



---

## ***International Conference on National Poverty Reduction Strategies Washington, DC, 14-17<sup>th</sup> January 2002***

### **Agenda**

Following four regional PRSP forums for Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus, Central and South America, and East Asia, held in the Fall of 2001, the International Conference provides a global forum among a broad spectrum of countries and groups involved in the PRSP process.

Participation is expected to be comprehensive, with the PRSP team head from each of the 59 active IDA/PRGF countries invited along with the PRGF team head from the 36 countries with an active program. Donors and international organizations will also participate, and both southern and northern NGOs comprise a substantial part of the audience. Governments will also be represented through the Executive Directors of the Bank and Fund Boards, with total participation expected to be 250.

The objectives of the Conference are to reach a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the PRSP approach and to discuss possible ways for improving development impact. The Conference discussions will inform the staff report to the Boards in March 2002. The conference will also be an opportunity for Bank and Fund staff to indicate their preliminary conclusions on the PRSP experience to date, both in the 'Main Issues Paper' to be submitted before the conference, and in discussions during the conference itself.

**Monday, January 14, 8:00-10:00**

**Registration: IMF Gallery Second Floor**

**Monday, January 14, 10:00 – 10:30**

**Welcoming Remarks by Messrs. Horst Köhler, Managing Director IMF, and Jim Wolfensohn, President World Bank: IMF Meeting Hall**

**Chair:** Mohsin Khan (Director, IMF Institute)

**Monday, January 14, 10:30 – 12:30**

**Emerging Country Experience: Views from the first full PRSPs: IMF Meeting Hall**

**Chair:** Shengman Zhang (Managing Director, World Bank)

**Panelists:**

Rodney Pereira (Director, UDAPE, Bolivia)

Francois M. Didier (Executive Secretary, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Burkina Faso)

Efrain Corea (Economist, State Secretariat, Honduras)

Ahmed Youra Ould Haye (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, Mauritania)

Pedro Couto (Ministry of Planning and Finance, Mozambique)

Alvaro Montalvan (Undersecretary of the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, Nicaragua)

Gelardina Ducka (Head Technical Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Albania)

Margaret M. Kakande (Head Poverty Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Department, Uganda)

Hon. Daniel N. Yona (Minister of State Responsible for Poverty Reduction, Vice President's Office, Tanzania)

This session will highlight the experience to date of the nine countries who have completed their first full PRSP. The country representatives have been asked to address the following questions:

- What have been the key achievements and constraints during and since the finalization of the first PRSP?
- To what extent has there been country ownership of and broad-based participation in the PRSP?
- Have development partners been sufficiently supportive of poverty reduction strategy preparation and begun to align their assistance to support its implementation?
- In light of the experience to date, how might the modalities of the PRSP approach be modified in order to improve its long-term development and poverty impact?

**Monday, January 14, 12:30 – 2:00**

**Lunch: IMF Gallery**

**Monday, January 14, 2:00 – 4:00**

**The Approach to the Joint Staff Review of the PRSP Approach and Overview of the Issues Paper: IMF Meeting Hall**

**Chair:** Anne Krueger (First Deputy Managing Director, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Masood Ahmed (Deputy Director, Policy Development and Review Department, IMF)  
John Page (Director, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank)  
Narendra Jadhav (Independent Evaluation Office, IMF)  
Robert Mills (Policy Manager, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD))  
Paul Isenman (Head, Strategic Management of Development Co-operation Division, OECD/DAC)

As background for the Conference, staff prepared an *Issues Paper* which sets out the range of issues and views that have been conveyed to the Bank and Fund during the review process. With a view to facilitating open discussion, the paper presents the range of views expressed to date on each of the nine main issues and poses broad questions for consideration by the conference participants. The objective of this session is to provide a broad overview of the joint staff review, as well as an opportunity to discuss the approach and validate the broad themes highlighted in the Issues Paper. Each of these will be addressed in greater depth in the plenary and breakout sessions over the ensuing three days.

