

Building Parliamentary Capacity

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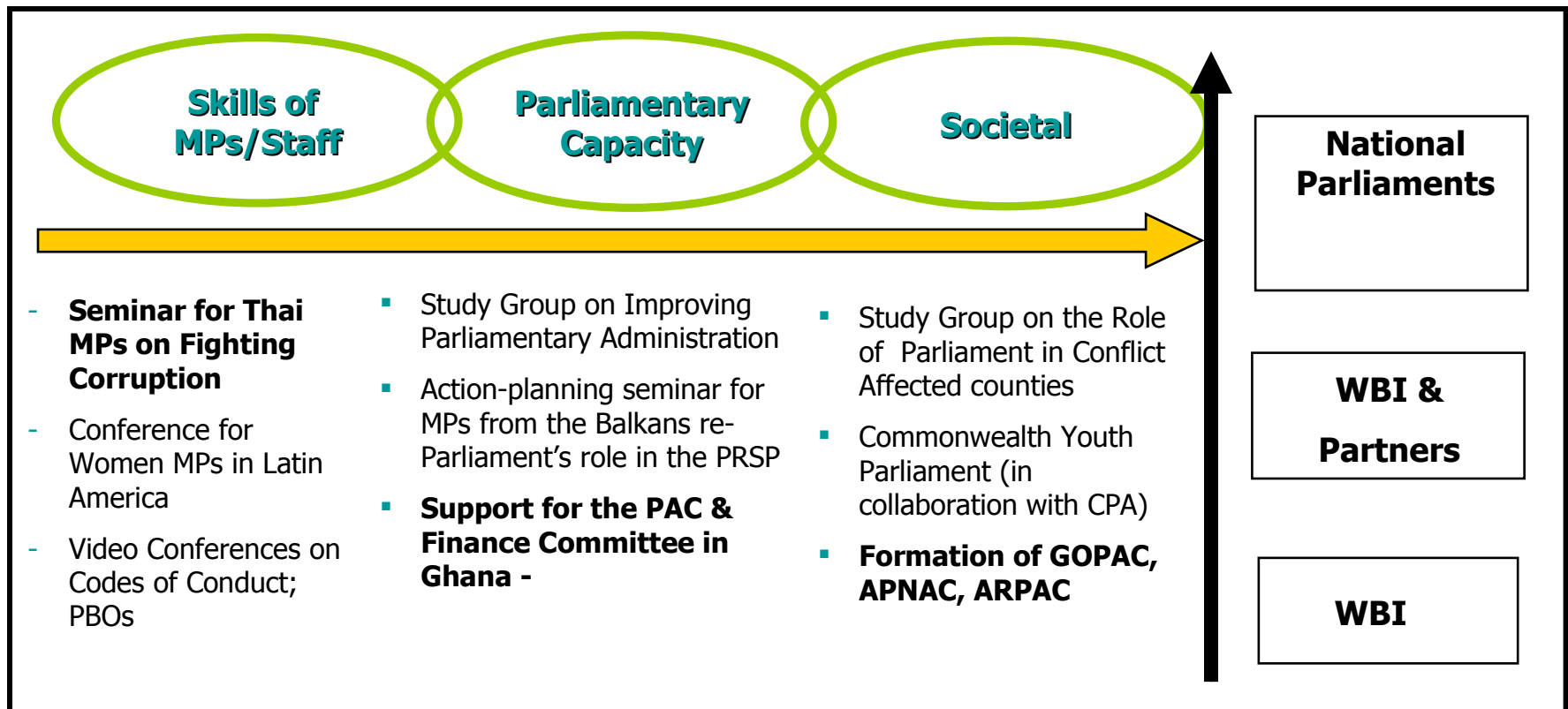


Presentation Outline

- ***WBI's Parliamentary Strengthening Program***
 - WBI Approach & Evolution
 - Key areas : Corruption; Poverty Reduction
 - Additional areas : Women/Gender; Conflict; Parl. Admin
 - Modus Operandi
 - Lessons Learned

Developing Parliamentary Capacity

WBI Program: Strengthening Capacity of Parliaments



Evolution of WBI's work with Parliamentarians

- **1993 : First WBI activity** with parliamentarians
- **2000 : Strategic Evaluation**
- **2000 : Multi-stakeholder Program Planning Meeting**

More Recent Trends (2000-2008)

- **2000 +** : Strategic approach developed
- Focus still on anti-corruption/ governance (but broadened to “oversight” more generally) and parliament’s role in poverty reduction; additional focus on: parliament & gender; parliament in conflict affected countries; parliamentary staff training
- Integrated into World Bank Country Strategies
- Emphasis on research and analyses – e.g. PACs, development of parliamentary indicators or standards, improving parliamentary administration
- World Bank’s GAC strategy gives major boost

Principal Organizations Implementing Parliamentary Development

- *SUNY*
- *UNDP*
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy
- *Parliamentary Centre*
- World Bank Institute
- *National Democratic Institution*
- *Inter-Parliamentary Union*
- *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*

WBI Key Program Areas (1)

- **Role of Parliaments Against Corruption**
 - Initial Laurentian Seminar : “Ad Hoc Committee”
 - Handbook translated into 6 languages
 - Regional + national workshops
 - Formation of GOPAC, APNAC & ARPAC
 - Ongoing support to PAC, Finance and other Oversight Committees
 - Publication “The Role of Parliament in Curbing Corruption”

Key Program Areas (2)

- **Role of Parliaments in Poverty Reduction**
 - Study Group convened
 - Handbook prepared
 - Use of internet + video conference to finalize Handbook
 - Pilot program launched with partners (MOU with UNDP)
 - In Ghana – workshop delivered wholly by GDLN
 - Collaborative stock-taking program with Africa Vice Presidency on the role of African parliaments in the PRSP

Additional Program Areas (3)

- **Women and Parliament**
- **Parliament in Conflict Affected Countries**
- **Improving parliamentary administration and research**

Modus Operandi

- Strong country focus –20+ countries
- This ensures links to WB country strategies
- Regional and global activities support country focus
- Work with partners – IPU, CPA, SUNY, Parliamentary Centre, NDI, UNDP plus Royal Roads University, ANU, La Trobe University, others...

Lessons from Experience (1)

- Capacity building rather than awareness raising
- Focus on parliament as an institution, not on individual MPs
- Strategic focus – link to parliamentary agendas + work-plans
- Cross-country parliamentary learning rather than “expert mode” (e.g. Parliament/PRSP)
- Need to gather, share + disseminate examples of ‘good practice’

Lessons from Experience (2)

- Training part of larger parliamentary capacity program
- Parliamentary capacity program should be part of larger governance reforms (e.g. Ghana)
- Often, linkage through training back to IFIs is useful for MPs
- Need strong political support (but keep parl. Administration on side)

Lessons from Experience (3)

- Parliamentary capacity building a L/T effort; need to be flexible + open
- Where parliamentary project part of a larger governance project, parliamentary component should not be controlled by the Executive
- Multi-donor co-ordination should be the responsibility of parliament

Conclusions

- Fast growing, cutting-edge program; content mirrors “new” Bank agenda (governance, corruption, conflict)
- WBI as “knowledge broker”; seek synergy thru’ partners
- For more information:
 - www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance