

# INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR TURBULENT TIMES



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK  
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



Official Programme | 6, 10, 11 October 2022

## Concept

The Global Parliamentary Forum on the side lines of the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings engages legislators in a dialogue on matters related to development and the global economy with their parliamentary peers, World Bank Group and IMF management, and other stakeholders. It serves as a platform to set the context around policy challenges and share solutions on pressing issues among members of the Parliamentary Network and development experts.

This year's overarching theme is Innovative Solutions for Turbulent Times. The first session, on October 6, Investing in People, Transforming Communities: Human Capital Results in Africa, will provide an update on human capital progress in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The second session, on October 10, Safeguarding Food Supply Chains, will continue the discussion on the food crisis from the perspective of supply chain disruptions. The third session, on October 11, The Urgent Need for Climate Finance, will discuss the urgent need for climate financing amidst limited fiscal space.

In July 2022, heads of agencies issued a statement calling for urgent action to address the global food security crisis. They stressed that the disruption in supply chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the war in Ukraine, have severely impacted the intertwining food, fuel, and fertilizer markets. A resulting spike in food prices has led many countries to implement export restrictions, further exacerbating the food crisis for the most vulnerable. The statement calls for prioritizing immediate support to the vulnerable, facilitating trade and international food supply, increasing food production, and investing in climate-resilient agriculture.

In the meantime, limited resources and strained budgets also create a risk for rebuilding human capital post pandemic. The aforementioned global phenomena are a concern for the lives and livelihoods of people already lagging behind. According to the 2020 Human Capital Index (HCI) - which measures how much countries are investing in their peoples' knowledge, skills, and health - Sub-Saharan Africa had

been making human capital gains in the decade preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, but progress was uneven and large deficits remained. The region had an average score of 40% pre-pandemic (compared to 56% worldwide), meaning African children born in 2020 could expect to achieve only 40% of their potential productivity by their 18th birthday, compared to what they could achieve with complete education and full health. The COVID-19 crisis and its current consequences, as well as the fragile global environment, threatens to set back progress and widen human capital gaps with negative impacts disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable populations.

Lawmakers have to operate in the limited fiscal space left by the pandemic to address these problems. Innovative policy solutions become essential and urgent, as is building the capacity of governments to anticipate and prepare for future challenges. This event aims to filter out applicable solutions that can be considered across countries.

## **About the Parliamentary Network**

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (the PN) is a platform for parliamentarians from World Bank and IMF member countries to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in development cooperation. The PN has over 1,000 members in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, supported by its international secretariat and guided by its Board, made up of nine (9) Members of Parliament (MPs). The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, UK is the current Chair of the Network. Membership is open to all parliamentarians serving an active mandate.

The PN, through its members and events, creates a space where parliamentarians can engage with the World Bank and IMF in a transparent manner and actively participate in shaping the international development agenda by playing a direct role in the programmes and policies of both institutions. Its mission is to provide a platform for knowledge exchange between parliamentarians and the World Bank and IMF with the goal of rendering legislators better equipped to carry out their oversight functions; contribute to the work of the World Bank and IMF; and provide informed feedback and invaluable insights to better tailor World Bank and IMF programmes and initiatives to the people the institutions aim to serve.

# Thursday, 6 October

## Investing in People, Transforming Communities: Human Capital Results in Africa

9:00-11:00 AM Washington (EST); 3:00-5:00 PM Paris (CET)

This session will provide an update on the status of the Human Capital Project in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, with an overview of progress being made across the continent and what interventions are being pursued from World Bank and IMF experts, as well as representatives of global organizations. It will feature the unveiling of a virtual field visit showcasing four human capital projects in three countries (Kenya, Madagascar and Rwanda), demonstrating examples of successful programs that can be duplicated in other countries. Participants will have the chance to hear from local actors, including stakeholders such as parliamentarians, CSO representatives, and faith leaders, about their contributions to the projects and the realization of improved human capital results in their countries.