**Monday, January 14, 4:00 – 4:30**

**Coffee Break: IMF Gallery**

**Monday, January 14, 4:30 – 6:00**

**Retrospective on the PRSP Regional Events: IMF Meeting Hall**

**Chair:** Tertius Zongo, His Excellency, Ambassador to the US for Burkina Faso

**Panelists:**

Somdy Douangdy (Director, Committee for Planning and Cooperation, Lao, PDR)  
Marian Lupu (Deputy Minister of Economy, Moldova)  
El Hadj Sow (Chief of PRSP Committee, Guinea)  
Hugo Fernandez (Executive Director, UNITAS, Bolivia)

The objective of this session is to briefly recap the key messages that emerged from each of the four regional learning events. This will reflect both the diversity of experience both within and across regions, and also among countries at varying stages of the PRSP process.

**Tuesday, January 15, 9:00 – 10:30**

**Theme I Plenary on Participation of Domestic Stakeholders and External Partners:  
World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Chair:** Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Director, Modern Africa Fund)

**Keynote Speaker:** Kemal Derviş, His Excellency, Minister of State, Turkey

**Panelists:**

Alvaro Montalvan (Undersecretary of the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, Nicaragua)

Warren Nyamugasira (National Coordinator, Uganda National NGO Forum)

Sanjaasurengiin Oyun (Member of Parliament, Mongolia)

**Background to Discussion**

This Plenary session will begin with a keynote address by Mr. Kemal Derviş on reaching social consensus in times of crisis. Panelists from three different regions will address key aspects of country experience. The conference is invited to consider what could be done to help improve the participation of domestic stakeholders as well as donors in PRSP preparation, during this plenary and the subsequent breakout discussions which cover the role of civil society, parliaments, involvement of sectoral agencies and governance issues.

**Tuesday, January 15, 10:30 – 11:00**

**Coffee Break: World Bank Preston Auditorium**

## **Tuesday, January 15, 11:00 – 1:00: Breakout Sessions on Theme I**

### **IA: Participation across Government and with Parliaments: IMF B-702**

**Chair:** Kwesi Abbey-Sam (Advisor, Ministry of Roads and Highways, Ghana)

#### **Panelists:**

Sanjaasurengiin Oyun (Member of Parliament, Mongolia)  
Situmbeko Musokotwane (PRSP Coordinator, Ministry of Finance, Zambia)  
Virgilio Juvane (National Director, Ministry of Education, Mozambique)  
Hailemariam Mulageta (Member of Parliament, Ethiopia)

#### **Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. To what extent has there been participation across Government, including at top-political levels, and across sector Ministries?
2. What is the appropriate role for Parliaments and Parliamentary Committees in the PRSP process? What are the key constraints?
3. Are there trade-offs between strengthening participation within and between Government/Parliaments/Opposition vis a vis broadening participation to non-governmental groups?

### **IB: Civil Society: IMF Meeting Hall B**

**Chair:** Winston Cox (Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat)

#### **Panelists:**

Kathleen Selvaggio (Policy and Strategic Issues Division, Catholic Relief Services)  
Collins Magalasi (National Coordinator, Malawi Economic Justice Network)  
Hassan Raha (Deputy Secretary General, TUCTA [trade union organization], Tanzania)  
Monica Imelda Aoko (Deputy Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Kenya)  
Carol Welch (Deputy Director, International Programs, Friends of the Earth)

#### **Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. How can the developmental impact of civil society's participation - and the direct involvement of the poor - in the PRSP approach be strengthened?
2. How can the capacity of civil society to engage in public debate (particularly on technically complex macroeconomic and structural issues) be enhanced?
3. How can civil society participation at the local level be enhanced while also supporting local government participation
4. How can accountability be enhanced? Should priority be given to those civil society groups which are most representative of the poor? How do accountability mechanisms vis a vis civil society and the PRSP fit with the role of parliament?

**Tuesday, January 15, 11:00 – 1:00: Breakout Sessions on Theme I (continued)**

**IC: Addressing Governance: IMF Meeting Hall A**

**Chair:** Alexandre Barro Chambrier (Executive Director for Francophone Africa, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Margaret M. Kakande (Head Poverty Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Uganda)  
Rodney Pereira (Director, UDAPE, Bolivia)  
Kathryn Casson (Department For International Development, United Kingdom)  
Anesti Kashta (Executive Director, Institute of Fiscal Education, Albania)  
Cheryl W. Gray (Director, Public Sector Group, World Bank)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. What types of diagnostics are needed to form and build an early consensus on the governance challenges confronting poverty reduction efforts?
2. Should Joint Staff Assessments pay more attention to broader governance issues to complement the attention already being paid to public expenditure policy and management?
3. How can monitoring and indicators be more effectively used as tools for giving voice to the demand for better governance? What assistance is required to help build domestic capacity for monitoring and evaluation inside and outside government in ways that do not overload public officials or civil society organizations?

