

Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade

9 November at 6pm, online

Minute

Present

MSPs

Colin Smyth MSP
Rona Mackay MSP
Foyso Choudhury MSP
John Mason MSP

Invited guests

Muniraju Shivanna (Fairtrade Network of Asia and Pacific Producers)
Jenipher Sambazi (Mount Elgon Agroforestry Communities Co-operative Enterprise, Uganda);
Bismark Kpabitey (Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union, Ghana)
Elen Jones (Jenipher's Coffi)

Non-MSP Group Members

Ian Fowell (Linlithgow Fair Trade Group)
Sion Pickering (University of Edinburgh)
Scott Erwin (Green City Wholefoods)
Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group and JTS)
Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group and Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Kirsty Connell (Scotmid)
Carol Morton (Hadeel/Palcrafts)
Morag Rennie (Motherwell Fair Trade Group)
Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Jeanette McIvor (Queensferry Fair Trade Group)
Pam Maxwell (North Ayrshire Fair Trade Group)
Ailsa Henderson
Sandra Burt
Barbara Holligan (Aberdeen for a Fairer World)
Jane Forster
Shirley Brown
John McDonald (North Lanarkshire Fair Trade Group)
Juan Santelices (Fair Business Alliance)
Barbara Cowley (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group)
Russell Salton (City of Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group)
Martin Meteyard

Apologies

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
Katy Clark MSP
Gill Smee (Orkney Fair Trade Group)
Sally Romilly (Dundee Fair Trade Forum)

Agenda item 1

The minutes of 23 June 2021 were approved.

Agenda item 2

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Agenda item 3

Panel discussion: “COP26: Trade Justice and Climate Justice”.

Muniraju Shivanna introduced himself as a sugar farmer and Board member of the Fairtrade Network of Asia and Pacific Producers (NAPP) where he is the NAPP Board’s focal point for climate change projects. He explained that NAPP had 284 producer organisations across 20 countries, supporting more than 260,000 farmers and workers. He explained various climate change mitigation and adaption projects undertaken by NAPP members and stresses the importance of COP26 taking decisive steps in challenging climate change.

Jenipher Sambazi introduced herself as a coffee farmer and the Vice-chair of the Mountt Elgon Agroforestry Communities Co-operative Enterprise (MEACCE), a co-operative of over 3,000 farmers in Uganda and that as the Vice-Chair of the cooperative along with the rest of the cooperative’s leadership, she represents and supports the cooperative’s farmers. She explained the importance of coffee to her, her family and her community. She outlined the challenges faced because of climate change and also the impact in particular on women. She set out how Fair Trade had empowered her and other women and how Fair Trade had assisted in climate change mitigation and adaption.

Bismark Kpabitey introduced himself as a cocoa farmer from the Kuapa Kokoo Farmers’ Union in Ghana. He outlined some of his work as a trainer for dynamic agroforestry under the Alliances for Sankofa project and spearheading an initiative aimed at encouraging the older generation to register land to allow next generation farmers to be engaged in dynamic agroforestry farming, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change. He also talked of his attendance at COP26 and the need for action not just more promises coming from COP26.

There was then a discussion about the effects of climate change on farming communities such as floods, droughts and increased pests. There was a discussion

also about various adaption and mitigation projects. The demands for action from COP26 made by Fairtrade farmers' organisations were outlined, in particular the demand for the immediate availability of climate finance promised. The discussion closed with a call for COP26 to take action and the importance of Fair Trade and Trade Justice in achieving climate justice.

Agenda item 4

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 January.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm