parliament is launching a review study of Spanish aid to be published in February 2012. For more information please contact [jbarrera@worldbank.org](mailto:jbarrera@worldbank.org)

**Yerevan, Armenia, May 18** - The World Bank team led by Mr. Jesko Hentchel, Sector Manager, Human Development Economics in the Europe and Central Asia region, was hosted by the members of the Armenian National Assembly Standing Committee on Social Affairs led by Mr. Hakob Hakobyan, Chairperson. The Bank team presented the key findings of the "Social Assistance Programs and Work Disincentives" report prepared under the South Caucasus Programmatic Poverty Assessment. The MPs agreed with the key findings and emphasized the importance of using the analyses and key findings of the report in policy planning and for improving the delivery of social assistance programs. For more



# World Bank Update

information, please contact agrigory-an1@worldbank.org.

**The Hague, London** - The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development, launched during the Spring Meetings, examine the changing nature of violence in the 21st century, and underline the negative impact of repeated cycles of violence on a country or region's development prospects. As part of the formal launch of the report, presentations with Parliamentarians have been held in Europe. On April 27, Sarah Cliffe co-director of the report presented the findings to members of the Dutch Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee in The Hague (Netherlands);



*Conflict, Security and Development*

On May 23, Nigel Roberts, also co-Director of the Report, met with the International Development Parliamentary Committee (IDC) in London. The event, held at Portcullis House was chaired by Malcolm Bruce MP and attended by several members of the IDC and representatives from the House of Lords. In each location, participants were particularly interested in how the World Bank plans to implement the recommendations of the report. For more information, see the WDR 2011 website <http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/>.

**Brussels**, May 3 - French Centre Left MEP Pervenche Beres, Chair of the European Parliament (EP)'s Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, hosted a consultation meeting on the WB's forthcoming Strategy on Social Protection and Labor on May 3 in the European Parliament with WB Director for Social Protection Arup Banerji. In the discussions, Luxembourg Liberal MEP Charles Goerens, a former Development Minister, argued for a clearer concept of social protection. He also pointed out that European support for social protection internally went hand in hand with better aid performance, indicating that the top EU donors: Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands were those who also had good systems of social protection at home. Ms. Beres called for social protection to be looked at in the context of rising food prices globally. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org).

governance in 17 African countries. The Project is supported by the Bank, UK Department for International Development (DFID), USAID, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, and the University of Cape Town where it is based. More information at <http://www.africanlegislaturesproject.org/> or contact [cgears@worldbank.org](mailto:cgears@worldbank.org)

### *June 14-17 - Training of trainers, in Hanoi*

This workshop is designed for the Training Centre for Elected Representatives (TCER) in the National Assembly in preparation for the orientation sessions to be held in July before the first sitting of the newly elected National Assembly of Viet Nam. The World Bank, through the Country Office and the World Bank Institute (WBI) will provide training on financial oversight (ex ante and ex post) and legislative process.

### *June 13-July 8 - Parliaments and the Budget E-Learning Course*

The purpose of this training module of the World Bank Institute is to make a contribution towards supporting parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to effectively participate in the budget process.

### *June 22 - Book Launch on Parliamentary Reform in Africa*

The event will be from Washington with Video Conferencing connections to London, Accra and Dar-es-Salaam. The book, entitled African Parliamentary Reform, is a joint initiative by the World Bank Institute,

## SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

For more information on these activities, please contact [mtixeront@worldbank.org](mailto:mtixeront@worldbank.org). For e-courses you can consult [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org)

### *June 1st - Presentation on the Findings from the Africa Legislatures Project*

The African Legislatures Project (ALP) is the first comparative study of legislatures in Africa, and considers the evolution and impact of this key institution for democratic



# World Bank Update

the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Parliamentary Centre (Africa) and is a compilation of good practice case studies of parliamentary capacity building and reform in Africa.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Africa Competitiveness Report 2011*



A new report released on May 4, from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the World Economic Forum, takes stock of African competitiveness. The report finds that increasing trade, enhancing higher education, ensuring entrepreneurial opportunities for women and developing the tourism sector are important for improving the region's economic prospects. The report contains detailed competitiveness profiles for many African countries. More information at [www.worldbank.org/africa/acr](http://www.worldbank.org/africa/acr)

### *GLOBE Climate Change Legislation Study*

Launched on April 26, the report will be a major resource for legislators to identify gaps, share best practice and, importantly, will act as a baseline from which legislators will work to further advance legislation in 2011 and beyond. You can download the study at [www.globeinternational.info](http://www.globeinternational.info)

### *Survey on Parliaments' Ratification of Loan Agreements (ongoing)*

The Inter Parliamentary Union and the World Bank have agreed to collect information about the role of parliaments in the ratification of loan agreements negotiated between borrowing country governments and the World Bank. The aggregated survey results will be used for internal lessons-sharing, external communication on Bank practices, and to improve our programs with parliamentarians. More information will be provided in a later issue of the newsletter.

### *Global Development Horizons 2011*

By 2025, six major emerging economies—Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Russia—will account for more than half of all global growth and the international monetary system will no longer be dominated by a single currency, according to the report *Global Development Horizons 2011—Multipolarity: The New Global Economy*, released

on May 17, 2011. As economic power shifts, these successful economies will help drive growth in lower income countries through cross-border commercial and financial transactions. More information at [www.worldbank.org/gdh2011](http://www.worldbank.org/gdh2011)

## WORLD BANK NEWS PROGRAMMES AND FACILITIES

### *Key Data on Aidflows*

AIDFLOWS is the result of a partnership between the World Bank and the OECD-DAC. The two organizations have joined forces to provide a tool that visually presents key data on aid flows by donor and recipient over the last ten years through a series of charts and tables. Aidflows makes data on aid funding more accessible, supplies decision-critical information to policy makers and informs the global dialogue about development aid, and is available for free at [www.aidflows.org](http://www.aidflows.org)

### *World Bank Group Announces up to \$6 Billion for Egypt and Tunisia*

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick on May 24 announced up to \$6 billion in new Bank support over the next two years for Egypt and Tunisia linked to progress by the two post-revolutionary countries to modernize their economies so they provide more opportunity for their people. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/5U0OG5PRB0>