June 4-7, 2023 – A delegation of 18 Members of Parliament from 14 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America took part in a field visit to Morocco June 4-7, 2023. The visit was the first in-person mission since COVID-19 as part of the Parliamentarians in the Field Program, organized by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF, jointly with the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.
The trip provided a unique opportunity to witness three different World Bank Group-funded projects first-hand, to learn about their results, and to dialogue with beneficiaries about the project’s impact on their lives and livelihoods:

- **The Rural Water Supply Project**, which aims to provide safe and reliable drinking water for rural communities in targeted underserved areas.

- **Supporting the Economic Inclusion of Youth**, a program facilitating access to economic opportunities for youth aged 15-34 in the Marrakech-Safi area through training for lower-skilled youth, support for potential entrepreneurs, and investments in local businesses in promising value chains.

- **Improving the Competitiveness of Marrakech-Safi**, an IFC project that supports investment promotion, with a focus on outreach and investor aftercare, and subnational business environment improvement through improved operations of the Regional Committee for Business Environment.

Parliamentarians appreciated gaining a holistic understanding of the economic, political, and development context and meeting with key national and local government officials, the Speakers of both houses of parliament, CSOs, and private sector representatives. Witnessing the development process in action can help Members of Parliament inform future policies and debates. The experience also gave them the chance to share experiences, successful programs, and best practices in development with their peers. Meanwhile, the host government, parliament and beneficiaries were proud to demonstrate Morocco’s progress on a global scale. The topics discussed during the visit will help shape themes for the next Global Parliamentary Forum at the Annual Meetings in Marrakech this October.

[Pictures] [Parliamentarians in the Field Program]

The flagship Spring Meetings event, organized jointly by the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF (PN), provides a platform for lawmakers to dialogue directly with World Bank Group and IMF senior leadership and experts, as well as their peers, on the most pressing development challenges.

“We are not daunted, we are determined. We are determined because we are driven by the dreams of the people that we came into public life to serve.”

Liam Byrne MP, Chair of the PN

The Global Parliamentary Forum concluded with the fourth meeting of the Global Young MP Initiative for legislators aged 40 and under, themed “Safeguarding the World’s Future: The Environmental and Social Framework.” Around 35 young parliamentarians from 20 countries, including the Speaker of
Parliament of Tonga, gathered to discuss how to scale up sustainable and inclusive policies and programs in their countries.

As young Members of Parliament, we bring fresh ideas and long-term policy perspectives to the table. We are committed to advancing our economies while promoting social well-being and environmental sustainability. It’s the energy, the passion and the persistence of youth that will always change the narrative.”

Amira Saber Alsayed Mohamad, MP, Secretary General of the External Relations Committee, Egypt

UK International Development Committee at World Bank Headquarters

WASHINGTON DC, June 14, 2023 – Members of the United Kingdom’s International Development Committee visited the World Bank Group Headquarters in Washington, D.C in light of the committee’s ongoing inquiries on key development challenges. They held meetings with the Vice President for External and Corporate Relations, Sheila Redzepi; the Vice President for Development Finance, Akihiko Nishio; and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) team within the Operations Policy and Country Services Unit. The discussions focused on the overlapping crises low- and middle-income countries are facing, such as the vulnerabilities of climate change on SIDS, debt, and the impacts of the war in Ukraine. VP Redzepi and VP Nishio also spoke with the MPs regarding IDA’s track record of support for the most vulnerable and its strong impact on poverty reduction and inequality, as well as the current work the World Bank Group is undertaking as part of the evolution process.

The World Bank’s Engagement in the United Kingdom
Engaging Parliamentarians in the Amazon

February – April 2023 – The World Bank-led Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program commissioned the International Conservation Caucus Foundation to support awareness raising, knowledge sharing and regional dialogue in the fields of conservation and sustainable development for the Amazon within the legislative branches of surrounding countries. As part of these ongoing efforts, two engagements have already been realized in 2023: 1. a virtual webinar in February with 11 MPs from Brazil, Colombia and Peru, focusing on the science and investment opportunities for Amazon Forest restoration; and 2. a field visit in Belém, Brazil, in April, where more than 20 parliamentarians from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru learned about best practices in agroforestry, and their application in the Ipaú Anilzinho extractive reserve and the Tomé Açu cooperative. During the Belém event and in a parallel session of the Amazon Parliament (Parlamaz), a declaration was generated for the heads of state who will meet in an Amazon Presidential Summit in Belém in August.

Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program
BERLIN, June 14-15, 2023 – World Bank Senior Managing Director, Axel van Trotsenburg, and Vice President for Human Development, Mamta Murthi, were invited to a session of the Bundestag Committee for Development to share insights on the World Bank’s human development agenda. Members of the committee posed questions related to job creation, particularly in Africa and the Middle East; financing gaps to meet the SDGs; human development and climate change; adaptive safety nets; and gender. In an informal follow-up session of the World Bank Caucus (Initiativkreis Weltbank) with Mr. van Trotsenburg, Members of Parliament had the opportunity to pose questions and discuss broader priorities, such as the World Bank Evolution Roadmap process, strengthening support for global public goods, including climate, and the importance of multilateralism in times of geopolitical tension.

The World Bank’s Engagement in Germany
Hana Brixi Discusses Gender with Parliamentary Partners in Brussels

From Left: Irene Fellin, Ruxandra Popa and Hana Brixi

BRUSSELS, June 7-9, 2023 – Hana Brixi, World Bank Global Director for Gender, visited Brussels, where she engaged with various stakeholders, including Robert Beirdon, Chair of European Parliament’s (EP) Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee and representatives of NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), led by Secretary General Ruxandra Popa, with special guest Irene Fellin, the NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. The meetings provided an opportunity to build an understanding of the World Bank Group’s work in the gender space and to present highlights from the World Bank Group’s new gender equality strategy 2024-2030, while also exploring opportunities for synergies and collaboration. Following an exchange on priorities and key challenges linked to advancing progress on gender equality at the EU and global level, Hon. Beirdon expressed a keen interest in working more closely with the World Bank Group to help move the needle on gender issues and, in this vein, invited the World Bank Group to participate in future committee sessions and the EU gender equality week in October. Meanwhile, NATO PA highly appreciated the comprehensive approach of the World Bank Group’s gender equality strategy, including how it goes beyond NATO’s primary focus on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.
May-June, 2023 – The Japan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, with a membership of around 60 MPs headed by its Chair, MP Takeaki Matsumoto (Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications), continues to be active on the international development scene. In April, Chair Matsumoto presided over the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers’ meeting in Takasaki where the World Bank Group was represented by Guangzhe Chen, Vice President for Infrastructure. MP Yoshimasa Hayashi, Foreign Affairs Minister and Advisor of the Japan Chapter, met with then World
Bank Group President David Malpass on the margins of the G7 Leaders’ Summit in Hiroshima in May. This was followed by a plenary meeting of the Japan Chapter with Hiroshi Matano, MIGA Executive Vice President. At this meeting, the Japan Chapter expressed its deep condolences on the passing of MP Seigo Kitamura, who was a long-serving member of the network.

VOICES

Building Parliamentary Capacity: Interview with McGill University’s Director of Parliamentary Research and Training

In an exclusive interview, Rick Stapenhurst, Associate Professor and Director of Parliamentary Research and Training at McGill University discusses the importance of capacity building for parliamentarians and how a new Professional Development Certificate Program, organized jointly with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF, is helping young parliamentarians to better serve their people.

What is the McGill Parliamentary Governance Capacity Building Program about? Why is it necessary?
Most professions – doctors, lawyers, teachers - require formal training. We would not put our health in the hands of an unqualified doctor, or attend a college where lecturers weren’t qualified. Yet we expect our Members of Parliament to represent us at the highest level of the state, to enact legislation and policies in our best interest, and to hold executive governments to account on our behalf, even though in most countries no formal training is available to them. The Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Governance is designed to fill this gap – it provides training for
parliamentarians in the fundamentals of parliamentary governance, the role of parliament in the budget process, and communicating with and representing citizens.

Who qualifies? Who pays for it? Can Parliamentarians pay for it themselves? Any Member of Parliament may attend the program and participants have come from all regions of the world. Parliamentarians are sponsored by international organizations, supported by their national or sub-national parliaments, or self-funded. Program fees have been kept low to ensure that the training is accessible to all parliamentarians.

The current cohort of 14 young legislators sponsored by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF (PN) is a good example. While all of the PN scholarships have been allocated, there are still places in the program and parliamentarians who can secure funding can still apply.

Read the Full Interview | McGill Professional Development Certificate Program

No Time to Lose: The Bridgetown Initiative and the transformation of the global financial architecture

A briefing note by Hon. Liam Byrne MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank helped set the stage for the Global Parliamentary Forum at the World Bank and IMF 2023 Spring Meetings. It lays out the development context and makes a call for change with options and questions for parliamentarians to consider when delivering results to the people.

