



PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK



About the Network

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) provides a **platform for parliamentarians from over 110 countries to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in International Financial Institutions and multilateral development financing**. Founded in 2000, PNoWB seeks to engage law makers from around the globe in the common mission of addressing good governance and poverty challenges in both their home countries and abroad.

Directed by a twelve-member Board elected by their peers, PNoWB is an **independent non-governmental organization** with a secretariat in Paris. The organization is open to all elected parliamentarians from World Bank member states who hold a current mandate. PNoWB members represent themselves and their constituents, and not their countries, parliaments or governments.

PNoWB uses five principles to guide its work

Dialogue: To facilitate and encourage direct dialogue between parliamentarians and multilateral development institutions to promote greater transparency in development cooperation, particularly with regards to World Bank programs.

Advocacy: To provide PNoWB members with a platform for coordinated parliamentary advocacy on development cooperation issues such as the effective use of funds and full implementation of best practice standards.

Networking: To encourage early debate and information exchange among parliamentarians on issues including good governance, budgetary oversight of development funds and civil society participation in the legislative process.

Partnership: To reinforce cooperation between parliamentarians (i.e. policy makers), the academic community, civil society and non-governmental organizations on issues of good governance and development cooperation.

Increased accountability: To promote the importance of parliamentary oversight in effective democratic control of development assistance in all its phases.

In the past five years, PNoWB has established a respected track-record for being an effective global network promoting parliamentary engagement in the development cooperation monitoring process.

An independent global action-oriented organisation of parliamentarians advocating for transparency and accountability in international development - Check the Network's website at <http://www.pnowb.org>

Activities

The **Annual Conference** is PNoWB's flagship event, bringing together over 200 network members, leaders from civil society and partner organizations, and top officials from a number of International Financial Institutions including the World Bank, IMF and regional development banks. PNoWB annual conferences are hosted by the Parliament and Government of countries where the event takes place.

In addition, the **Parliamentarians in the Field program**, which gives MPs unique access to a World Bank country office, its development programs and key partners (including the host country's parliament and civil society), has been one of the PNoWB's most well-received activities. More than 175 MPs from 50 countries have participated in over 20 visits to countries in Africa, Asia, the Balkans, Latin America and the Middle East since the program began in 2001. Parliamentarians in the Field is jointly organized by PNoWB and the World Bank and is supported by a grant from the government of Finland.

PNoWB also regularly contributes to high-level discussions in a number of special events including global summits, parliamentary assembly caucuses and economic briefing sessions.

Publications and Papers

Written resources include **field mission reports, best practice studies, policy briefing documents and a quarterly review** – Network News – with a circulation of more than 2000 readers. **Network News** features articles from economic and parliamentary experts and leaders including Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the IMF and Louis Michel, European commissioner for development and humanitarian aid.

PNoWB recently launched its **Parliamentarians & Development series**, a quarterly, topical briefing paper presenting key issues in development cooperation, aid effectiveness and international financial institutions in a succinct, accessible format and including a short analysis specifically for parliamentarians.

In addition to these regular publications, PNoWB features several special resources such as the **Parliamentarian's Guide to the World Bank**, a handbook developed jointly by the World Bank and PNoWB to provide an overview of the Bank's governance structure, policies, evaluation and review mechanisms.

Policy resources

PNoWB produces a number of policy resources to support parliamentarians in their advocacy for good governance and increased aid accountability. The Network is compiling a series of ten best practices case studies that clearly illustrate effective parliamentary/World Bank relations leading to improved development outcomes. In addition, PNoWB in an upcoming campaign will seek to empower parliamentarians from donor and partner countries to hold International Financial Institutions -- most notably the World Bank -- accountable to aid effectiveness principles outlined in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action in their allocation, administration and transparent evaluation of multilateral development funds. Materials supporting this campaign are available on PNoWB's website as of February 2010.

Funding

The PNoWB receives funding from the governments of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Finland. In addition, PNoWB Annual Conferences have been funded by the governments of Greece, France, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. On specific occasions, the World Bank and IMF can co-sponsor PNoWB activities.

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