



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

Background on the Parliamentary Workshop

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (the PN) was initially founded in 2000 as an independent, non-governmental organization providing a platform for Parliamentarians worldwide to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in development cooperation. The Parliamentary Network has over 1500 parliamentarians from over 140 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, supported by its international secretariat and guided by its Board.

The PN is the only parliamentary organization principally focused on increasing transparency and accountability in International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – notably the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Spring and Annual Meetings of the WBG and IMF are a great opportunity to put parliamentarians at the forefront of development discussions with these two organizations. The parliamentary workshop has become a regular bi-annual event on these occasions, attended by an ever larger global delegation of Parliamentarians. During the workshop, MPs discuss directly with technical or operational staff of the WBG and the IMF, meaning the people responsible for designing and implementing of projects and loans, and related policies. Meetings with the WBG President and the IMF Managing Director, and senior management of both institutions, are also part of the program.

The parliamentary workshop achieves two main purposes. The first is that parliamentarians receive up-to-date information on the WBG's and IMF's programmes and policy advice from staff directly working on the specific issues. The second is that parliamentarians can give feedback and express their views on what has worked and what still needs to be done on the local and national level. These exchanges can contribute to better targeted and more effective programmes for the WBG and the IMF, as well as better understanding and informed discussion in Parliament.

Through the workshop the PN also aims to strengthen the exchanges between PN members and local World Bank and IMF offices, through active PN country chapters.

Following the workshop, the PN produces a comprehensive report with the outcomes as well as recommendations for follow-up.

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