

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Trade Out of Poverty (APPG-TOP)

Date: 28th of January 2020, 10 am

In attendance: Rt Hon Greg Hands (Chair), Theo Clarke MP (Con), Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP (Lab), Fleur Anderson MP (Lab), Laurence Robertson MP (Con), Andrew Selous MP (Con), Adam Afriyie MP (Con), Lord Lilley (Con)

Election of Officers

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

- Chair and Registered Contact - Rt Hon Greg Hands MP (Conservative)
- Vice Chair - Theo Clarke MP (Conservative)
- Vice Chair - Fleur Anderson MP (Labour)
- Vice Chair - Rt Hon Stephen Timms (Labour)
- Vice Chair - MP Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat)
- Vice Chair - Rt Hon Lord Boateng (Labour)
- Vice Chair - Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (Conservative)
- Vice Chair - Rt Hon Lord Lilley (Conservative)

Future Activities

1. UK-Africa Prosperity Commission

- Proposal has been put forward to form a joint high-level UK-Africa *Prosperity Commission* in 2020 to assess the current status of UK and Africa's economic relationships, take stock of current and planned initiatives, identify the priority opportunities and chart innovative ways forward.
- We have published this proposal this week on our website, a week ahead of the Africa Investment Summit and Greg Hands MP, who chairs APPG-TOP, has written to the PM and relevant cabinet Ministers about it. Director of the APPG TOP Secreteriat, Tom Pengelly, together with Dirk Willem ten Velde from ODI, have been asked to provide oral evidence to International Relations Committee in the House of Lords on the proposal, and general future UK-Africa relations.

2. Wilton Park Event - May 2020: Post-Brexit Commonwealth - Leveraging Trade and Development

- With both CHOGM 2020 happening in June, and the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference, trade will be high on the agenda for many Commonwealth countries. The UK's leaving of the European Union (EU) is likely to have far-reaching implications and creates both opportunities and challenges for trade

within the Commonwealth. The purpose of this event is to identify and develop channels that facilitate greater trade and investment within, between and beyond the borders of the different Commonwealth Economies. It aims to identify areas where developed countries, and emerging economies, can work together with developing countries in the Commonwealth to share best practice in the formulation of sound trade and investment policy with the aim of increasing both, and how it can create a cohesive and coordinate trade and development agenda for the Commonwealth post-Brexit.

3. Conservative Party Conference: Making Trade Work for Gender Equality: From Evidence to Action

- Together with the Conservatives Friend for International Development, we aim to organise a side-event consisting of a panel discussion on the intersection of gender equality and trade policy

4. Overseas Development Institute and APPG-TOP Seminar Series

- Together with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), one of the leading international development think-tanks, we plan to organise several seminars on cutting-edge issues around trade and development

Brainstorm other potential activities:

- Important to not only working on Africa, but look at other regions, for example, Central Asia. Similar issues persist there in terms of trade and investment.
- The new Roadmap for finalization of AfCFTA Negotiations has the deadline of June 2020, and it has been indicated that the start of trading under the AfCFTA agreement will begin on 1st of July 2020. With this in mind, and the opportunities that arise with UK's need to negotiate new agreements post-Brexit, this would be an opportune moment to organise UK based AfCFTA seminar or other CFTA related activities.