**Policy Committee Meeting Monday 28th February 2022 2pm-4pm**

**Venue**: Online.

**Committee members:** IIED, Christian Aid Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, Tearfund Scotland, SCIAF, Carey Tourism, Thrive, HALO Trust, British Red Cross, CBM UK, Jubilee Scotland, Corra, Water Witness International, IDEAS

**Present:** Mark Burrell (CBM UK), Line Christensen (Jubilee Scotland), Simon Anderson (IIED), Geraldine Hill (SCIAF), Michael Alexander (individual member), Chrissie Hirst (Corra), Cathy Ratcliff (EMMS & Thrive), Jo O’Neill (ActionAid), Chris Hegarty (Christian Aid), Benjamin Carey (Carey Tourism), Jamie Livingstone (Oxfam Scotland), Lewis Ryder-Jones (the Alliance), Frances Guy (the Alliance)

**Apologies**: Jon Novakovic (Individual member), Kenneth Watt (Red Cross), Hazel MacIver (Tearfund), Chris Loughran (HALO Trust), Dorcas Pratt, (Water Witness)

**Summary of decisions and actions:**

*Decision – Geraldine and Chris will move forward as Co-Chairs of the Policy Committee (unless there is appetite from another who missed the meeting)*

*Action – complete questionnaire sent by Lewis in regards to ScotGov IntDev funding*

*Decision – WSD bill product needs to be short, sharp & concise*

*Action - Lewis to share current draft of the report with all members of the PC*

*Decision – share intel through Alliance staff at the moment, moving to new online networking system soon*

*Action: send bios and headshots to* *Kat* *for publication on the Alliance website*

*Action: provide feedback on Reflecting on Language* [*paper*](https://www.intdevalliance.scot/resources/reflecting-language-international-development-scotland-discussion-paper-version-2) *and get in touch with Alliance staff about collaborating on upcoming May event on Decolonisation*

**Discussion:**

1. **Introductions of two new members, update on Alliance from Frances Guy**
* Lewis introduced two new members to the Policy Committee meeting – Mark Burrell from CBM UK and Line Christensen from Jubilee Scotland (joined last quarter but first time able to attend). Lewis also explained that there were no notes taken at the last meeting – this won’t be repeated.
* Frances gave an update on the Alliance:

* The Alliance board has 4 new trustees (two based in Malawi), and all trustees are being encouraged to join sub-committee groups (Cathy & Jon already part of policy committee)
* New strategy being developed by the Alliance, tightening up outcomes & objectives post-covid, with a greater emphasis on climate crisis, as well as revising theory of change – due to launch in April
* Recent discussions with Scottish Government – no renewal of small grants programme; renewal of Zambia & Rwanda 2021 grants; continuing to support women & girls through Equality fund, looking at working directly with partner countries but no clear plan as to how this would be carried out; potential opportunities to build on climate justice & gender work.
* Alliance hosting their first hybrid event on March 30th – the first event of its kind hosted by the Alliance, so a good test run to see how effective & engaging this type of event can be. Hope to see members of the policy committee attending if possible.
* Other dates & plans for the year ahead can be found here.
* Michael mentioned that COP27 should be a priority within the calendar for the Alliance – good opportunity to bring together climate and international development when discussing adaptation.
1. **Simon stepping down as Chair of the Policy Committee (PC), so nominations needed for new Chair and Vice-Chair.**
* Simon explained that the Terms of Reference discussed at previous meetings are now set, and the platform for the committee is set. Invited nominations for leadership positions of the committee, and emphasised the need for individuals who are prepared to be proactive on behalf of the committee, creating a self-reliant group who are able to move forward without relying too heavily on the Alliance for facilitation.
* Cathy spoke to suggest a gender balance across the two available roles.
* Lewis explained the workload – Chair & Vice-Chair expected to meet briefly with Lewis before each PC meeting quarterly, as well as facilitating the meetings and organising note taking etc.
* Following nominations and discussion, suggest that Chris and Geraldine move forward as Co-Chairs, following check with members who are not present.
1. **The future of the SG International Development Fund**
* Lewis explained the context behind a paper examining the SG Int Dev Fund – seeing a window of opportunity in the recent transition of Int Dev Ministers from Jenny Gilruth to Neil Gray, to put forward a clear proposal of how the SG should be using the int dev funding. There seems to be a lack of clarity and uncertainty in the SG as to how to spend the money (example given of the grant renewals for Zambia and Rwanda) so we have time before 2023 to try to influence here.
* Chrissie offered some insight that there is less time to influence than originally thought, as by the time proposals are invited, so much work has already been put in by SG (or an external organisation if they intend to contract), that the influencing window will have passed. So it is crucial to start this work as soon as possible.
* Lewis agreed. Questions that the Alliance has sent out with questions for members and their organisations to compete – today was deadline but there can be flexibility here. Asks all attendees to give clear responses to as many questions as possible. Lewis also emphasised the need for coherence alongside Scottish footprint internationally in other sectors.
* Chris mentioned that we need to be realistic & acknowledge that there is a quick turnover in the Ministerial portfolio for ID – that needs to be accepted & considered when looking at strategy & influencing.
* Mark spoke to the questions sent by Lewis that CBM has not yet had time to consult with their partners, & is reluctant to speak on anything without their input. Mark also asked how is accountability done well – a meeting every 6 months is not accountability, and this is one of the key issues within this discussion.
* Lewis provided a rough schedule for this work: looking to have a draft of the report completed by 30th March networking event with Neil Gray; from April to summer, broader consultation with focus on speaking to organisations in partner countries; hoping to have work completed by late summer.
1. **Next steps on Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill (WSD)**
* Chris (as a member of the WSD steering group) gave some context on the bill – currently have the first draft of a report from three academic researchers who were contracted to provide some analysis on the potentials of this work.
* Jamie continued explaining where the WSD researchers have reached, and the five steps that need to be solidified: setting out clear purpose; locking in comprehensive and strong, radical definitions; being clear over what the bill would require people to do; who would be required to do those things; how do we scrutinise progress. This all overlaps with the fact that Scottish government will be consulting on their existing national outcomes which will be refreshed in 2023. Timelines will sit side by side – the bill, a commitment to future generations commissioner, and the review of the national outcomes that is required by law.
* General consensus is that the 70 page report from the researchers needs to be cut down – Lewis suggested nothing over 10,000 words, and other members suggested that even 10,000 words would not serve as the main product, but rather something to consult. There is a strong need for a sharp, digestible product that benefits from graphics and design work. Researcher team to provide recommendations by CPG on 16th March, and shorter product by end of March.
* Jo said that Action Aid would be keen to contribute to this work but wanted clarity on what the entry point should be for them. Lewis suggested that practical examples of the kind of work that ActionAid supports, on gender impact assessments and the like, would be really useful and could form the basis of a briefing series building on the initial research. There is also important need to contract designers to support developing strong visual products – whether the main research report or fine-tuned influencing papers.