### Welcome and Moderation

- Edith Jibunoh, Manager, External Affairs, Eastern & Southern Africa, World Bank

### Opening Remarks

- Hon. Marlene Malahoo Forte QC, MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Jamaica; Vice Chair, The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF
- Alberto Rodriguez, Director of Strategy and Operations, Human Development, World Bank Group

### Virtual Field Visit

- Kevin Heraniah, Project Task Team Leader

### Panel Discussions

#### Project Results Panel

- Kevin Heraniah, Project Task Team Leader
- Peter Muthini, Deputy Director, Ministry of ICT Innovation and Youth Affairs, Kenya; Deputy National Project Coordinator for KYEOP

#### Stakeholder Perspectives

- Neema Lugangira MP, Tanzania
- Purity Nzuki, Founder of Emergency Medical Trainers

#### Partnering for Human Capital Outcomes

- Xochitl Sanchez, Senior Advisor, ACTION
- Clara Mira, Inequality Network, Africa Department, IMF
- Njume Peter Ambang MP and Rapporteur to the Education Committee, Cameroon on behalf of the International Parliamentary Network for Education

### Closing Remarks:

- Victoria Kwakwa, Regional Vice President, Eastern and Southern Africa, World Bank Group
- Ousmane Diagana, Regional Vice President, Western and Central Africa, World Bank Group

# Monday, 10 October

## Safeguarding Food Supply Chains

9:00-10:30 AM Washington (EST); 3:00-4:30 PM Paris (CET)

Sharp increases in food, energy, and fertilizer costs are touching 1.2 billion people in 74 developing countries, according to the UN, accelerating trends toward trade restrictions with the ongoing war in Ukraine. Furthermore, debt obligations on export earnings, increased interest rates, and the need to pay expensive imports are straining the budgets of vulnerable countries. In order to alleviate the stress on the latter's economies, countries should keep markets open and avoid unjustified export restrictions. The emergency mode of operation, which countries and IFIs employed during the pandemic, cannot yet be abandoned; novel solutions need to include effective and flexible tools for providing liquidity and fiscal space to offer safety nets to those at highest risk of famine.

### Welcome and Moderation

- The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

### Speakers

- Holger Kray, Practice Manager of Agriculture and Food Security, World Bank Group
- Michele Ruta, Deputy Chief, Strategy and Policy Review Department, IMF

### MP Panelists

- Giulio Centemero MP and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

### Q&A with parliamentarians

# Tuesday, 11 October

## The Urgent Need for Climate Action

9:00-10:30 AM Washington (EST); 3:00-4:30 PM Paris (CET)

Financing climate action is increasingly challenging given the fiscal constraints faced by countries today. Even with the right policy environment, low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure alone in low- and middle-income countries could require investments of around \$1.6 trillion annually, or 4.5% of GDP, from now to 2030. Climate financing at the country-level must be embedded in national development plans. To help countries do this, the World Bank's new Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs) are innovative, country-focused diagnostics that explore how climate action interacts with each country's growth and development path, identifying key actions to help achieve net zero carbon emissions. CCDRs feed into a country's Systematic Country Diagnosis, which then informs the Country Partnership Framework, laying out how the World Bank will work with the government in coming years to achieve results in priority areas. Additionally, the IMF can help countries integrate climate change into their development plans through its policy advice, surveillance, and capacity building. For example, the IMF is mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into fiscal policy to make the most effective use of countries' resources. Additionally, financing under the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust could help eligible and qualifying emerging market and developing economies tackle longer-term structural challenges from climate change by providing affordable long-term financing and helping catalyze public and private financing.

For parliamentarians, the World Bank and the IMF seek to provide key tools to identify gaps, address underlying structural challenges, and support climate financing to achieve low-carbon, resilient growth.

### Welcome and Moderation

- The Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, UK; Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

### Speakers

- Erwin De Nys, Practice Manager, Climate Funds Management Unit, World Bank Group
- Stephane Hallegatte, Senior Climate Change Advisor, World Bank
- Emanuele Massetti, Technical Assistance Advisor, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF
- Tamsyn Barton, Chief Commissioner, Independent Commission for Aid Impact, UK
- John Balbach, Director, Impact Investments from MacArthur Foundation

### MP Panelists

- Lawrence Biyika Songa MP and Chairperson, Committee for Climate Change, Uganda
- Besian Mustafa MP and First Vice Chairman, Committee on Environment, Kosovo
- Hon. Salim Merah MP, Algeria

### Q&A with parliamentarians

## Contacts

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