

CROSS PARTY GROUP: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

19 APRIL 2017

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

1PM – 2.30PM

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,

Member Organisation list: Ryan McQuigg (Oxfam Scotland), Jamie Livingstone (Oxfam Scotland), Steven Turner (The Salvation Army), Philippa Bonella (NIDOS), Jane Salmonson (NIDOS), Susan McIntosh (IDEAS network), Charlie Bevan (Tearfund), Lynne Paterson (Tearfund), Eric Harper (RWSA), Kirsty Harper (RWSA) Geraldine Hill (SCIAF), Kalonde Kasengele (SCOZAA), Lazarous Hankombo (SCOZAA)

Individual list: Otis Orteseh, Joanna Pearce, Elfreda Whity, Jane Petty, Lorna Ross, David Kenvyn, Dr Callum Henderson, Ben Kayumba, Chantelle Hudghton, Chris Stephenson, Francesca Roberts, Joanna Keating, Richard Dixon, Atishay Mathur

Apologies: Ash Denham MSP

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 at previously the Group voted that today's topic would be Climate Change. Minutes from last meeting approved, apologies received from Ash Denham MSP.

Lewis stated that the Group has received a reply from the Minister Alasdair Allan MSP regarding the Group's letter to him after the Minister's presentation to the Group. Ryan will circulate the response to members when he issues the minutes of this meeting.

Lewis welcomed our speakers who would set the scene regarding why it's an important year for Climate Change and a focus spot on Zambia and Rwanda.

Address by Richard Dixon– Friends of the Earth Scotland

Richard stating that Scotland is trying to be a positive player in terms of climate action, cited examples of Climate Justice Fund, the Climate Change Act 2009 and this year the Gov plans to refresh and renew its Climate Change Act with a new climate Bill, we should all push for strong targets. First Minister strong on Paris agreement of **1.5C** target. This is about protecting the most vulnerable, if we don't countries will be lost below the waves, already refugees as a result of climate. Already influencing global politics, just a question of how bad climate change will be – bad or catastrophic.

Richard highlighted the concern about USA direction of travel given Trump Presidency – backtracking on climate protections... boost for coal and fracking... how bad is it going to be? We will have 4 years of Donald trump, minimum. But we have seen threats of legal challenges in US already... including from 19 individual states. Also Market forces might force a change of policy as it's cheaper to invest in renewable than fossil fuels. With regards to Scotland – exciting 12-18 months, the Climate Change Plan as seen four committees scrutinised it... some good stuff, but more progress needed in other areas... this is the plan for actions to 2032. Then we have the new Climate Change Bill, the 2009 act was unanimous must try to keep that consensus, will be a public consultation in June, with draft bill before or just after Christmas and new act passed sometime in the Spring. At min the target of at least 50% by 2050 (up from 42%), but we need to do 56% (due to accounting changes by 2020). Real focus is targets for 2030 and 2050, up from 80% by 2050 to 90%? Or could Scotland aim for 100% by 2050. Need politics to deliver, this is a really important year – will we follow through or will we compromise too much?

Address by Geraldine Hill, SCIAF

Geraldine outlines that climate change has been a campaign priority for SCIAF for some time – they were part of civil society movement that pushed for an ambitious Climate Act in 2009. Geraldine posed the question why is climate change still a big priority? If we fail to tackle climate change we know is risks development progress we have made with countries and communities. People don't always see the link to international impact, but global warming is putting access to food and water at risk, extreme weather getting worse... but also changing weather patterns, this results in changing yields for smallholder farmers, children pulled out of school to work in fields, devastating impact on health . UN reports that 250,000 additional deaths a year will occur as a result of climate change. There is huge cost implications of dealing with consequences of Climate Change. Outlined that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognises this and that is why goal 13 is about climate change, but all goals are interlinked so we must tackle climate change if we are to realise the aims of the Goals. SCIAF want people to survive and thrive climate change, Geraldine talked about their Zambia programme that centred on training farmers in organic agriculture techniques to deal with unpredictable rainfall in is seeing results, but climate finance needs more money. Especially when developing nations will bear up to 80% of the costs of climate change and they did the least to cause it, where's the justice? That's why we welcome the cross-party commitment to the Climate Justice Fund (CJF) in Scotland. As well as giving climate finance we must reduce our own emissions at home... will be difficult but the upcoming Climate Change Act an opportunity to show leadership on the issue.

