The World Bank Morocco team presented the new Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) to the Infrastructure and Energy Committee of the Moroccan Parliament on November 22, 2022, just weeks after the report’s launch. The meeting was the first in a series of planned CCDR presentations to relevant parliamentary committees to help inform legislators on the links between climate and development with recommendations of priority actions to build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting economic growth and reducing poverty.

The World Bank was represented by Jesko Hentschel, Country Director for Maghreb and Malta, and the Morocco CCDR authors, Carole Megevand, Sector Leader for Sustainable Development for the Maghreb countries; Moez Cherif, Lead Energy Economist and Program Leader for Maghreb countries; and Javier Diaz Cassou Senior Economist for Morocco. The CCDR team is building a constructive dialogue with parliamentarians as they are important players in transforming the recommendations of CCDRs into concrete action through laws, budgets, and oversight of government commitments.

As a follow up to the initial parliamentary meeting, we interviewed Carole Megevand and the Morocco CCDR team to gain more insights into the climate situation on the ground. Read More>>
Women, Business and the Law 2023

Pace of Reform Toward Equal Rights for Women Falls to 20-Year Lows

“Reform fatigue” poses obstacle to economic growth at a critical time

WASHINGTON, March 2, 2023 - The global pace of reforms toward equal treatment of women under the law has slumped to a 20-year low, constituting a potential impediment to economic growth at a critical time for the global economy, a new World Bank report shows.

In 2022, the global average score on the World Bank’s Women, Business and the Law index rose just half a point to 77.1—indicating women, on average, enjoy barely 77 percent of the legal rights that men do. At the current pace of reform, in many countries a woman entering the workforce today will retire before she will be able to gain the same rights as men, the report notes. Read More

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UK Parliamentary Delegation Visits World Bank Headquarters

WASHINGTON DC, February 13, 2023 – A delegation of four Members of Parliament from the United Kingdom and their staff visited the World Bank’s Washington DC offices where they met with a number of senior World Bank staff, including the Gender Global Director, Manager of Global Engagement Agriculture and Food, Co-Director of the 2023 World Development Report, and Country Program Director for Ukraine and Moldova. The parliamentary visit was organized by the Coalition for Global Prosperity, focusing on UK foreign relations with an emphasis on international development and aid. The meetings provided an opportunity for the delegation to better understand the World Bank’s work within the current global development context. Parliamentarians were highly engaged in the discussions and stressed the importance of showcasing World Bank results to the public to promote knowledge and transparency.

The World Bank’s Engagement in the United Kingdom

World Bank Discusses Technical Assistance and Capacity Building with Montenegro Parliament

PODGORICA, February 8, 2023 – The World Bank Senior Economist for the Western Balkans, Sanja Madžarević-Šujster, met with the Montenegro Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget to discuss technical assistance for the implementation of fiscal responsibility frameworks as well as the need to strengthen institutional and personnel capacities. The Bank team met with Dejan Đurović, Chair of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget; Zdenka Popović and Bogdan Božović, committee members, and the committee secretariat. The support will be provided under the European Union Trust Fund on Strengthening Fiscal Governance in the Western Balkans to be implemented by the World Bank from 2023-2026.

The World Bank’s Engagement in Montenegro
Global Parliamentary Engagement
Team Meets Various European Partners

PARIS-BRUSSELS, February 6-7, 2023 – The World Bank Global Parliamentary Engagement team met with a number of partners over the course of two days in Paris and Brussels, including the OECD Parliamentarians team, NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), and representatives from the Development Committee, Advisor to the Director General of Communications, and Advisor to Vice President Othmar Karas at the European Parliament. It was an occasion to forge and strengthen relations with key stakeholders, informing them of the Bank’s role as a development partner and exploring avenues for collaboration on shared priorities.

