

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Trade Out of Poverty (APPG-TOP)

Date: 14th February 2019, 3pm

In attendance: Mr James Cleverly MP (Chair), Mr Tim Farron MP (Lib), Sir Robert Syms MP (Con), Dr Philip Lee MP (Con), Lord Borwick

Election of Officers

The following officers were proposed and unanimously confirmed by vote by all in attendance:

Chair Mr James Cleverly MP

Officers Mr Hilary Benn MP (Lab)

 Lord Purvis (Lib)

 Lord Lilley (Con)

 Lord Borwick

Approval of Income and Expenditure Statement (Reporting Year from 11th September 2017 – 10th September 2018)

The Chair asked whether there were any questions or comments on the statement. No questions or comments were raised.

The statement was deemed a fair and accurate representation and was approved unanimously by all in attendance.

Chair's Report

The APPG's Chair, James Cleverly, remarked how rewarding it had been to see colleagues from all sides of the house engaged in the GHOGM 2018 meetings. He expressed his gratitude to Lord Purvis on his outstanding work towards the Inquiry Report *Our Shared Prosperous Future*. He recalled how a number of people had told him first-hand how well-received the report had been in government. Given that April marks a year since the Report's publication, he is looking forward to a number of follow-up events, including a parliamentary drinks reception, seminar at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and high-level dinner. These will take stock of progress since CHOGM 2018 and look ahead to CHOGM 2020 in Kigali.

Open Discussion

- An Annual Report for 2017-2018 was circulated and discussed, which summarises the activities of APPG-TOP between 2017-18. This includes:

- The publication, in conjunction with the (ODI), of the Inquiry Report *Our Shared Prosperous Future: An agenda for values-led trade, inclusive growth and sustainable jobs for the Commonwealth*;
- A high-level dinner on *The UK's Trade Policy post-Brexit* hosted in the House of Lords;
- Hosting fringe events at Party Conferences in conjunction with the ODI and AECOM.
- It was raised that there are ongoing discussions with APPG partners such as ODI and TradeMark East Africa, as well as focal points for CHOGM follow-up in the civil service, to coordinate preparation for CHOGM 2020 in Kigali.

Upcoming Activities

- A drinks reception will be held shortly after Easter recess in Parliament to re-introduce the APPG to members and previous stakeholders.
- A seminar will be held at the Overseas Development Institute in June to mark a year since CHOGM 2018 and the publication of the Inquiry Report *Our Shared Prosperous Future*, looking ahead to CHOGM 2020 in Kigali.
- A high-level dinner will be held in parliament to follow on from this ODI seminar.

Meeting adjourned.