



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

Press Release

10 October 2013

Washington D.C. - On the occasion of the 2013 annual meeting in Washington, members of the Parliamentary Network (PN) on the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) today issued the following statement:

In the next decade, another billion people will require work. We therefore welcome the priority which the WB/IMF is giving to the urgent need to create employment, especially for young people, women and marginalised groups. The PN has committed itself wholeheartedly to this important cause and will support its members around the world as they encourage their governments also to make this their priority.

The International Development Association (IDA) of the WB is an effective and respected partner in tackling poverty in the countries with the lowest incomes in the world. Many independent reviews have concluded that it generally represents very good value for taxpayers' money. We therefore urge existing donors to maintain or increase their contributions in the 17th replenishment and look forward to new donors joining in this vital work.

We welcome the increase in the openness of the WB and IMF to parliamentarians in its member countries in recent years through the Network. But this needs to be strengthened further.

We therefore call on the WB and IMF both to increase their regular engagement with parliamentarians as part of the work programme for their country offices, and to brief and train MPs and parliamentary staff on the use of WB/IMF data and information.

The PN welcomes the much greater emphasis in the WB/IMF on tackling corruption and fraud and bringing the perpetrators to book. We believe that parliamentarians also have a very important role in ensuring that development funds achieve their intended purpose. To do this, they need to be kept regularly informed of projects in their countries.

The PN has now been in existence for more than ten years and has encouraged the WB/IMF to work more closely with parliamentarians who represent the people they serve. At the same time, the positive engagement by the WB/IMF has been appreciated by parliamentarians in deepening their understanding of development in their countries and beyond. We commit ourselves to remain constructive and critical friends of their work.

Involving elected parliamentarians more closely in their work creates trust and enhances the credibility of the WB/IMF. We therefore propose a stronger partnership between the PN and the WB/IMF and commit ourselves to achieving this.

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund

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