

PROGRESS REPORT

From Paris (February 2004) to Vienna (June 2005)



Mobilizing Parliamentarians for Development

June 11-13, 2005
Vienna, Austria

Introduction

Parliamentarians can play a crucial role in promoting development and the fight against poverty. In developing countries, as elected representatives, parliamentarians can speak on behalf of poor people who are both affected by, and benefit from, foreign aid. As legislators, they can champion economic and social reform and promote good governance. In donor countries, MPs have the tremendous responsibility of allocating foreign aid and shaping the debate and policy choices on development priorities.

During the past few years the World Bank has engaged in close interaction and dialogue with parliamentarians, parliaments and parliamentary organizations on poverty and development challenges and Bank policies, at both the domestic and global level.

In 2000 the World Bank welcomed the creation of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) by a group of individual parliamentarians and has since worked to assist the PNoWB to develop and grow. Now comprising close to 1,000 parliamentarians from more than 100 countries worldwide, the PNoWB represents a key vehicle for transparency, accountability and advocacy. As an independent organization, it provides valuable feedback and input - sometimes critical, sometimes supportive, but always constructive - on Bank policy and programs. As an action-oriented organization, the PNoWB works closely with Bank units involved in education, health, governance, and trade among others. As a grassroots organization, the PNoWB has created local and regional chapters in India, Japan, East Africa, and the Middle East and North

Africa that represent unique interlocutors for World Bank offices in the field.

Beyond this group of "champions for development", the World Bank is willing to engage with the broader range of parliamentary organizations and assemblies that have either a thematic or a regional focus related to development. A first, informal meeting of 18 representatives of parliamentary organizations took place in Paris in February 2004 followed by a special meeting with the World Bank President at the occasion of the Fifth Annual Conference of the PNoWB. Participants expressed strong interest in developing closer and more regular interaction with the World Bank and among themselves. While not exhaustive, this report presents a brief overview of interaction between the Bank and parliamentary organizations and assemblies over the past 16 months.

We are delighted that the Austrian Development Cooperation has generously offered to host this second meeting of parliamentary organizations with the World Bank and we are pleased that so many organizations have responded positively.

The Vienna meeting brings together 26 parliamentary organizations and assemblies from around the world with representatives from the World Bank and other multilateral organizations, bilateral agencies, foundations and institutes. The aim of this meeting is to bring together a wide range of actors that provide both knowledge and financial assistance to programs for parliamentarians on development. It is our belief that we have much to learn from each other and that we should work more closely together, building a stronger alliance for development.

Sharing World Bank Knowledge

- Parliamentary organizations frequently request the participation of World Bank representatives in their meetings. During the past year, World Bank senior management and sector directors have presented on diverse subjects ranging from environment (with GLOBE in Thailand), to HIV/AIDS (with APF in Senegal and CPA in India), trade (with APF in the US and CPA in Jamaica), population and health (with IEPFPD in France and AFPPD in Thailand), development and Europe (with PACE in France), debt and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative (with the IPU in the Philippines).
- During spring 2004, the World Bank and the e-Parliament initiated a partnership to share policy ideas with legislators on development issues. Some 50 ideas will be made available through the e-Parliament website when it is launched in autumn 2005. Whenever possible the ideas contributed to the e-Parliament's online "Ideas Bank" include examples of successful actions taken by national legislators in the past.
- The World Bank actively supports the PNoWB's Committee on International Trade for Development. PNoWB Trade seeks to mobilize parliamentarians in key trading nations for a pro-poor outcome of the Doha development round. PNoWB-Trade partners closely with NATO-PA and CPA. Representatives from both organizations participated in the launch of the PNoWB-Trade subgroup on Trade in Agriculture on February 21, 2005 and the subgroup on Trade in Services on February 28, 2005. The World Bank's Trade Department has provided three

briefing papers for parliamentarians through PNoWB Trade: Trade and the Millennium Development Goals; Agriculture and the Doha Development Round and Services and the Doha Development Round. The Trade Department and the Development Policy Dialogue Team also work together to keep MPs informed of the latest developments in the trade debate by providing regular Trade News Summaries for parliamentarians.