German World Bank Initiative Group Requests General Update

BERLIN, February 7, 2023 – By invitation of the World Bank Caucus of the Bundestag, Ralf Retter, Head of the World Bank Group Berlin Office, spoke in an informal discussion with Members of Parliament on cooperation between the World Bank and Germany. After a presentation on current challenges, areas of cooperation, and the Evolution Roadmap, MPs used the opportunity to ask questions, including on how the social and environmental sustainability of projects is ensured, and how the eradication of extreme poverty will remain a priority as the Bank increases its focus on strengthening global public goods. Additionally, MPs were interested in how the World Bank cooperates with shareholder-driven initiatives, such as the G7 Compact with Africa. The Chair of the World Bank caucus, MP Volkmar Klein, emphasized that he aims to have similar discussions with World Bank Group staff more often in the future.
TOKYO, January 18, 2023 – The Japan Chapter of the Parliamentary Network convened for the first time in 2023 to meet Mari Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships (MDD) on her first visit to Tokyo since assuming the position. The meeting, moderated by MP Kiyoshi Odawara, Secretary-General of the Japan Chapter, started with welcoming remarks by MP Ichiro Aisawa, Advisor of the Japan Chapter who is also serving as the Chair of the Japan African Union Parliamentary Friendship League. In addition, MDD paid a courtesy visit to MP Akiko Santo, former Upper House President who is serving as the Chair of the Parliamentary League on Nutrition and Global Health.

As members of the Japan Chapter were meeting with MDD in Tokyo, its Chair, MP Takeaki Matsumoto, also serving as the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications since November 2022, met with the World Bank Group President David Malpass in Washington. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss various issues of mutual interest, not least the Japanese presidency of the G7 as of January 2023.
WINDHOEK, December 15, 2022 – The Namibia Parliament hosted a successful launch of its e-Parliament strategy 2022-2027 alongside the World Bank on December 15, 2022. The launch, hosted by the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament, was attended by four Deputy Ministers, several MPs, development partners (EU, UNICEF, and Konrad Adenauer Foundation), media, and parliamentary staff. The speaker expressed his joy in achieving the major milestone of developing the strategy with support from the World Bank Southern Africa Regional team. The attending development partners committed to supporting the implementation of the strategy. The Hon Speaker and his team also agreed on key actions to implement the strategy which includes a prioritized and costed-implementation plan.

The World Bank’s Engagement in Namibia
The 2023 Global Parliamentary Forum (GPF), co-organized by the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF (PN), will take place in-person from April 10-11 in Washington DC for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19.

This year’s Forum, themed, “Tough Challenges, Tougher Choices” will focus on the multiple crisis facing our earth and common humanity, including climate change, security, governance, accountability, growth, debt, gender and cross-border migration. The first day of the event will feature an exclusive Parliamentary Townhall with World Bank President David Malpass and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva gives parliamentarians an opportunity to dialogue directly with the two leaders.

The second day of the Forum will conclude with the fourth meeting of the Global Young MP Initiative, convening parliamentarians aged 40 and below to explore innovative approaches to environmental and social policies they can pursue to foster sustainable societies in their countries.

REGISTER HERE by March 29 | Full Event Details
Collapse & Recovery: How COVID-19 Eroded Human Capital and What to Do About It

This new report offers the first comprehensive review of global data on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people under age 25, who were dealt a massive blow to human capital accumulation. The findings focus on various critical moments in the life cycle, from early childhood vaccines and living conditions, to preschool, to school, to youth employment. The report includes recommendations for policy actions countries can take to urgently recover losses and invest better in their people given that human capital is a key driver of poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

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Global Economic Prospects, January 2023

The latest Global Economic Prospects Report predicts a second year of sharp, long-term slowdowns in growth to 1.7% from 3% expected six months ago due to elevated inflation, higher interest rates, reduced investment, and disruptions from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Any additional adverse shocks risk pushing the global economy into recession, with small states especially vulnerable because of their reliance on external trade and financing, limited diversification, elevated debt, and susceptibility to natural disasters. The report recommends immediate policy action to bolster growth and investment, including redirecting existing spending, such as agricultural and fuel subsidies.

Website | Press Release | Executive Summary | Full Report
The 2022 edition of the annual International Debt Report highlights rising debt-related risks for all developing economies—low- as well as middle-income. The world’s 75 poorest countries in particular now spend over a tenth of their export revenues to service long-term public and publicly guaranteed external debt. These growing debt vulnerabilities underscore the urgent need to improve debt transparency and provide more complete debt information to strengthen countries’ ability to manage risks and use resources efficiently for sustainable development.