Celebrating our 100th Edition

We are delighted to bring you the 100th edition of our newsletter. Over the past 14 years, “Opening the World Bank Group to Parliamentarians” has been supporting parliamentarians around the globe as they work to improve country outcomes.

Our newsletter serves as a trusted resource for information on global, regional, and national parliamentary engagements and has reported on conferences, consultations, briefings, capacity building workshops, field visits and more across more than 103 countries. The newsletter also highlights World Bank engagement opportunities with parliamentarians, such as Global Parliamentary Forums, the new quarterly Parliamentary Dialogue Series, and country and regional chapters of the Parliamentary Network. In the last year alone, these activities provided a venue for more than 300 parliamentarians to discuss pressing development challenges with World Bank Group leadership and experts. And through the newsletter, we keep parliamentarians apprised of new program innovations, such as the World Bank’s collaboration with McGill University to create a Parliamentary Capacity Building program targeting young MPs.

We hope this newsletter will inform, engage, and inspire readers for years to come as we pursue shared priorities and continue partnering to achieve better results for people and the planet. Thank you for reading!

Global Parliamentary Engagement team | Past Newsletter Issues | Parliamentary Network Chapters
World Bank President Malpass Meets Japan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network

September 13, 2022 – World Bank Group (WBG) President David Malpass met with Members of the Japan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF (PN Japan) during a visit to Tokyo for the IDA20 launch event. Around 20 Members of Parliament were in attendance, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Hayashi, the two State Ministers of Finance, Hon. Inoue and Hon. Akino, and the Parliamentary Vice Minister of Cabinet Office for Reconstruction, Hon. Hiromasa Nakano. President Malpass was joined by WBG Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer Anshula Kant, Vice President of Development Finance Aki Nishio, and Vice President of External and Corporate Relations Sheila Redzepi. The meeting provided an opportunity for an open and candid exchange of views between President Malpass and Japanese MPs from across the political spectrum. It also marked the first time that an incumbent Foreign Minister attended a meeting of the PN Japan.

The PN Japan was established in May 2004 and today has an impressive membership of close to 60 Members of Parliament. The meeting with President Malpass was the third meeting this year for the chapter with senior World Bank Group (WBG) leadership. In January, members of the Japan chapter selected a new Chair and engaged virtually with eight WBG Vice Presidents, led by Sheila Redzepi, Vice President for External and Corporate Relations. A second meeting was held in-person in May, where MPs met and engaged with Hiroshi Matano, Executive Vice President of MIGA.
Launch of the Tanzania Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF

September 22, 2022 – A Tanzania Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF (PN) was launched in Dodoma, Tanzania, with an initial membership of 30 parliamentarians under the interim leadership of Hon. Neema Lugangira. Represented by Hon. Daniel Baran Sillo, Chair of the Budget Committee, Tanzania’s Speaker of Parliament pledged her full support to the Parliamentary Network’s activities, whose aim is to provide a platform for parliamentarians to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in International Financial Institutions and multilateral development financing. Officiating the launch, Rt. Hon. Liam Byrne MP, UK and Chair of the PN spoke on the importance of creating a platform where parliamentarians can exchange experiences and access ideas and solutions to the challenges their countries face. Hon. Byrne highlighted the value of democracy as a means of diversifying and maximizing differences in viewpoints to achieve the best outcomes. World Bank Senior Health Specialist Peter Okwero and IMF Resident Representative Jens Reinke were also in attendance and provided remarks on the roles of their organizations in Tanzania.
The World Bank hosted a delegation of eight Members of European Parliament (MEPs) and their staff at the World Bank Washington DC office. The delegation was welcomed by Jill Wilkins, the World Bank’s Director of Global Practices and Partnerships, who emphasized the critical role Members of Parliament play in achieving meaningful development outcomes through legislation and budgetary actions. They also received an update on the current global economic outlook from Carlos Artera, Lead Economist of the Prospects Group, and a presentation of the World Bank’s key development priorities in the Ukraine crisis from Arup Banerji, Regional Country Director for Eastern Europe. The meeting concluded with a call for action by Arup who encouraged the MEPs to be a strong voice in parliament on the Ukrainian crisis and to continue political and financial support both during and after the war.

The World Bank’s Engagement in the EU
Danish Parliamentarians Learn About World Bank Operations

September 15, 2022 - The Nordic and Baltic Executive Director’s office hosted a delegation of eight Danish Members of Parliament (MPs) and their staff at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. The visiting MPs were interested in learning more about the World Bank’s key priorities and goals, how it engages with parliamentarians, and support to climate. In addition to a presentation giving an overview of the World Bank’s structure and operations, they had the opportunity to hear from Jakob Kopperud, Special Representative to Europe, the Global Parliamentary Engagement team, and the Climate team. The parliamentarians were particularly interested in the World Bank’s strategy to end extreme poverty, the latest numbers on Global GDP growth, and how parliamentarians can engage with the World Bank. The meeting concluded with an informal meet and greet between the delegation and World Bank Vice President of External and Corporate Relations Sheila Redzepi, who is a Danish national.

