

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Global Parliamentary Conference (GPC) is the Parliamentary Network's flagship event co-organised by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF (PN), World Bank Group (WBG), and International Monetary Fund (IMF), providing parliamentarians, members of civil society, and international organizations the opportunity to interact with senior representatives from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The Annual Conference serves as an informative meeting point for lawmakers and development institutions, an occasion for Members of the PN to highlight objectives for the coming years, and a place to elect new Members to the Board, when applicable.

This year's GPC took place from 12-13 April 2015 in Washington, D.C. In light of the 2015 Year of Development, the themes of this year's conference consisted of: financing for development in attaining the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs); improving healthcare systems and emergency responses; gender equality and women's rights in the post-2015 agenda; current global and regional challenges of unemployment and inequality; global and local environmental sustainability; and building more open, effective, and accountable institutions. The GPC sought to define the role for MPs in building political will to tackle these themes and help create solutions to the most-pressing development challenges of our time.

Further, the 2015 GPC hosted a special question and answer session with the leadership of the World Bank Group & IMF, President Jim Yong Kim and Managing Director Christine Lagarde. The Conference resulted in key policy recommendations deriving from both parliamentarians and representatives from the World Bank & IMF. Further, valuable discussions on sustainable development and



goals for the future were weighed, presented, and analysed.

The key areas and takeaways are listed below:

- increase Parliamentarians' and participants' knowledge of the themes discussed;
- underline Parliamentarians' roles in identifying and improving development success in their respective countries; and
- investigate how international partners such as the World Bank Group and IMF can support them in this task.

1. Increase Parliamentarians' knowledge of the themes discussed

A key area which emerged at the 2015 GPC was knowledge-building. In general, it was agreed that Parliamentarians must be increasingly enabled to succeed in development initiatives, understanding and utilising knowledge of the specific themes discussed, such as:

- amounts of potential **capital available** to be financed in global development initiatives. The current level of official development assistance (**ODA**) remains insufficient today to fund and sustain growth of tomorrow and beyond.
- lost growth due to tragedies such as the **Ebola** outbreak or future outbreaks to come.
- legal barriers placed on **women** and the resulting negative economic impact at local, regional and global levels;

- realities that **inequality** is an effect of inefficient policy frameworks which do not address systemic economic and social issues;

- economic justifications for treating **climate change** with as serious of concern as archetypical development issues; and

- intrinsic value and role that Parliamentarians have in building **good governance**, trust and capacity towards achieving their respective development goals.

2. Underline Parliamentarians' roles in identifying and improving development success in their respective countries

The role of parliamentarians in contributing to development is crucial, as multiple speakers during the GPC alluded to the modern parliamentarian not only a legislator, but also as a "development practitioner." Parliamentarians are representatives of citizens and civil society, expressing an important voice for both governments and multilateral institutions alike. The actions of legislators are catalytic in development initiative frameworks for efficient and successful programmes, particularly when issues such as poverty eradication and boosting shared prosperity are the objectives. Besides the drafted Resolution which can be found in Annex 3, the role of parliamentarians is critical in:

- using **ODA** in a "new, leveraging, innovative, and catalysing way" that is responsive to the needs of future generations. The task requires domestic policies that support a



business environment where financial flows are highly mobile and fluid;

- investing budgetary resources towards frontline **health infrastructure** and the eventual universal, insurance-based health system domestically;
- legislating on issues such as **gender-equal** access to education, credit, paternity leave, individual taxation, and property rights for all;
- reforming legal frameworks which **systemically reduce inequality** and provide incentives for citizens to engage with local and national governments;
- taxing carbon emissions, engaging in the COP21 discussions with a strong voice for **climate justice**, and encouraging investment in more efficient technologies;

3. Examine how international partners such as the World Bank Group and IMF can support Parliamentarians in this task

The SDGs will necessitate a constantly renewed and investigated development agenda in the context of our increasingly burdened globe.

The World Bank and IMF can assist the role of Parliamentarians in the following ways:

- deliver a global economic and financial system without systemic weakness. Further, international tax cooperation and a sovereign debt framework for all countries would provide global sustainability;
- harness funds for resources in times of human emergency such as pandemics or natural disasters;
- create conditions to achieve gender-responsive macroeconomic policies;
- address the SDGs from a perspective which underscores uneven economic growth and increased vulnerability;
- mobilise global knowledge and show best practices to legislators through technical assistance.

Collectively, these outcomes can assist Parliamentarians in enhancing their roles in the development process. The 2015 GPC in Washington, D.C. was an enriching two days of learning among development practitioners, including legislators, representatives of many international organisations, and civil society from over 65 countries.