- In addition to the above, the World Bank seeks to facilitate the participation and inclusion of parliamentarians in other important meetings in order to bridge the gap between policy and research and to create synergies between MPs and civil society. Over the past year, parliamentarians participated in the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE), the World Bank's Civil Society Organization (CSO) Forum, the Paris High Level Forum on Aid Harmonization and Alignment and a Workshop on Sustaining Participation in Poverty Reduction Strategies.

G8 Parliamentarians Conference on Development in Africa

On June 6-7, 2005, the World Bank partnered with the PNoWB, the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPFPD) and Interact Worldwide to bring together parliamentarians from G8 countries and other countries across Europe and Africa to reflect on the agenda for the G8 heads-of-state summit in Gleneagles, Scotland and provide parliamentary input. In an open letter, participants urged Prime Minister Tony Blair and President George Bush to agree on concrete actions to promote development in Africa.

Meeting on Parliamentary Standards for Democratic Legislatures

On December 13-14, 2004 the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) hosted an informal meeting with 15 representatives of international organizations and three Bank staff members on "Parliamentary Standards for Democratic Legislatures". The meeting sought to facilitate an exchange of experiences and approaches by various organizations interested in the development of parliamentary standards and/or performance benchmarks, and to explore the potential for future sharing of information and possible collaboration.

The meeting built upon a panel discussion on the same topic at CPA's annual meeting which took place in Canada in September, and included presentations by Scott Hubli (National Democratic Institute) and Bob Miller (The Parliamentary Centre, Canada) on the different approaches to the development of parliamentary standards and benchmarks.

Participating in the World Bank's Annual Meetings/ Visiting World Bank Headquarters

- On September 29 – October 24, 2004, parliamentarians from APF, AFPPD, and FAAPPD joined PNoWB Board Members for the first time to participate in the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, the Annual Meetings' Program of Seminars, and side meetings with World Bank staff.



Bernard Patry MP (Canada), Norbert Mao MP (Uganda), Juan Romeo Nereus O. Acosta MP (Philippines), Ian Goldin Vice President for External Affairs and United Nations Affairs, Georg Fahrenschonn MP (Germany), Hildegard-Carola Puwak MP (Romania), Jean-Christophe Bas Development Policy Dialogue Manager

The group was also joined by Mr. Georg Fahrenschon, MP (Germany), who was attending the Annual Meetings as part of the German delegation. During their meetings delegates discussed topics ranging from the fight against HIV/AIDS to post-conflict reconstruction, debt relief, poverty reduction and aid effectiveness. Through the Bank's partnership with GLOBE (Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment), a meeting was facilitated for the delegation with Congressman Howard Berman, Second Highest ranking Democrat on the International Relations Committee.

- In addition to the Annual Meetings, several parliamentary organizations and assemblies have visited World Bank Headquarters this year to meet with senior staff and deepen cooperation.
 - June 29, 2004, 30 parliamentarians from the NATO-PA visited World Bank Headquarters to meet with five Vice Presidents.
 - September 14, 2004, CPA Secretary General Denis Marshall and Director for Development and Planning Niall Johnston visited World Bank Headquarters to discuss further

cooperation between CPA and the World Bank in areas such as parliamentary involvement in the PRSP process, youth and HIV/AIDS.

- January 5-7, 2005 PACE sent a delegation to World Bank Headquarters as part of the preparation for their bi-annual on the World Bank and the IMF every two years (since 1996). They interviewed 15 senior staff and six European Executive Directors. The report will be presented with a resolution to the Assembly in late June 2005.

Meeting with Chairs of the EU Foreign Affairs Committees

Vice President for Europe Jean-François Rischard, Vice President for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Shigeo Katsu, and Special Representative for Southeast Europe Franz Kaps, were in Luxembourg on March 15, 2005 to take part in a Special Session on Development in an Enlarged Europe during the Meeting of Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the National Parliaments of the Member States of the European Union, the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the Candidate States.



Jean-François Rischard describes the Knowledge-Based Economy

Mr. Katsu began with an overview of the World Bank's work in the Europe and Central Asia region, with a focus on the new member states and candidate states. He noted that ECA has experienced positive growth (by an average of 6.8% in 2004) with 47 million people in the region lifted out of poverty since 2002. However, the region often suffers from weak public institutions and progress on the Millennium

Development Goals is mixed. For example, more needs to be done to meet the goals for child and maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS. Mr. Kaps' presentation focused on the challenges that new member states face as they become donor countries. The special session finished with a presentation by Mr. Rischard on the knowledge-based economy. "Creating a knowledge-based economy advantage means thinking different, thinking broad, thinking multi-dimensions, thinking new, and thinking fast," said Mr. Rischard. Citing Ireland and Finland as examples of countries that have been successful in creating a knowledge-based economy advantage, he stressed the importance of information infrastructure and innovative educational practices such as 'life-long learning'.