The World Bank's Engagement in Denmark
July 21, 2022 – The World Bank hosted a delegation of nine European Parliamentary staffers at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. The meeting was an opportunity for staffers to learn about World Bank operations and priorities as well as dialogue with World Bank experts on development topics relevant to their work. Mohammad Arief, Head of External Affairs for the World Bank’s Infrastructure Practice Group, led the meeting and gave an overview of key World Bank parliamentary engagement activities. He emphasized the importance of relations with parliamentary staffers, who are key to building a sustainable relationship with parliaments beyond limited mandates of elected officials and to shaping policies. In addition, the delegation was presented with an overview of World Bank priorities, sectors, and structure. The meeting ended with an interactive Q&A focused on the World Bank’s role in the reconstruction of Ukraine, public and commercial debt, climate initiatives, and physical and digital infrastructure.
July 20, 2022 – World Bank Group Vice President of External and Corporate Relations Sheila Redzepi met with Peers of the House of Lords in the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Convened by the Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs), the meeting focused heavily on the international response to the global food security crisis and the impact of the war in Ukraine. Ms. Redzepi emphasized the damaging impact of trade restrictions on food security and elaborated on the World Bank Group’s efforts to protect the most vulnerable while building food system resilience to future shocks as well as its cooperation with UN Agencies in meeting the SDGs.

The World Bank’s Engagement in the UK
Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight for Public Financial Management in Zimbabwe

From 2015-2020, the World Bank Zimbabwe Office engaged Members of Parliament through the implementation of the Public Financial Management Enhancement Project. The successful project, which required parliamentary oversight, embedded two fundamental tenets: capacity building and sustainability. Training and knowledge-sharing activities provided enhanced capacity and technical support for key parliamentary committees to strengthen oversight of the budget at the central and local levels. A Parliamentary Budget Office was also established through the project to provide ongoing support to clerks on procedural matters and technical analysis. Key achievements of the project included fostering the necessary tools for parliamentarians to effectively access, debate, analyze, influence, and disseminate budget and other financial information to key stakeholder groups and citizens; training parliamentary staff in monitoring and evaluation; and developing the Public Accounts Committee training manual.

In addition, support was provided for stronger collaboration between Parliament, the media, and civil society to enhance accountability, and gender responsiveness across the budget process centrally and locally. In 2019, Parliament produced a Citizen’s Budget, which positively influenced budget allocations and resulted in Zimbabwe being ranked as the third most budget transparent country in Africa in the International Budget Partnership’s Open Budget Survey. The Citizen’s Budget continues to be an effective feedback mechanism, with consultation workshops for civil society organizations being conducted across the country to enhance citizen engagement in the budget process, and by extension, oversight of public resources.
Launched in 2006 by then Speaker of Parliament the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Uganda Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF (PN) has consistently stood out as one of the largest and most active country chapters. Since its inception, its members have engaged in numerous country-level activities, including World Bank Week (2019), attending the dissemination and launch of World Bank reports such as the 2019 Global Economic Update and the 2020 Uganda Economic Update, and accompanying World Bank managers on field visits (2019). In addition, the Chapter sends members annually to attend global engagements such as the Global Parliamentary Forum and Global Young MP Initiative. In 2020, Hon. Anna Adeke Ebaju headlined a Global Young MP Initiative Facebook Live event titled A Conversation with Parliamentarians on Partnering for Development Impact. Today there are 32 active members from the 11th Parliament.

The World Bank’s Engagement in Uganda
UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Parliamentary Forum at the 2022 Annual Meeting

The next Global Parliamentary Forum will take place virtually on the side lines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings October 6, 10 and 11, 2022. The forum, co-organized by the World Bank Group, the IMF and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF, engages parliamentarians in a dialogue on development and matters related to the global economy, with discussions between MPs, experts from the World Bank Group and the IMF, and other stakeholders.

This edition, themed “Innovative Solutions for Turbulent Times,” will be an occasion for sharing of experiences and best practices to address the current food crisis from the perspective of supply chain disruptions, the urgent need for climate financing amidst limited fiscal space, and an update on progress to achieve the Africa Human Capital Plan for the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

REGISTER HERE | Full Event Details
Investing in People, Transforming Communities: Human Capital Results in Africa

This high-level event will highlight results stories and interventions from World Bank crises response and recovery efforts, including the unveiling of a virtual field visit showcasing four human capital projects in three countries (Kenya, Madagascar and Rwanda), and the Sahel Education White Paper, both demonstrating examples of successful programs that can be duplicated, helping countries and governments prioritize people and build a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. It will serve to launch the Year 3 Progress Report of the Africa Human Capital Plan.

REGISTER HERE | Full Event Details
Senator Rosa Galvez from Canada lays out why the full and proactive participation of the financial sector is essential to meeting climate goals. She urges parliamentarians to take bold legislative actions to meet climate commitments while also protecting financial systems from risks.

Read the Full Article

The World Bank Group’s Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs) are new core diagnostic reports that integrate climate change and development considerations for each country. CCDRs build on data and rigorous research to identify main pathways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate vulnerabilities, including the costs and challenges as well as benefits and opportunities from doing so. The reports suggest concrete, priority actions that policymakers can take to support a low-carbon, resilient transition. CCDRs will feed into other core Bank Group diagnostics, country engagements and operations, and help attract funding and direct financing for high-impact climate action. The most recent CCDRs published in September focus on Nepal and the Sahel region.

Website | Press Release | Nepal CDDR | Sahel CDDR
September 15, 2022 – Since the beginning of 2022, a rapid deterioration of growth prospects, coupled with rising inflation and tightening financing conditions, has ignited a debate about the possibility of a global recession—a contraction in global per capita GDP. Drawing on insights gained from previous global recessions, this study presents a systematic analysis of the recent evolution of economic activity and policies, and a model-based assessment of possible near-term macroeconomic outcomes.

Website | Press Release | PDF | Video with the Author

Visit our website
Global Young MP Initiative LinkedIn