



World Bank VP Axel Van Trotsenburg updates PNoWB Board on IDA 16 replenishment

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Axel Van Trotsenburg, the World Bank's Vice President for Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships, updated PNoWB's Board on the IDA replenishment process ahead of the first IDA deputies meeting in Paris on March 3rd and 4th. Participating in the monthly PNoWB Board conference call, Mr. Van Trotsenburg provided insights on the replenishment process as well as milestones for outreach during the IDA 16 replenishment campaign. The PNoWB Board and Mr. Van Trotsenburg then held open discussion about areas for cooperation and mutual support in the run up to IDA replenishment.

Replenishment process

Mr. Van Trotsenburg specified that the IDA deputies will meet four times during the course of the drive for replenishment, the first meeting – during which the key themes of IDA 16 will be identified in consultation with both donor and partner countries– begins shortly here in Paris. The second will take place in June in a developing country; the third meeting will be around the time of the World Bank and IMF annual meetings in the fall and the fourth and final meeting will take place before the end of the year. Donor countries will reach the pledging stage at different times during the coming 10 months, with some in a position to announce a pledge mid-year, while others will not be ready until October.

There will be 45 IDA donor countries around the meeting table this year, in addition to representatives from partner countries. The Bank has also invited several high-level ministers to address the IDA deputies, a new feature of the 16th round of IDA negotiations. Mr. Van Trotsenburg pointed out that as the number of people around the table increase, the way the Bank consults with these stakeholders must also evolve.

IDA outreach

During the meeting, Mr. Van Trotsenburg focused on the role that outreach plays in the drive for IDA replenishment and requested PNoWB input, specifically in relation to communicating with parliamentarians, who may not be familiar with IDA, the replenishment process, or where it fits into the development cooperation picture. Mr. Van Trotsenburg suggested that PNoWB can help the Bank to better understand what kind of IDA information would be valuable to parliamentarians, and how this information should be presented. The importance of making World Bank IDA 16 material parliamentarian-friendly is a concern.

The World Bank is considering producing a retrospective "50 years of IDA" communications initiative, which would put into perspective how far development has come in the 50 years since IDA began making loans to post-war Europe. Since its inception, IDA has lent more than \$US 350 Billion.

Open discussion between PNoWB Board and Mr. Van Trotsenburg

Hugh Bayley, Chairman of PNoWB's Board, introduced PNoWB's IDA 16 and aid effectiveness campaign and asked what PNoWB and its members can do to encourage discussions about IDA and its replenishment in parliaments. Corina Cretu, a PNoWB Board member and Member of European Parliament representing Romania, responded that within the EP, this could be included in policy

coherence discussions. Janette Garin, PNoWB Board member from the Philippines mentioned that the Bank is usually in contact with a country's executive branch of government and far less involved with the parliament. In response, Mr. Van Trotsenburg explained that the Bank must respect the wishes of a country's government regarding engagement, but that it was important to look further at this given the importance of parliament's oversight function.

Jeppe Kofod, PNoWB Board member and Danish MP, agreed that both donor and partner country parliamentarians should discuss IDA replenishment, but that to do so, they need more background information and guidance on issues to raise with their executive. Meeting attendees then discussed the possibility of requiring that IDA-borrowing country governments involve parliamentarians in the oversight and monitoring of funds, but this is a complex discussion that touches on the issue of aid conditionality, which the Bank and IMF have made an effort to reduce.

World Bank support for PNoWB's IDA 16 and aid effectiveness campaign

During the meeting, PNoWB briefly introduced its upcoming advocacy campaign in which it calls on donor governments to fully replenish IDA funds by meeting or exceeding IDA15 funding levels, and on the World Bank to deepen its commitment to aid effectiveness in four key areas and through increased engagement with donor and partner country parliamentarians during all stages of IDA 16. Mr. Van Trotsenburg responded positively to the campaign and said that he sees clear areas for cooperation, offering the Bank's support and presence.

PNoWB Board members and Mr. Van Trotsenburg agreed that the next step is to firm up dates for campaign events — most urgently the launch event, which is planned to take place in early April—to ensure World Bank participation. The group discussed the possibility of holding sub-events in North America, Western Europe, Francophone Africa and Asia. PNoWB offered to support the IDA team in linking up with parliamentarians as well as designing IDA 16 briefing sessions specifically tailored to parliamentarians.

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