



# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

May 2011



Development Committee  
Spring Meetings 2011

### WORLD BANK MANAGEMENT REACHES OUT TO PARLIAMENTARIANS

On the occasion of the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, the World Bank organized a series of meetings and workshops for visiting Parliamentary delegations from Denmark, Indonesia and Kosovo, and the members of the Board of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB). Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati amongst others discussed the Bank's engagement in North Africa with the visiting delegations, whose members also met with Vice President for Sustainable Development Inger Andersen, Vice President for Africa, Oby Ezekwesili, and Vice President for Operations and Country Services, Joachim von Amsberg. The Parliamentary delegations also had a half-day workshop at the World Bank. Carlos Braga, Director and Special Representative to Europe led a discussion on sovereign debt and the financial crisis. The Parliamentarians were then given a presentation of the Bank's efforts to geomap projects and results, and the following discussion centered on how the Bank's free and open data could help inform parliamentarians in their decision-making. The delegations were also introduced to the efforts undertaken to support education for all, by Carol Bellamy, chair of the Board of Directors of the Education for All - Fast Track Initiative, which Secretariat is located in the World Bank.

### WORLD BANK AND IMF GOVERNORS FOCUS ON FOOD PRICES

The Development Committee, which advises the Board of Governors of the World Bank and IMF on critical development issues, met on April 16 at the Spring Meetings. In their final communiqué, Development Committee members expressed concern that "overheating in some sectors, especially food and energy, is resulting in price pressures and volatility" and called on the Bank to step up its role to help. The Committee supported World Development Report findings on conflict, security and development and their incorporation into Bank Group policies and operations. President Zoellick called for immediate action in supporting policy reform in the Middle East and North Africa.



Food Price Watch Report

### PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

**Senegal** - The Bank is supporting the members of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee of the National Assembly under a Public Finance Management Technical Assistance (PFMTA) Project, approved by the Board of the World Bank on April 26. The project will finance the following activities to be carried out from mid-2011 to mid-2015: i) Support of on-going reforms to make effective the legislative oversight ii) Reinforcing interaction between Parliament and the Supreme Audit Institution, iii)

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Reinforcing Public Access to Information about the Parliamentary Oversight Committee work. For more information, please contact [mademba@worldbank.org](mailto:mademba@worldbank.org).

**Germany** - In an interview on German Parliamentary Television on April 15, Dagmar Wöhr, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ), announced the establishment of the **Bundestag working group on the World Bank** (“Initiativkreis Weltbank”). Its goal will be to foster the dialogue and improve the flow of information between the two institutions. The network is an initiative of the Bank’s Berlin office and the Development Committee of the Bundestag. In her presentation, Ms. Wöhr also highlighted the Committee’s good cooperation with the World Bank. She explained that meetings with World Bank staff take place regularly, providing an opportunity for MPs to draw directly on the Bank’s expertise. For more information, please contact [rvenghaus@worldbank.org](mailto:rvenghaus@worldbank.org).

**Lisbon** - World Bank Special Representative for Europe, Carlos Braga, met informally with several Portuguese MPs in Lisbon on April 5. The meeting took place days after the resignation of Prime Minister Socrates, and MPs briefed Carlos Braga on the political and economic situation and next steps for Portugal. Discussions also centered on ODA priorities and Portugal’s keen interest in fragile and post-conflict states. Notably, Portuguese MPs are keen on creating a World Bank caucus in

parliament to discuss WBG policy and affairs, following the initiative of countries like Germany and Uganda. For more information, please contact [jbarrera@worldbank.org](mailto:jbarrera@worldbank.org)

**Dominican Republic (DR)** - In the DR the Bank continues its engagement with Congress in the context of the Country Partnership Strategy’s fourth strategic objective: “building capacity and constituencies for reform.” Specifically, the Bank is helping Congress strengthening its unit for policy analysis through an Institutional Development Fund. For more information, please contact [rsenderowitsch@worldbank.org](mailto:rsenderowitsch@worldbank.org).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

### *Consultations on Country Strategies*

The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Strategies (CAS or CPS). In May, the Board is scheduled to review the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for **Bulgaria**.

During the consultation process, the World Bank Group team reached out to all national stakeholders, including the Bulgarian Parliament and the European Commission. The World Bank Country Director for Central Europe and the Baltic Countries, Peter Harold, met in February 2011 with the Speaker of the National Assembly Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva, underscoring

the World Bank’s active engagement with key parliamentary committees.



As a follow up, the World Bank Bulgaria Country Office team, led by Markus Repnik, in April presented the draft CPS before the Parliamentary Budget Committee and the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds. The CPS is anchored in Bulgaria’s National Reform Program for implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy. Bulgarian MPs of both Committees fully endorsed the proposed knowledge partnership approach in support of EU funds absorption, aimed at helping Bulgaria to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. For more information, please contact [Itaushanova@worldbank.org](mailto:Itaushanova@worldbank.org)

### *May 3-5 - SADC Regional Parliamentary Seminar in Maputo*

The Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), the National Assembly of Mozambique and the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) are organizing a Regional Seminar on Aid Effectiveness in Mozambique. The Bank Maputo office will be participating as an observer.



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## ***May 3-6 - PACs Accountability Conference in Arusha, Tanzania***

This Annual Accountability Conference of the Eastern African Association of Public Accounts Committees (EAAPAC) and Southern Africa Development Community Organization of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) is organized in partnership with the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the German development agency GIZ. The conference will explore the relationship between PACs and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in strengthening the accountability process.

## ***May 4-5 - PAM Conference on Trade, in Geneva***

Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the United Nations Trade and Productive Capacity Cluster. Special Representative to the UN and WTO, Selina Jackson, will give an Introduction to the World Bank Logistics Performance and Doing Business Indicators.

## ***May 9-13 - NATO PA Delegation visiting the Bank Headquarters***

A delegation of parliamentarians from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (48 members of parliamentarians from 21 NATO Countries) will be in Washington DC for amongst others meeting with Senior Management of the World Bank on May 9. The delegation will amongst others discuss the World Development Report on conflict, security and development, as well as the situation in North Africa and in Sudan.

## ***May 8 - Parliamentary Forum in Istanbul***

Jointly organized on the occasion of the 4th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LCD IV) by the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and the Turkey Government.

## ***May 9-13 - 4th UN Conference on LCDs in Istanbul***

A delegation from the European Parliament will join the UN Conference on the world's poorest countries on May 9 to 13. The MEP delegation will also meet with World Bank delegation leader, Managing Director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala while in Istanbul.

## ***May 13-14 - Training program for the Members of the Pan African Parliament***

Some 40 members of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) will attend a training and information program on the World Bank, organized by the World Bank in cooperation with the PAP.

## ***May 16-17 - G8/G20 Parliamentary Summit on Girls and Population in Paris***

This Global Summit is co-organized by the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), Equilibres & Populations (E&P) and the French Movement for Family Planning (MFP). The World Bank Director for Gender, Mayra Buvinic will speak at the event.

## ***May 17-19 - Role of Parliament in Climate Change, Zanzibar***

This Study Group, facilitated in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, will be hosted by the Parliament of Zanzibar. Participants will include Members of Parliament from Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) across the globe.

## ***May 23-26 - The Role of parliament in climate change finance, Helsinki, Finland***

The World Bank Institute (WBI) in partnership with the Parliament of Finland and the Parliamentary Center are organizing a seminar designed for Public Accounts Committee members, Climate Change Committee members and Climate Change Committee Clerks.

## ***May 30-June 1 - Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE), Paris***

Co-hosted by the OECD; the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; the French Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industry; and the World Bank, the Conference will focus on the theme of "Broadening Opportunities for Development". More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/ATQOBUQJ50>

## ***Ongoing consultations***

Parliamentarians are still welcome to provide input -until May 31- into the World Bank global consul-



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tations on Social Protection & Labor Strategy (<http://worldbank.org/social-protection>) and on the P4R (Program-for-Results) Lending Instrument (<http://www.worldbank.org/p4r>).

## NEWS

### *World Bank Group Framework and IFC Strategy for Engagement in the Palm Oil Sector*

On April 11, The World Bank Group announced the adoption of a World Bank Group Framework and an IFC Strategy to guide future engagement in the global palm oil sector. The new framework and strategy were developed following extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders including environmental and social NGOs, farmers, indigenous communities, private sector companies, and governments. More information at [www.ifc.org/palmoil-strategy](http://www.ifc.org/palmoil-strategy)

### *Education 2020 Strategy Released*

A record 210 million people are out of work worldwide, while employers report a lack of workers with the right skills. The World Bank Group, upon releasing its education strategy for the next decade in April, appealed to governments, donors, community leaders, and employers to focus more on education that prepares young people for the job market, rather than on the time they spend in school. More information at [www.worldbank.org/educationstrategy2020](http://www.worldbank.org/educationstrategy2020)

### *High and Volatile Food Prices Continue to Threaten the World's Poor*

Driven in part by higher fuel costs connected to events in the Middle East and North Africa, global food prices are 36 percent above their levels a year ago and remain volatile, pushing people deeper into poverty, according to new World Bank Group numbers released on April 14. You can access the World Bank's latest Food Price Watch report at [www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/foodpricewatch/april\\_2011.html](http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/foodpricewatch/april_2011.html)

### *Interactive map shows where World Bank assistance goes*

The Mapping for Results Platform provides detailed information about the Bank's work to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development around the world. This pilot website aims to visualize the location of World Bank projects and to provide access to information about indicators, sectors, funding and results. More information at <http://maps.worldbank.org/about>

## PUBLICATIONS

### *e-Atlas of Global Development Helps Visualize Data*

The World Bank has just launched its e-Atlas of Global Development, a sophisticated online, interactive tool that maps and graphs more than 175 indicators from the World Bank's development database. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/Z16GZJVNP>

### *The 2011 WDR on Conflict, Security and Development*



The annual World Development Report (WDR) is the flagship knowledge publication of the World Bank. The WDR 2011 was launched on April 11 and underlines the devastating impact of persistent conflict on a country or region's development prospects, noting that the 1.5 billion people living in conflict-affected areas are twice as likely to live in poverty. More information at <http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/>

### *Global Monitoring Report 2011*

Two-thirds of developing countries are on track or close to meeting key targets for tackling extreme poverty and hunger, the World Bank and IMF said in the GMR report released on April 15. More information at [www.worldbank.org/gmr2011](http://www.worldbank.org/gmr2011)

### *China Quarterly Update*

China's economic outlook remains broadly favorable with real GDP growth projected at 9.3% in 2011 and 8.7% in 2012, but risks on inflation and the property market call for full normalization of the macroeconomic stance to keep growth on track, according to the World Bank's latest China Quarterly Update, released on April 28. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/0P4NJSX3C0>