



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

10.30am-12.30pm 13th November 2018

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

Attendees:

Simon Anderson (IIED), Ben Wilson (SCIAF), Lewis Ryder-Jones (Alliance), Nick Hepworth (Water Witness International), Amy Blake (IVS), Ryan McQuigg (Oxfam)

Apologies:

Lois Muraguri (GALVmed), Hazel McIver (Tearfund Scotland), Sam Ross (Link Community Development)

Summary of Action Points

- bringing in expertise - Policy committee members to suggest specific experts to bring in on specific issues, including academics
- Policy Committee to be mentioned at AGM – raise the point that people can feed in without actually joining
- IVS to put things onto Alliance Community regarding Brexit
- PCSD and SDGs should remain Alliance Priority – brings everyone in
- Alliance need firm policy position on Brexit – Perhaps a CPG meeting on Brexit in Summer, members to share their experiences essential
- incorporate a theory of change into planning upcoming CPG and other meetings so we can bring in others more easily
- public perceptions info necessary soon for ministerial meeting – SCIAF have stuff to contribute
- Either report on PCSD or info gathering on Public perceptions need to be done before decision on which meeting we have first with minister
- **All Members to feedback on [concept note for new PCSD report](#). Specifically, on resources available to contribute, human or otherwise, concept of report, purpose etc...**

Discussion

1. Policy Committee membership update/ upcoming changes

- Alliance AGM is on 5th December, and some board members are standing down. Therefore, changes to board of trustees. With this change and staff changes within existing policy committee, new policy committee members likely to be required.
- Group agreed that Policy committee remit may need to change as a result – perhaps increasing maximum numbers to accommodate fluctuating capacity to engage.
- Joining Policy Committee with informal PCD working group could streamline work.

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- Bringing in expertise from University members would be useful
- Some organisations lacking in resources to commit properly to such a group
- Few but active, better than loads of people round a table, especially if we have a work plan
- Questions - Is there scope to develop an inventory of academics who do things related to International development in Scotland? Is there a role for SG to bring in academics and others into space?
- Ryan on transparency – where does funding go in terms of PCSD? – two-way street for SG funded projects

Action points

- Policy committee members to suggest specific experts to bring in on specific issues, including academics
- Bring up policy Committee at AGM – raise the point that people can feed in to PC without actually joining

2. Priorities going forward for each organisation and suggestions for Alliance priorities

Oxfam

- inequality – work around Davos – campaign around wealth etc in past, but this year might be more to do with tax. Working with well-being alliance
- Climate – they are picking this up again – link to 'behind the Bar Codes'
- Humanitarian – Yemen
- Migration – family reunion for refugees
- Gender – was going to be big focus, but safeguarding got in way, back on the radar.
- Aid divergence between UK and Scotland – ODA spend etc
- Domestic poverty – SDG framework
- Brexit

Water Witness International

- Social accountability on water – practice and learning
- Learning from approach in East Africa
- Links to policy coherence because this 1 year planning funded project needs buy-in from university sector
- Private sector water stewardship
- Global supply chain with Diageo
- Market, value chain and investment – how can the Scottish context facilitate this
- Recent inaugural meeting of Water Stewardship Alliance – there is buy-in from big companies

SCIAF

- Climate – domestic bill and global advocacy too

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- Looking unlikely climate bill will go through this parliament
- Campaign on Net zero at Westminster next year
- Watching brief on business
- Southern based advocacy – building ability with southern partners
- PCSD – keen to support

IVS

- Small, don't have much resources for policy work
- Brexit massive issue for them
- Volunteering both directions – so migration policy is a watching brief, and something they want to engage in
- Charity select committee – effects of Brexit on smaller charities
- New Minister bringing new angle to Brexit
- SDG 16 from next year, after Brexit

IIED

- LDC climate process
- Irish and Swedes have asked for more work on Oceans – access to oceans/ coastal access
- Gender equality – resource tenure access, climate and gender

Action Points

- IVS to put things onto Alliance Community regarding Brexit
- Group agrees that PCSD and SDGs should remain Alliance Priority – brings everyone in
- Alliance need firm policy position on Brexit – Perhaps a CPG meeting on Brexit in Summer, members to share their experiences essential

3. Upcoming CPGs, Ministerial meetings (PCSD and Public Perceptions), other political engagement

- Would be good to hold CPG post-march on Brexit bringing together voices on wider effects of Brexit
- CPG on Gender in January agreed – people happy with topic
- Parliamentary event on PCSD has more value than CPG
- Potentially a CPG on Human Rights and business in April, followed by something on Brexit in June
- Use report on PCSD to frame meetings later on
- Next round of Ministerial Meetings to focus on PCSD and public Perception
- Get CPGs to look at issues, then Ministerial buy-in could follow
- Potential need for theory of change for getting issues onto CPG agenda – who has capacity for this?
- Global reputation of Scotland also worth looking at – SG will buy in to that angle
- Scot Gov need to get baseline data on public perceptions – tie in to their own reporting on international development

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Action Points

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