

CROSS PARTY GROUP: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

19 FEBRUARY 2013

COMMITTEE ROOM 4, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

5.30PM – 6.30PM

Attendees: Sarah Boyack MSP, Humza Yousaf MSP, Patrick Harvie MSP, John Mason MSP, Margaret MacDougall MSP, Siobhan McMahon MSP, Michael McKean, Fatoumata Sidibeh, L Kahawala, Janey Andrews, Alex Gaines, Gillian Gaines, Carol Morton, Alan Dixon, Sadie Watson, Grant Davidson, Fiona Forsyth, Elaine Mullan, Fiona Trafton, Kevin Simpson, Habib Malik, Gordon Peters, Michael Feudenberg, David Stevenson, David Kenvyn, Frances Johnston, Brian Dornan, Colin Pritchard, Nicola Kandirikirira, Gari Donn, Rebecca Adams, Anthony Olowoyeye, Philippa Bonella, Claire Telfer, Pat Bryden, Patricia Chale, Cathy Crawford, Tracy Johnston, Gillian Wilson, Chelsea Mason, Phakhawan Gibson, Agnes Ngulube – Holmes

Apologies: Mario Aguilar, Georgy Davis, Jackie Baillie MSP, Lorna McDonald, Richard Baker MSP, Hugh Henry MSP, Benjamin Carey, Nicholas Gubbins, Dr Julia Wilson, John M Francis, Chris Wigglesworth.

Welcome and Introduction:

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred members to the new Guidance on Cross Party Groups passed by the Scottish Parliament in January.

Sarah thanked Humza Yousaf MSP for accepting the invitation to address the cross party group in his capacity as the Minister for International Development and External Affairs and invited him to address the meeting.

Address by the Minister for International Development and External Affairs:

The Minister thanked the cross party group for inviting him to address the meeting. He provided an overview of the Scottish Government's International Development policy and projects that it supports throughout the world. The Minister acknowledged previous administrations' commitment to international development and the partnerships that have been formed since devolution in 1999, particularly Malawi and most recently South Asia.

The Minister covered a number of key areas that the Scottish Government are engaged in, including:

- The formation of the Small Grants Fund for smaller/medium sized organisations to access funding;
- Development education and global citizenship;
- The Climate Justice Fund.

The Minister also acknowledged and praised grassroots organisations across Scotland for their outstanding work in raising awareness of campaigns, including the Enough Food for Everyone Campaign and Jubilee Debt Campaign.

Question and Answer:

A range of questions were directed at the Minister. Please note that it is not the intention of the minutes to record a verbatim account.

Pat Bryden raised concerns about past and present foreign policy decisions, including the invasion of Iraq, support for Israel, the economic situation of Zambia and global arm sales.

Gari Donn asked the Minister his views on the importance of sustainability in the field of international development.

Colin Pritchard asked the Minister what the Scottish Government was going to do to encourage Scottish engineering companies and sports personalities to support community based projects.

Patricia Chale asked the Minister what the Scottish Government's official response is relating to Syria.

Alex Gaines made the point that international development is not just a philosophy; action is needed to achieve results

Gordon Peters asked the Minister if the Scottish Government would support ventures which contribute to sustainable use of natural resources, such as current projects in Ecuador.

Patrick Harvie MSP asked the Minister his views on the Scottish Government considering introducing ethical standards to the Procurement Bill.

Sarah Boyack MSP circulated the draft minutes of the January 2013 meeting. The minutes were approved and acknowledged as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Sarah also reminded members that the AGM will be held on **June 18th 2013** and asked individuals to consider future topics of discussion.

AOCB:

Members shared details of forthcoming events which may be of interest:

- **5th March** – Sarah Boyack MSP is sponsoring the Enough Food for Everyone IF Campaign in the Scottish Parliament at 6pm. For more details contact: joneill@sciaf.org.uk
- **13th March** – official opening of the new premises for Hadeel/Palcrafts on 123 George Street. For more details please contact: 0131 225 1922
- **2nd May** – Strathclyde University are organising a David Livingstone Legacy event. For more information please contact: j.j.andrews@strath.ac.uk or phone 0141 548 4078

- **17th May** – NIDOS are organising a full day event on issues relating to Scotland's external relations and international development. For more details please contact: gillian@nidos.org.uk or ring their office 0131 243 2680
- Sarah highlighted that the next meeting of the cross party group is the **26th March 2013** and the topic is Malawi.

For suggestions for corrections to the minutes, please email sarah.boyack.msp@scottish.parliament.uk