This is the fourth time that the World Bank has participated in this important meeting, held every six months by the country holding the EU presidency.

Access to World Bank Supported Projects in the Field

Each year, the Development Policy Dialogue Team organizes several field visits for parliamentarians in partnership with the PNoWB. The field visits give MPs unique access to World Bank projects and seek to enhance their understanding of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process.

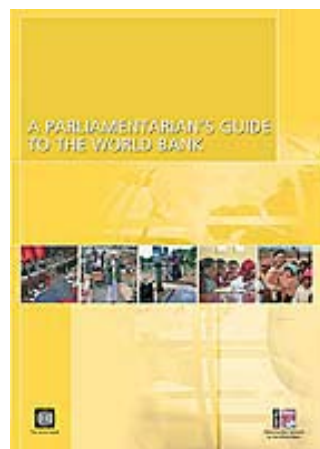


Parliamentarians from other parliamentary organizations may also participate in the field visits. For example, on March 21-25, 2005, members of AFPPD, CPA and IPU joined members of the PNoWB for the field visit to Vietnam to learn more about Vietnam's development and to assess both the PRSP process and the role of the World Bank.

- On April 5, 2005, 28 members of the APF's women parliamentarians' network participated in a special one day field visit in Madagascar. They spent the day visiting three World Bank supported projects on community development, nutrition and HIV/AIDS. They also met with the World Bank's Country Office to discuss Madagascar's PRSP, and with civil society organizations working with the World Bank on the above projects. They were accompanied by APF staff and Mme. Hugette Bopke Gnacadja, a member of the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Access to information for Parliamentarians

A Parliamentarian's Guide to the World Bank'



In May 2005 the World Bank launched the first edition of 'A Parliamentarian's Guide to the World Bank' in partnership with the PNoWB. The Guide was previously available as a

draft for comment for over a year.

- **Chapters One - Three** provide basic knowledge on the World Bank and its work.
- **Chapter Four** explains the place of the World Bank in the global development community. It provides a brief overview of Official Development Assistance and aid coordination, as well as information on World Bank cooperation with other development actors: international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and foundations.
- **Chapter Five** looks at the role of parliamentarians in development and the tools that they can use for better interaction with the World Bank.
- **Chapter Six** explains how parliamentarians and their constituents can become more involved in the development debate and outlines various funding opportunities that are available through the World Bank.
- **Chapter Seven** provides an overview of World Bank information resources for parliamentarians and their staff.

The chapters are followed by **Annexes** that include useful contact information. At the end of each section throughout the Guide, blue boxes contain **internet links** to more information.

World Bank Website for Parliamentarians: ***www.worldbank.org/parliamentarians***

In September 2004, The World Bank launched its new website for parliamentarians to ease the flow of information between MPs and the Bank and to facilitate World Bank and parliamentary interaction and cooperation. The site is regularly updated with news on Bank-parliamentary activities and includes a calendar where parliamentary organizations and assemblies can submit events. There is a direct link to World Bank issue briefs and a publication page which contains documents relevant to parliamentarians. The Bank also maintains a Question and Answer system for parliamentarians on both our website and the PNoWB website. The Q&A system enables parliamentarians to ask questions on World Bank programs and projects, as well as statistics, publications

and research. Users generally receive a response by e-mail within three days.

The World Bank Institute (WBI) has continued to add to their series of working papers on contemporary issues in parliamentary development. The papers are typically written as materials for WBI's seminars, workshops and study groups for parliamentarians, or reflect the outcomes of such activities. The Development Policy Dialogue team has also begun a series of issue briefs for parliamentarians on topics such as Bank loans in support of parliaments and parliamentary ratification of World Bank loans and credits among others. .

Acronyms

AFPPD - Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

APF- Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie

CPA-Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly

FAAPPD- Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development

GLOBE- Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment

IEPPFD- Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

IPU-Inter-parliamentary Union

NATO-PA-NATO Parliamentary Assembly

PACE-Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

PNoWB- Parliamentary Network on the World Bank