Question and answer session, ranging from Scottish influence on setting good example on climate change to rest of the world, lessons learned from past Climate Change Act, is it too late to act on 1.5°C?

Address by Kalonde Kasengele and Lazarous Hankombo , from Scotland Zambia Association SCOZAA

Kalonde stated that the SCOZAA was formed in 2004; they wanted it to be a central platform to bring friends together while also promoting cultural diversity within communities. There are in excess of 200 Zambian families in Scotland the association aims to make a difference to people especially it its role helping people socialise this has a big impact on positive mental health.

Kalonde went on to give a country overview of Zambia, saying it has a population of 14.5 m, which is largely Christian, Zambia is 40% urban and its a landlocked country. Lusaka, its capital city has a population of 1.4m people. Life expectancy is just 49 for males and 50 for females. While 50% of population are under the age of 15. High mortality rates due to HIV. The GDP per capita is \$1250, 70% live in poverty. Mining a big business, copper is a big export (owned by government, but operated by private companies). There is a history of poor governance, poor contracts has led big companies exploiting the industry.

Zambia is split up into 10 provinces, made up of 100 individual districts. There are 73 languages – not different dialects, completely different languages in Zambia. Zambia has remained peaceful... but there are some recent conflicts between different political parties. The Association remains strictly non-political, Kalonde stressed they have to be very careful to maintain this apolitical stance.

Regarding Zambia and **Health**, Kalonde outlined that the Ministry of Health issues policy while the implementation is carried out through the Ministry of social welfare. Diseases such as Malaria, TB and HIV remain prevalent, but also now Zambia has seen an increase in cancer and heart disease. The extra burden of disease to people is the fact that it is a long distance to health facilities, and high costs. Inadequate access to drugs and lots of unskilled health workers (difficult to attract people to poorer areas). There has been a big push to promote gender based violence, women being encouraged to report issues, its much less socially acceptable now.

Lazarous provided the Group with some facts on Zambia's **agriculture sector**, which makes up more than 18% of the country's GDP. 42% is made up of livestock while rest in crops particularly maize (the market is largely controlled by the Government, both in seed distribution and buyer of crop). There is a lack of diversification, despite strategies to enhance this – still big focus on maize.

The Group then heard about the **Education issues** in Zambia there is a split between Grade 1-7 and Grade 8-12. Education policy is quite strong, but lots of children drop out at Grade 9 factors like early pregnancy etc.

There is a lack of proper monitoring of whether children go back to school after pregnancy. Lots of early marriage... as early as 14 due to early pregnancies. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of teachers with regards to university subjects there are very theoretical, lack of vocational skills training. For deeper learning students often need to travel abroad.

The Group were told about the **role of Diaspora**, that ownership and involvement... should be at the forefront of delivery of international development. Completed consultation with diaspora in Scotland... they felt disconnected to development efforts , seemed like it was work done for them not by them. There is a real lack of Diaspora voice within INGO effort. Kalonde finished with saying how can diaspora be seen no longer as passengers but leaders with development.

Address by Ben Kayumba from Comfort Rwanda and Congo

The Group also heard from Ben about his thoughts on Rwanda which built on the Group's last meeting which focused on Rwanda. Ben recounted the 1994 genocide, where over a million people died in 100 days. He stated that he was a survivor. Good news is Rwanda today is built on forgiveness, this is an ongoing process... but there is an opportunity on perpetrators to repent. Very tangible signs of development , Female leadership in politics is at 52%. But progress still required to lock in development gains. Rwanda is a relatively safe country now but still high levels of poverty. Rwanda wants to develop a sense of self-reliance... so want sustainability built into development projects.

Question and Answer session followed

Questions included the role of Diaspora to go beyond just transfer of funds, maize market and cooper regarding private ownership, how can Zambia be sustainable in 10, 20 years? The issue of Tied Aid was also raised.

Forthcoming meetings of the CPG:

Next meeting 12th September in Committee Room 5 from 6pm-8pm. This meeting will cover refugees and will be our AGM.

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