**ID: Enhancing Donor Participation: IMF R-710**

**Chair:** Finn Jonck (Executive Director for Nordic and Baltic Countries, World Bank)

**Panelists:**

Angela Farhat, (Principal planning analyst , National Development, Ghana)  
Jan Vandemoortele (Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP)  
Hailu Mekonnen (Principal Poverty Reduction Specialist, African Development Bank)  
Ronald Meyer (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. How can the role of partners in formulating national poverty reduction strategies be enhanced, while maintaining country ownership?
2. What are the key areas where partners could provide assistance for PRSP preparation?

**Tuesday, January 15, 1:00 – 2:30**

**Lunch: IMF Gallery**

**Tuesday, January 15, 2:30 – 4:00**

**Theme II Plenary on Public Actions for Poverty Reduction: World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Chair:** Eduardo Aninat (Deputy Managing Director, IMF)

**Keynote Speaker:** Stanley Fischer (Senior Advisor to the Managing Director, IMF)

**Panelists:**

David Booth (Poverty and Public Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute)

Dominique Njinkeu (Deputy Director, African Economic Research Consortium)

Margaret M. Kakande (Head Poverty Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Uganda)

**Background to Discussion**

The goal of this plenary session is to highlight key aspects of emerging experience on the development of public action for poverty reduction as background for more detailed discussions during the ensuing breakouts. The first set of full PRSPs, in articulating priority public actions aimed at poverty reduction, contain a three-year macroeconomic framework, present a program for public expenditures, and contain a set of policy and institutional reforms. However a recurrent observation of the emerging experience is the lack of attention to likely sources of growth, and policies to help promote pro-poor growth, including in rural areas, clearly in large part because this is an inherently difficult challenge to address. Another concern is the lack of prioritization, so that the set of proposed policy and institutional reforms is overly ambitious and unsequenced. It is generally recognized that the links between the PRSP and budget are critical, but also that current PEM systems in most countries are too weak to support a meaningful presentation of the overall public expenditure program in the PRSP. Partly as a consequence, the PRSPs typically describe how resources from debt relief and from any incremental external financing will be used. Written background and selected references to these and other related topics are provided in issues 4-6 in the Issues Paper.

Following a keynote address by Stanley Fischer, three panelists will address different aspects of PRSP policy agendas in Africa. This will be followed by open discussion to highlight experience from other regions.

**Tuesday, January 15, 4:00 – 4:30**

**Coffee Break: World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Tuesday, January 15, 4:30 – 6:30: Breakout Sessions on Theme II**

**IIA: Integration of Macroeconomic Framework and PRSPs: IMF Meeting Hall A**

**Chair:** G.E. Gondwe, Director, African Department, IMF

**Panelists:**

Luis Duran (Former Head, Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, Nicaragua)  
Ahmed Youra Ould Haye (Advisor, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, Mauritania)  
Marcus Manuel (Head International Poverty Reduction, Ministry of the Treasury, United Kingdom)  
Warren Nyamugasira (Coordinator, Uganda National NGO Forum)

**Possible Topics for Discussion:**

1. How well has the macroeconomic framework and priority public policies been integrated in the first set of PRSPs?
2. What can be done to improve the consistency of the macroeconomic framework and the policies and programs in PRSPs?
3. What can be done to strengthen assessments of potential tradeoffs between short- and long-term poverty reduction and other macroeconomic goals, and ensure the macroeconomic framework in PRSPs is robust to external shocks and/or financing shortfalls?