Read the Briefing
UPCOMING EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

International Day of Parliamentarism on June 30

Join us in observing the International Day of Parliamentarism on June 30, recognizing the importance of parliamentarians in upholding strong, transparent, accountable, and representative democracies. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians play an important role in creating a world free of poverty on a livable planet. We celebrate you!

Read More about the International Day of Parliamentarism

Global Parliamentary Forum at the Annual Meetings in Morocco

The next Global Parliamentary Forum (GPF) will be held on October 9, 2023 ahead of the Annual Meetings in Marrakech, Morocco. Co-organized by the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF (PN), the GPF serves as a convening and knowledge sharing platform for legislators from around the world. It is a unique occasion to discuss the most pressing development challenges with senior leadership from the World Bank Group and IMF.

REGISTER HERE by September 15
Ajay Banga Selected 14th President of the World Bank

The Executive Directors of the World Bank selected Ajay Banga as President of the World Bank for a five-year term beginning June 2, 2023. Ajay Banga most recently served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, a global organization with nearly 24,000 employees. Under his leadership, MasterCard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world. He was Honorary Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as Chairman from 2020-2022. He became an advisor to General Atlantic’s climate-focused fund, BeyondNetZero, at its inception in 2021. Banga served as Co-Chair of the Partnership for Central America, a coalition of private organizations that works to advance economic opportunity across underserved populations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. He was previously on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods, and Dow Inc. Read More

World Bank Group Announces Comprehensive Toolkit to Support Countries After Natural Disasters

At the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, Ajay Banga announced an expanded toolkit for crisis preparedness, response, and recovery that includes: (1) pausing debt repayments; (2) redirecting financing; (3) linking crisis preparedness and financing; (4) backstopping development projects with private sector support, and (5) building enhanced catastrophe insurance without debt. Read More
World Bank Group Intensifies Focus on Private Sector, Launches Effort to Scale Investment in Emerging Markets

The World Bank Group launched the Private Sector Investment Lab, a concrete step in a broader effort to develop, and rapidly scale, solutions that address the barriers preventing private sector investment in emerging markets. Trillions of dollars of investment are required annually in emerging markets and developing countries to make adequate progress towards climate goals, to manage the risks of climate change, and to tackle poverty. The scale of this challenge requires the private sector to play a significant role alongside the World Bank Group and other development institutions. Read More

Mission to Rewrite World Bank Group Playbook Advances with Banga’s Global Tour

The World Bank Group announced a months-long global tour for new president Ajay Banga, an early step in his mission to write a new playbook for the 78-year-old institution. These intensive visits come at an important time for the World Bank Group and the global community. Intertwined challenges – poverty, climate, pandemics, conflict, and fragility – have made development more difficult, eroding a decade of progress in a matter of months. Read More

As the world struggles to cope with global economic imbalances, diverging demographic trends, and climate change, migration will become a necessity in the decades to come for countries at all levels of income. If managed well, migration can be a force for prosperity and can help achieve the SDGs. The World Development Report 2023 proposes an integrated framework to maximize the development impacts of cross-border movements on both destination and origin countries and on migrants and refugees themselves. The framework enables policymakers to distinguish between different types of movements and to design migration policies accordingly. International cooperation will be critical to the effective management of migration.

Website | Press Release | Key Takeaways | Full Report

Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies

Clean air, land, and oceans are critical natural assets for human health and nutrition, and underpin much of the global economy. Yet subsidies for fossil fuels, agriculture, and fisheries are driving the degradation of these assets and harming people, the planet, and economies. Trillions of dollars from these subsidies could instead be used to finance much-needed climate action in countries across the world. The new Detox Development report examines the impact of subsidies on these foundational natural assets.

The Hidden Wealth of Nations: The Economics of Groundwater in Times of Climate Change

Groundwater is our most important freshwater resource, but the lack of systematic analysis of its economic importance has evaded attention from policymakers and the general public. The Hidden Wealth of Nations: The Economics of Groundwater in Times of Climate Change report offers new data and evidence that advances understanding of the value of groundwater, the costs of mismanagement, and the opportunities to leverage its potential. A central message of this report is that groundwater needs to be politically prioritized and should be carefully managed through integrated cross-sectoral action to benefit society, the economy, and the environment.

Global Economic Prospects, June 2023

The Global Economic Prospects June 2023 edition finds that global growth has slowed sharply and the risk of financial stress in emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) is intensifying amid elevated global interest rates. The latest forecasts indicate that the overlapping shocks of the pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the sharp slowdown amid tight global financial conditions have dealt an enduring setback to development in EMDEs, one that will persist for the foreseeable future. By the end of 2024, economic activity in these economies is expected to be about 5% below levels projected on the eve of the pandemic.