

CROSS PARTY GROUP: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

26 October 2016

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

1PM – 2PM

Please note that it is not the intention of the minutes to record a verbatim account.

Attendees: Lewis Macdonald MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP, Patrick Harvie MSP, Ash Denham MSP,

Member Organisation list: Alistair Dutton (SCIAF), Ryan McQuigg (Oxfam Scotland), Jamie Livingstone (Oxfam Scotland), Chris Hegarty (Christian Aid Scotland), Jane Salmonson (NIDOS), Lucinda Rivers (Unicef UK in Scotland), Dr Hazel MacIver (Tearfund), John Ferguson (Tropical Agriculture Association (Scotland), Jo Vallis (NHS Education for Scotland), Pamela Woodburn (VSO International), Dr Lucia D'Ambruoso (Centre for Global Development at the University of Aberdeen), Cathy Radcliff (EMMS), Tanya Wisely (IDEAS), Professor Pamela Abbot (Centre for Global Development at the University of Aberdeen)

Individual list: David Stevenson, Colin Pritchard, Dr Callum Henderson, Susan McIntosh, Rob Crawford, Andrew Marin, John M Francis, Ian Gittens, Alastair Greig, Jeevan Sharma

Welcome and Introduction

Lewis Macdonald MSP opened the meeting of the Cross-Party Group on International by thanking and welcoming those who attended. Lewis stated that previous CPG's on International Development were valuable to both Parliament and civic society in Scotland. Lewis outlined his interest in international development issues, highlighting his PhD in African studies and saying he looked forward to the work the group will carry out.

A vote was held to appoint MSPs to their official role, as a result Lewis Macdonald MSP was voted in as Convener of the Group and Patrick Harvie MSP as its deputy-convener.

Lewis also asked the Group to approve the Terms of Reference of the Group, this was also passed.

Lewis welcomed the four speakers who would set the scene of current issues the Group maybe interested in.

Address by Jamie Livingstone – Head of Oxfam Scotland

Jamie spoke about the current global emergencies and the strain of the humanitarian system. Outlined that Oxfam have assisted 9m people in the last year covering 30 disasters. Stated world leaders signed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to 'leave no one behind', but currently 125 million people are being left behind as they are affected by conflicts and disasters.

Jamie went on to talk about his visit to Malawi and its food insecurity, currently 6.5million people are affected by drought. Highlight Oxfam's Malawi emergency appeal and that of EMMS, SCIAF and Christian Aid match funded by Scottish Government. Jamie went on to raise the issue of under reported crises in Yemen and the Lake Chad Basin. He touched on situation in Syria and refugees, noting Scotland have welcomed a third of the Syrian refugees that have come to the UK. Jamie stressed more needs to be done and Scotland has a serious role to play in being a good global citizen.

Address by Jane Salmonson, Chief Executive of NIDOS

Jane spoke about how the SDGs would impact Scotland, highlighting that they have a transformational agenda that would make the world a better place if the 2030 target was met. SDGs are universal for all, meaning it affects those of us in Scotland as well as those from developing countries. It must be about leaving no one behind, as Scotland signed up to the SDGs how can Scotland deliver? Jane spoke about five key issues 1. Conducting a mapping exercise with National Performance Framework and Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights. 2. Opportunity for the programme for Government 3. Domestic SDG action plan, examining the Fairer Scotland plans 4. Partnerships/ civil society and Open Government. 5. Data, asked the question what are we collecting and how accessible is that data.

Address by Chris Hegarty, Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser, Christian Aid Scotland

Chris outlined that tackling poverty and its root causes was political. People in poverty lacked power. Chris stressed that International Development and Aid are not the same thing, International development is more than Aid. While we still need Aid, there hasn't been enough International Development. Scotland needs a coherent approach to International Development, ranging from Climate change, to trade, from refugees to tax policy and citizenship education. Chris highlighted that for example developing countries lost out more on tax revenue from rich countries (because of unfavourable deals, avoidance and evasion) than they have ever received via Aid. Chris ended by stating he welcomes the re-formation of the CPG and hopes it looks beyond aid, looking at Scotland's public sector procurement policies, contracts given to those that pay their fair share of tax.

Address by Alistair Dutton – SCIAF– Director

Alistair spoke about Climate Justice, he used his experience of his visit to Malawi, in which SCIAF helped a farmer called Mary Jackson (and others) to highlight the need to tackle climate change. SCIAF was helping with new farming techniques and methods, which in turn meant Mary could grow more food, despite the draught taking its grip on Malawi. Climate Change is undermining global development; Alistair cited UN reports that 250,000 additional deaths a year will occur as a direct result of climate change. Climate change not only destroys lives it destroys schools, economies. That is why it is vital for world leaders to agree to tackle Climate Change like the COP in Paris, we have a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play. Need to keep to 1.5 degree limit. Next year Scotland has new Climate Plan and Climate Bill, opportunity to be bold.

Question and Answer session

A range of questions were asked following the four speakers ranging from discussion about Caribbean, Civil society involvement/ volunteering, UK International Development policy and its impact, Scottish relationship with Dfid, refugee integration, inviting senior minister to speak at CPG, Scotland's centres of excellence can more to do to utilise/ promote them, future topics for CPG (Scotland's Int Dev strategy/ priority countries, refugees, climate change, education, Brexit, beyond aid)

Forthcoming meetings of the CPG:

TBC after the approval of Parliament re-registering the group, if approval granted likely to be a meeting end of January early February.

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