**IIB: Public Expenditure Policies and Management: IMF R-710**

**Chair:** Warren Krafchik

(Deputy Director of the International Budget Project, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)

**Panelists:**

Bill Dorotinsky (Public Sector Specialist, Public Sector Group, World Bank)/ Sanjeev Gupta (Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Expenditure and Policy Division, IMF)  
Situmbeko Musokotwane (PRSP Coordinator, Ministry of Finance, Zambia)  
Tigran Kachatryan (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Armenia)  
Asoka Fernando (Ministry of Financial Planning, Sri Lanka)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. What are the impediments to changing the overall composition of public expenditures in pro-poor directions?
2. How can the effectiveness and efficiency of pro-poor public spending be strengthened in government budgets in order to improve social outcomes?
3. How can these weaknesses with respect to public expenditure management be addressed, both in the short run and in the medium term? Will countries be able to strengthen their PEM systems themselves or is there a significant need for assistance? If so, in what areas?
4. Should action plans to strengthen PEM systems be developed for all PRSP countries? Should PRSPs describe the actions that countries expect to take to strengthen PEM systems?



## **Tuesday, January 15, 4:30 – 6:30: Breakout Sessions on Theme II (continued)**

### **IIC: Targets, Indicators and Monitoring: IMF B-702**

**Chair:** Dennis De Tray (Country Director, World Bank)

#### **Panelists:**

Giovanna Prennushi (Lead Economist, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank)

Vincent Karega (National Coordinator for Poverty Reduction Program, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda)

Peter Rundell (Economist for PRSPs, DGDEV, European Commission)

Gelardina Ducka (Head of Technical Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Albania)

#### **Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. How can intermediate indicators be selected and used for policy monitoring (including how to get a balance between household surveys and administrative systems and the scope for participatory monitoring)?
2. How can well-functioning feedback mechanisms between data and policies, particularly with reference to the annual PRSP progress reports, be set up?.

### **IID: Improving the linkages between PRSPs and sectoral policies: IMF Meeting Hall B**

**Chair:** Girmai Abraham, Executive Director Anglophone Africa, World Bank

#### **Panelists:**

John Martin (Senior Advisor, World Health Organization)

Kwesi Abbey-Sam (Advisor, Ministry of Roads and Highways, Ghana)

Alan Whaites (Director, World Vision)

Waqar Khan (Additional Finance Secretary, Pakistan)

Louise Cord (Senior Economist, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank)

#### **Possible topics for Discussion**

1. Has the PRSP process led to sectoral strategies and programs that are more focused on pro-poor growth and poverty reduction? In particular, to what extent can address the key policy, incentive and institutional constraints, estimate the likely impact of proposed policy measures on the poor and include measures to mitigate any negative impacts, and contain measures to expand opportunities for the poor, be addressed?
2. What can be done to improve the poverty and pro-poor growth focus of sectoral strategies in PRSPs?

**Wednesday, January 16, 9:00 – 10:30**

**Theme III: Plenary Session on Donor Assistance and Partnerships: World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Chair:** Nicholas Stern (Chief Economist, World Bank)

**Keynote Speaker:** Mark Malloch Brown (UNDP Administrator and Chairman, UNDG)

**Panelists:**

Shozo Kitta (Director General, Japan Bank for International Cooperation)

Paul Iseman (Head, Strategic Management of Development Co-operation Division, OECD/DAC)

Pedro Couto (Head, PRSP Team, Mozambique)

David De Ferranti (Vice President, Latin America & Caribbean Region, World Bank)

This plenary session will begin with a keynote address by Mark Malloch Brown, followed by observations from both country delegates as well as different donor agencies on the experience to date regarding country ownership, partnership, and donor conditionality. The success of the PRSP approach depends on donors providing adequate, timely and predictable forms of assistance while still meeting accountability requirements at home. While donors have indicated their support for the PRSP approach, and some progress has been made in aligning donor assistance, there is widespread concern that donors are yet to match their rhetoric with action.

This plenary will be followed by a series of breakouts organized to cover World Bank support (including Poverty Reduction Support Credits), multilateral support from the United Nations and other multilateral agencies and bi-lateral support. There are also two breakout sessions dedicated to reviewing the performance of the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), which will serve as a key unit with the ongoing IMF staff review of the PRGF.