*Action: Lewis to share current draft of the report with all members of the PC.*

1. **CPG on 16th March planning**
* Researchers will present recommendations, and Lewis/Frances will speak on what wellbeing means in the global context.
* Commitment to global south participation at every CPG – need to explore how this will work in hybrid/fully in-person context.
* Jamie suggested potentially trying to get Kate Raworth of Doughnut economics to speak.
1. **Emerging issues and AOB**
* In response to a question from Geraldine on the objectives of engaging with Neil Gray, Lewis explained that it looks quite promising & Neil seems keen to get involved. Chrissie mentioned having questions for Neil Gray surrounding ScotGov funding and transparency (example given of the recent HEF grant for Ukraine & concerns over prioritising European countries over elsewhere).
* Questions raised about the best place to share updates and news relevant for all members of the PC – Lewis explained that Kat from the Alliance is in the process of setting up a new online space for members – there will be a specific space just for PC where news can be shared. Geraldine emphasised the needs for clear boundaries as to how far anything is shared beyond the group. In the short term it was agreed that Lewis/Alliance staff are best placed to share intel on behalf of group members via email.
* Lewis mentioned that Kat is also seeking bios & headshots from all members of the PC in order to better publicise the group and the work being done. This fits well with asking other organisations to be public in their policy work and decisions.
* Decolonisation & anti-racism, raised in advance by Ben. Lewis explained that this is a priority for the Alliance – previous work has focused on language. Chrissie added interesting point gathered from their recent learning process that emphasised that some language that is designed to be more inclusive, can actually act as an additional barrier. Lewis agreed that developing language policies that are fit for different purposes, but the reflection is absolutely vital. Asked for more feedback on language paper accessed [here](https://www.intdevalliance.scot/resources/reflecting-language-international-development-scotland-discussion-paper-version-2).
* Simon explained that IIED has been doing reflective work led by Tracy Kajumba and praised her role as educator and facilitator. Line agreed that this conversation cannot be ‘about them without them’, and it is crucial to include the people we want to be sensitive to.
* Chris raised the idea of publishing internal comms resources for public dissection to be truly transparent. Lewis suggested using the new Alliance community as a space to do this.

*Decision – share intel through Alliance staff at the moment, moving to new networking system soon*

*Action: send bios and headshots to Kat for publication on the Alliance website.*

*Action: provide feedback on Reflecting on Language paper and get in touch with Alliance staff about collaborating on upcoming May event on Decolonisation*