



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 12th March 2018 10.30am-12.00pm

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

Attendees:

Simon Anderson (IIED), Charlie Bevan (Tearfund Scotland), Ben Wilson (SCIAF), Lewis Ryder-Jones (Alliance) Sam Ross (Link Community Development), Nick Hepworth (Water Witness International)

Apologies:

Amy Blake (IVS), Lois Muraguri (GALVmed), Ryan McQuigg (Oxfam),

Summary of action points

- CPG on role of media and perceptions of aid – any speaker suggestions to be given to Lewis.
- Brexit – remains watching brief. Lewis to feedback on any developments, especially in light on Brexit 'Continuity Bill' at Scottish Parliament. Debate on this today (13/03)
- September 2018 CPG on Climate and development – Ben and Charlie to feedback on SCCS views on potential CPG event in early autumn. All members to consider speakers for this event, particularly around climate adaptation, linking to PCD. Also, as and when dates become clearer on journey through parliament, will feed back to group.
- Ruth Davidson roundtable on 25th April. All members to feed into shaping discussion and topics (based on points outlined below) before Lewis and Jane meet her one-on-one on 27th March.
- Safeguarding event – Lewis to feedback summary after event
- Lewis to keep watching brief and feedback on developments on NPF/SDG alignment and any change in direction of DFID and ODA redefinition
- Next meeting to be held middle of May 2018 – doodle poll to be sent out

Welcome and Introductions

Simon opened the meeting by asking those who were here for the first time to introduce themselves briefly.

Nick Hepworth, Charlie Bevan and Sam Ross all gave brief introductions.

In response to Sam stating that LCD's work isn't policy focused as such, Simon commented that this is a good thing for the committee and may assist the Alliance in looking beyond the typical policy agendas of policy and campaigns focused INGOs.

Simon went on to explain that the Committee can be a space for discussion and promotion of new ideas, and not necessarily only NGO driven agendas.

Simon also put forward the fact that the Committee needs to plan carefully what priorities it sets itself, given limited resources of members and Alliance staff. It must also set out how it functions reactively to arising issues.

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Summary of Action points from last meeting

Lewis explained that no further work has been actively undertaken in regards to a Brexit risk analysis due to time constraints. Brexit remains a watching brief for Lewis.

On Climate Bill, those who are active, are mostly still to feed back. Subsequent comments on this detailed below under 'climate bill'.

Input from new group members

Nick – areas of interest from Water Witness International – positive stories on aid, civil society restrictions, PCD – with specific expertise around water & global supply chains, and getting evidence to the Scottish Government on what works.

Charlie (Tearfund) – Had given input in writing for first meeting. Three areas: Climate Bill, circular economy and a new area of focus on waste management. Tearfund are looking at doing a campaign around plastic waste.

Sam – Link Community Development – education focused and generally working within existing policy frameworks. Areas of interest include: positive stories and accountability. Accountability in terms of safeguarding related issues, but also practices relating to in country partners. And always align work within existing policy frameworks. Sharing impact. Accountability within education sector – supporting governments and communities to understand roles and responsibilities to provide/ demand a better service (Link used as a case study in UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report on Accountability in Education; plus accountability in terms of safeguarding.

Ryan – Lewis fed some input in from Ryan (Oxfam), specifically around areas of cross over with above – DFID & Scot Gov mutual learning, climate bill. Brief mention of his ideas around International development week. Ryan to pitch this himself at a subsequent meeting.

On Climate Bill

Charile and Ben both mentioned climate remains priority for their respective orgs, with details of journey through parliament now likely to span early summer through to early autumn.

Charlie suggested CPG on Climate Change in early autumn. Group supported this idea. Climate focused orgs to feed back to what SCCS are saying.

Ben mentioned that there is certainly work to be done around this, with knowledge lacking within Government around connection between Climate and International Development.

Nick mentioned, CPG meeting could be pitched as information event to help build understanding.

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Upcoming Ruth Davidson Meeting

Group discussed how they might input into shaping discussion topics with Ruth Davidson during roundtable with Alliance members on 25th April 2018. Nick suggested talking about working with private sector, and has links to Diageo as an example. Sam said Link Community Development could introduce topic of accountability. Charlie mentioned it would be important to make sure Scottish Conservative position on Int dev is questioned. SCIAF and Tearfund happy to bring up PCD and Climate Bill stuff.

AOB

Media scrutiny response. Overall, group were happy with statement on website, but did not support media interviews by Alliance staff. No way Alliance staff can speak for all members on this issue.

DFID change in direction – Lewis to keep watching brief. Members are interested but removed from this.

NPF and SDG alignment – Lewis to keep watching brief.

Next meeting Middle of May 2018. Doodle Poll to be sent out.

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