**Wednesday, January 16, 10:30 – 11:00**

**Coffee Break: World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Wednesday, January 16, 11:00 – 1:00: Breakout Sessions on Theme III**

**IIIA: IDA lending programs, including the Poverty Reduction Support Credit: IMF Meeting Hall B**

**Chair:** Gobind T. Nankani (Vice President, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, World Bank)

**Panelists:**

Ted Ahlers (Operations Director, Africa Region, World Bank)

Francois M. Didier (Executive Secretary, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Burkina Faso)

Gelardina Ducka (Head of Technical Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Albania)

Rachel Turner (International Division, Department for International Development, UK)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. Should the Bank adjust its CAS preparation cycles to correspond with PRSP preparation?
2. How can the link between PRSP benchmarks and PRSC triggers be strengthened to ensure better consistency?
3. Is enough being done to ensure that client countries are able to play a role in monitoring and evaluating their performance with respect to the benchmarks?

## **Wednesday, January 16, 11:00 – 1:00: Breakout Sessions on Theme III (continued)**

### **IIIB: Bilateral Support for National Poverty Reduction Strategies: IMF R-710**

**Chair:** Peter Lysholt Hansen (Undersecretary-Ambassador, DANIDA)

#### **Panelists:**

Thierno Seydou Niane (Coordinator, Anti-Poverty Group, Ministry of Finances and Economy, Senegal)

Fantahun B. Asfaw (Department Head, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia)

Franz Van Rijn (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands)

James T. Smith (Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa)

Peter Rundell (Economist for PRSPs, DGDEV, European Commission)

#### **Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. What do donors and countries see as the role and value of the PRSP in providing an overarching framework for coordinating donors assistance?
2. What are the constraints preventing donors from aligning their resources with PRSP priorities? For example, what steps might be taken to minimize lags between completion of PRSPs and revision of donor assistance programs?
3. To what extent have donors been sharing information, undertaking diagnostic work together, conducting joint missions and synchronizing their planning cycles?
4. What can be done to ease donor concerns over the quality of public expenditure management in order to facilitate budget support?

### **IIIC: Multilateral support for national poverty reduction strategies: IMF B-702**

**Chair:** Bassary Touré (Executive Director for Francophone Africa, World Bank)

#### **Panelists:**

Kubat Kanimetov (National CDF Coordinator, Kyrgyz Republic)

Loretta Sonn (Chief, Agricultural Policy Support Service, Food and Agricultural Organization)

Charles Richter (Inter-American Development Bank)

Jan Vandemoortele (Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP)

Brahm Prakash (Director, Poverty Reduction & Social Development Division, Asian Development Bank)

#### **Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. How can the PRSP approach best ensure that strategies build on existing national development plans as well as those tools used by other multilateral agencies?
2. Are differing agency assessments with respect the quality of PRSPs and strategy ownership best resolved through adjusting the level and focus of assistance? Is there scope for consolidation to reduce administrative burdens on countries?
3. How can multilateral agencies coordinate their respective poverty reduction strategies to reduce overlap and unnecessary cross-conditionality?

**Wednesday, January 16, 11:00 – 11:30: Two Sessions for the IMF’s Review of the PRGF**

**The IMF’s Poverty Reduction & Growth Facility: Introduction & Summary of Findings:  
IMF Meeting Hall A**

**Chair:** Masood Ahmed (Deputy Director, Policy Development and Review Department, IMF)

**IIID-1: The IMF’s Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility – Fiscal Aspects: IMF 2-530**

**Chair:** Teresa Ter-Minassian (Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Sanjeev Gupta (Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Expenditure and Policy Division, IMF)

David Bevan (Oxford University, United Kingdom)

Waqar Khan (Additional Finance Secretary, Government of Pakistan)

Anthony Osei (Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Ghana)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. To what extent are budgets becoming pro-poor? What are the constraints to tracking poverty-reducing spending?
2. What steps are the countries taking to improve the efficiency and targeting of public expenditures? What can be done to forge a stronger link between public spending and social outcomes?
3. How flexible are the fiscal targets under PRGF-supported programs? Should domestic revenue mobilization continue to be a key objective of these programs?
4. What are the impediments to improve public resource management and accountability? To what extent can parliaments and civil society groups contribute?
5. What are the main factors constraining countries’ capacity to conduct poverty and social impact analysis?

