

Brief | 15. Oktober 2021

## **Annual Meetings 2021: Norbert Barthle, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development visits Washington D.C.**

On the occasion of the World Bank Group's Annual Meetings, Norbert Barthle visited Washington D.C, representing Germany at the first hybrid Annual Meetings that have ever taken place in the history of the World Bank. The bilateral meetings and the Development Committee session highlighted that the main focus still lies on combating the devastating consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile the challenges of climate change, debt and poverty reduction remain urgent and are exacerbating in the face of new Covid variants, vaccine shortages and political crises, as in Afghanistan.

This is why the World Bank must remain a Bank for the World, Norbert Barthle urged the Development Committee. All global challenges require global answers and the implementation of the green and inclusive reconstruction agenda and the Climate Change Action Plan are crucial.

All chairs highlighted the importance of close cooperation between institutions, particularly with the International Monetary Fund, and asked for increased efforts to deliver vaccines quickly and effectively.

Norbert Barthle furthermore had meetings with World Bank Senior Management on climate change, Afghanistan and IDA replenishment, emphasizing the importance of crisis preparedness.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between BMZ and World Bank

The Parliamentary State Secretary, Norbert Barthle, from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Axel von Trotsenburg, Managing Director from the top management of the World Bank, signed a Memorandum of Understanding at this year's Annual Meeting of the World Bank Group, confirming the close cooperation between the two institutions ([here is the link to the statement](#)). The World Bank and the BMZ agreed to work even more closely on combating climate change, supporting sustainable economic development in partner countries, and strengthening global public goods. In this context, State Secretary Barthle emphasized that strong partnerships were key, especially in view of the far-reaching consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic in developing and emerging countries. He also praised the extensive and rapid response of the World Bank in dealing with the crisis and emphasized the great importance that the World Bank Group will continue to play in the future in the fight against poverty, hunger, and climate change.