

Baku Parliamentary Network

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Opening

- First, I would like to thank our Hosts and organizers;
 - the Government and Parliament of Azerbaijan;
 - the Parliamentary Network;
 - Our colleagues at the IMF; And
 - The staff who have been working to make this happen
- I would also like to add my welcome to over 180 parliamentarians from 70 countries

The WBG has been and will continue to be a strong supporter of the PN

- As you have seen, we have high level representation:
 - President JYK (by VC)
 - MD Caroline Anstey, will be connected by VC for Q&A session
 - VP for External Affairs, Cyril Muller - “Ending poverty in a changing development landscape: the post MDGs framework”
 - Patrick Verkooijen, CC Special Representative – “Global Warming”
 - Angela Prigozhina, CSC for SC – “Private Sector Development”
 - Anne-Lise Klausen from our Nairobi Hub – “Fragile and Conflict-affected States”

The Traditional Role of the WBG and IMF

- Has been through member country governments as the counterparts
- Engaging with parliaments is still new for both WBG & IMF
- We believe there is a need to do development differently through identifying new ways to support country-led actions putting citizens first
- We cannot do that without engaging with you as the Parliamentarians.

Over the past few months, we have set new World Bank Group Goals To ..

- **End extreme poverty:** Defined as % of people living with less than US\$ 1.25 a day. This should fall to 3% by 2030.
- **Boost shared prosperity:** By fostering income growth of bottom 40% population in every country.
- Achieving these goals will require **promoting environmental and social sustainability at the country and global level within a fiscally responsible development path** for the welfare of future generations.

The key Elements for this Sustainable Development will include

- Private sector led growth and jobs
- Physical and human capital investment
- Institution building through knowledge exchange, good governance, anti-corruption
- Social Inclusion: gender, empowerment, and provision of equal opportunity
- Sustainability of the environment, social welfare and fiscal responsibility

We will deliver the WBG Strategy by:

- Serving the Poor and Vulnerable People by
 - focusing on solutions that will benefit the citizens, particularly the poor, and promote shared prosperity
- Recognizing the Diversity of our Clients
 - Public / private sectors; National, Sub-national & enterprises
 - Promote global collective action & global public goods
- Focusing on Development Solutions through
 - customized mix of financing options, knowledge services
- Working as One World Bank Group to
 - Leverage private & public resources for development impact
- Exercising Dynamic Selectivity by
 - Focusing on our comparative advantage at the country and global levels

What role can the PN play?

- As elected representatives, Parliamentarians should be strong advocates for development,
- Play a significant role in economic policy making in your countries, not least in times of crisis
- Hold governments accountable for their actions
- Oversee implementation of development aid to benefit the country, particularly the poor
- Set government policies and actions that support development activities

It is vital to improve governance

- Parliaments are a vital part of the process to ensure good governance and transparency in the utilization of national resources
- PN should ensure that development aid has the maximum impact on the country and its people
- WBG objective is to inform, engage with, consult and seek advice from Parliamentarians in order to increase understanding, national ownership, and long term sustainability of WBG financing

The WBG has also adopted Accountability and Openness agenda

- **Open Knowledge Repository:** provides free access to all our publications online. Launched only a year ago – it has had over 1 million documents downloaded since then
- **Access to Information policy:** removed all restrictions except on sensitive information
- **Open Data Services:** provides free access to a wide range of data and other resources

In conclusion, we look to the PN to

- Promote open governance by asking governments to publish budgets, data and information relevant for development
- Participate in the consultations on our Country Partnership Strategies to help us customize WBG support to specific needs
- Play the oversight role to make sure WBG support in your countries is meaningful and effective

Finally

- Our continued engagement with you and other parliamentary organizations, demonstrates our commitment to engage with legislators.
- As you return home, please contact your local World Bank office or representative and continue the conversation.
- After-all, we are all partners with a common goal to end extreme poverty and ensure prosperity for all citizens of this world.