**IIID-2: PRGF Conditionality and PRSP Relationship: IMF Meeting Hall A**

**Chair:** Cyrus Rustomjee (Executive Director for Anglophone Africa, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Mark Plant/Tom Dorsey (Division Chief/Deputy Division Chief, PRGF Operations Division, IMF)

Keith Muhakaniza (Director Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Uganda)

Irungu Houghton (Policy Advisor and Program Coordinator, Action Aid, USA)

Mark Sobel (Acting Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, United States Treasury Department)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. Have the new programs and program reviews under the PRGF been implemented in a manner consistent with I-PRSPs and PRSPs? What could be done to improve the relationship?
2. Are Fund-supported programs designed in a way that accommodate national goals?
3. Has coordination between the Bank and Fund on conditionality been appropriate? Has the streamlining of structural conditionality been successful? Is Fund conditionality more focused in areas of Fund staff expertise?

**Wednesday, January 16, 1:00 – 2:30**

**Lunch: IMF Gallery**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2:30 – 4:00. Special Sessions**

A series of four “special sessions” are intended to address specialized topics related to the PRSP approach. The first will pull together the main findings of the two preceding sessions on the PRGF while the other three address conflict-affected countries, ensuring the implementation of the PRSPs, and the link between the HIPC and the PRSP approaches.

**Theme IV A: The IMF’s Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility: IMF Meeting Hall A**

**Chair:** Masood Ahmed (Deputy Director, Policy Development and Review Department, IMF)

**Participants:**

Charles Abugre (Executive Director, Integrated Social Development Center, Ghana)  
Christian Rasolomanana (Managing Director Ministry of Finance and Economy, Madagascar)  
Marcus Manuel (Head International Poverty Reduction, Ministry of the Treasury, United Kingdom)

1. What areas of PRGF implementation seem to be progressing well and where might more work be needed?
2. On the basis of experience to date, what change or additions to the key features might be considered?
3. Is a post-PRGF strategy or facility needed for successful low income countries that do not need additional Fund financing. If so, what design principles should be kept in mind for such a facility?

**Theme IV B: PRSPs in Conflict-Affected Countries: IMF B-702**

**Chair:** Willy Kiekens (Executive Director for Belgium, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Vincent Karega (National Coordinator, Poverty Reduction Program, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda)  
Temur Basilia (Assistant to President, Georgia)  
Jalal-Abdel-Latif (Executive Director, Inter-Africa Group, Ethiopia)  
Ahmad Jamal (Pakistan Alleviation Fund)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. Should a specific program of technical assistance and advice to conflict affected countries preparing PRSPs be developed?
2. Are the JSA guidelines for PRSPs sufficiently flexible for conflict affected countries or are modifications needed to highlight the key issues they face?
3. What is the potential of the PRSP as a vehicle for conflict prevention, by using it to address underlying causes for conflict in a long term development context?
4. Should the emerging network of interested donors, governments and NGOs be further strengthened to ensure the regular exchange of strategies and good practice on implementing the PRSP approach in conflict-affected countries?

**Wednesday, January 16, 2:30 – 4:00. Special sessions (continued)**

**Theme IV C: Ensuring the implementation and updating of PRSPs: IMF R-710**

**Chair:** Jack Boorman (Counsellor and Special Advisor to the Managing Director, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Francois M. Didier (Executive Secretary, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Burkina Faso)  
OECD/DAC)

George Zimalirana (Director, Monitoring & Evaluation, National Economic Council, Malawi)

Paul Isenman (Head, Strategic Management of Development Co-operation Division,

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. What can be done to ensure that implementation of the PRSP is effectively monitored and that country strategies remain relevant over time?
2. What are realistic expectations for annual progress reports? How can a balance be reached between periodic revisions and the reporting burden imposed by such updates?
3. The current expectation is that full PRSPs be updated every three years, but would a country-specific cycle for updating the full PRSP, which would not exceed five years, make sense?
4. What types of changes are being considered with respect to partners' reporting requirements with respect to their programs that might reduce the administrative burdens on governments and facilitate implementation.

