

CROSS PARTY GROUP: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

9 February 2016

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

6PM – 7PM

Attendees: Sarah Boyack MSP, Siobhan McMahon MSP, Lorna Gold, and Alistair Dutton, Ryan McQuigg, David Stevenson, Anne-Marie Douglas, Kathleen Onori, Colin Pritchard, Lynne Paterson, Lorna McDonald, Paul Johnston, Philip Kerr, Veronica Slaven, Mary Gold, Geraldine Gold, Alastair Seaman, Agnes Holmes, Frances Raynor, Geraldine Hill

Welcome and Introduction

Sarah Boyack MSP opened the meeting of the Cross-Party Group on International Development on reflections on Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si' and lessons for Scotland and the global community in delivering action on climate change following the Paris UN Climate Summit

Siobhan McMahon MSP also set the scene and thanked everyone for attending.

Presentation by Lorna Gold – Trocaire– Head of Policy and Advocacy

Lorna outlined the key messages from the Pope, ranging from climate change resulting from human activity, 'self-interest' verses the 'common good', political capture by the few, inequality, climate justice and the scarcity of the worlds resources, the need to transition away from fossil fuels and policy coherence

Presentation by Alasdair Dutton – SCIAF– Director

Alasdair outlined why SCIAF care about climate change, and highlighted their 'wee Box' campaign. Gave details of people living in poor communities telling him that they didn't know when to plant crops due to the now unpredictability of climate patterns. Alasdair also introduced a short video where women farmers told their story of how climate change affected them. Another short video clip was played from a farmer in Ethiopia asking for the 'world to work together' regarding climate change as it is a 'question for the whole world' to tackle.

Question and Answer session

A range of questions were asked following the presentations ranging from population growth, consumerism, 'sense of self' along with questions on promoting alternative forms of energy including solar power etc.

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

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

No matters were raised regarding the previous minutes – held on 17 November 2015.

Any Other Business

Sarah Boyack noted that this was the last meeting of the CPG until after the election in May and looked forward to the group continuing post election.

Forthcoming meetings of the CPG:

TBC after return of Parliament

All meetings of the CPG were held in the Scottish Parliament at 6pm until 7pm.