**Theme IV D: Link Between Enhanced HIPC Initiative and PRSP Approach:  
IMF Meeting Hall B**

**Chair:** Tim Geithner (Director, Policy Development and Review Department, IMF)

**Panelists:**

Axel von Trotsenburg (Country Director and Former Manager, HIPC Unit, World Bank)

Maxwell Maclean Mkwezalamba (Principal Secretary, Economics, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Malawi)

Mauricio Diaz Burdett (Coordinator, Social Forum for External Debt and Development, Honduras)

Oliver Buston (Senior Advocacy Officer, Oxfam)

Ambroise Fayolle (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Debt and Development Issues, Department of the Treasury, Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industry)

**Possible Topics for Discussion**

1. To what extent has the desire to reach the completion point affected the timing, process and quality of PRSP preparation and implementation?
2. With the goals of improving the development impact of the PRSP approach and effective use of debt relief for poverty reduction in mind, can the current structure of HIPC Initiative incentives be improved?
3. Could some flexibility be introduced by relaxing the requirement of PRSP implementation in the relatively small number of country cases where progress on implementing poverty reduction strategies is considered significant, the completion point conditions have been met and the financial cost of delaying the Completion point is substantial?

**Wednesday, January 16, 4:00 – 4:30**

**Coffee Break: IMF Gallery**

**Wednesday, January 16, 4:30 – 6:30**

**Reflection Period**

**Africa Countries: IMF Meeting Hall A**

**Latin America & Caribbean: IMF 2-530**

**Baltic, Caucasus, & Central Asia: IMF-702**

**East & South Asia: IMF B-618**

**Civil Society Groups: IMF Meeting Hall B**

**Bilateral Donors & International Organizations: IMF R-710**

**Chair:** Each session will select a representative from the constituency group to serve as chairperson.

**Breakout Sessions:** Six Breakout Sessions for four country groups (Africa, East and South Asia, Central Asia/Caucasus/Balkans and Latin American and the Caribbean), a bi-lateral donor/international organization group, and a civil society group,

**Possible Topics for Discussion:**

This session is designed to allow conference participants to meet within their constituency groups and discuss their conclusions regarding the main issues discussed during the conference, the key challenges that lie ahead, and recommendations for ways to improve the developmental impact of the PRSP approach. It is not expected that there would be a single view within the constituency on any or all the issues discussed during the conference. Hence, the session will focus on how best to frame the various views that are emerging. The group will select a chairperson/rapporteur who will present their findings and views at the closing plenary session of the conference to be held on Thursday morning. Key questions that could be considered by this session include:

1. What have been the main achievements attained and main obstacles faced during the first two years of implementation of the PRSP approach?
2. What could be done to help improve the participation of domestic stakeholders, as well as of donors, in PRSP preparation and implementation?
3. What specific measures could be pursued to improve data and diagnostics; targets and indicators; to strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity in low income countries; and to improve the clarity of priority public actions in PRSPs, including efforts to improve systems for public expenditure management?
4. What should be done to improve the integration of PRSPs and other governmental decision-making processes?
5. What can donors and countries do to improve the alignment of development assistance in PRSPs?
6. What can be done to ensure that implementation of the PRSP is effectively monitored and that country strategies remain relevant?



**Thursday, January 17, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00**

**Final Plenary: World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Chair:** Gobind T. Nankani, Vice President, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, World Bank

**Panelists:** Representatives from constituencies from each of the six reflection period sessions, including the four country groups (Africa, East and South Asia, Central Asia/Caucasus/Balkans and Latin American and the Caribbean), a bi-lateral donor/international organization group, and a civil society group.

**Discussants:** John Page (Director, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank)/ Masood Ahmed (Deputy Director, Policy and Review Department, IMF)

**Session Description and Summary:**

A representative from each of the six constituency groups will provide a ten minute summary of their group's conclusions regarding the main issues discussed during the conference, the key challenges that lie ahead, and recommendations for ways to improve the developmental impact of the PRSP approach. These views will have been discussed and synthesized during the "reflection period" held at the end of the third day of the conference.

In making these presentations, the representatives will be expected to identify areas where there are concerted views as well as to highlight the range of views in areas where there is no consensus view. The purpose is to "sum up" the main conclusions and findings of the constituency group with a view to providing guidance to the Bank and Fund staffs as they finalize their joint staff paper on the review of the PRSP approach for submission to the Executive Boards of the two institutions. Representatives of the Bank/Fund will indicate the key messages which they see as emerging and preliminary responses regarding what the staff will be taking forward from the conference as it prepares the joint review board document.

**Thursday, January 17, 12:00 – 12:30**

**Closing Remarks by Messrs. Horst Köhler and Jim Wolfensohn:  
World Bank Preston Auditorium**

**Chair:** Frannie Leautier, Vice President, WBI Institute