

Status: Public

OXFAM GB

CHAIR'S REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING 10 JULY 2015

The following people were present at the meeting:

Trustees

Karen Brown (Chair)
David Pitt-Watson
Katy Steward
Tricia Zipfel
Steve Walton
James Darcy
Ruth Ruderham
Gavin Stewart
Nkoyo Toyo
Marjorie Scardino

Corporate Management and Staff

Mark Goldring (Chief Executive)
Penny Lawrence (Deputy Chief Executive)
Andrew Horton (Trading Director)
Olga Ghazaryan (International Programmes Director)
Bob Humphreys (Finance & Information Services Director)
Jack Lundie (Communications Director)
Tim Hunter (Fundraising Director)
Francoise Vanni (Campaigns, Policy and Influencing Services Director)
Joss Saunders (Company Secretary)
Anne Gornall (Governance and Leadership Team Officer)
Nigel Thorne (Leadership Team and Governance Administration)

Apologies were received from Kul Gautam and Rajiv Joshi. Matthew Spencer (Trustee Designate) and Daniela Costa (Oxfam GB South Africa Regional Director) joined the meeting. The meeting was held in South Africa with a number of participants joining by video conference from the United Kingdom. No conflicts of interest were declared.

DISCUSSIONS ON PARTNERSHIP AND OXFAM IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Chair welcomed Matthew Mazibuko Jara (Chair Oxfam South Africa), Siphon Mthathi (Executive Director Oxfam South Africa) and Louisa Zondo (Trustee Oxfam South Africa). Olga Ghazaryan led a discussion on programme quality particularly in relation to economic justice and partnerships which included insights from the programme visits undertaken by Trustees and members of the Leadership Team in Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa. There were a number of questions and suggestions e.g. the changing overall context, working with young people, segmentation input to more effective storytelling and the changing context for partnerships.

YEAR END REVIEW

The Chair welcomed Clive Everest (Partner, Government and Public Services, PWC), Ali Henderson (Head of Corporate Planning and Reporting) and Laurie Adams (Women's Rights Director) for this discussion. Mark Goldring introduced the review and explained that it would be useful to look in more depth at a selection of the corporate objectives for 2014/15. These included:

- the upgrading programme for the shops;
- the commitment to women's rights: Laurie Adams gave details of progress since her recent appointment as Women's Rights Director;
- Mark Goldring and Francoise Vanni spoke about delivery on the influencing objective.

Finally Mark Goldring updated Council on progress being made on working with the team of senior managers across Oxfam. This was crucial to building leadership and to motivating staff. There would be a further update on this at the October Council meeting.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2014/15

Clive Everest and Ali Henderson remained for this discussion. The Honorary Treasurer referred trustees to the minutes of the meeting of the Trustee Audit and Finance Group held on 24 June 2015. The final draft of the annual report and accounts reflected the discussion at TAFG. Bob Humphreys drew trustees' attention to aspects of the accounts. Clive Everest introduced the PWC Report to Council. He thanked Bob Humphreys and his team for their support and advised that only a few points were now outstanding. He drew Council's attention to the main areas identified

during the audit. After review a number of changes were identified and agreed on the wording to the accounts. With these changes incorporated, Council approved the annual report and accounts, and authorised the Chair to sign both the accounts and the auditor's representation letter on their behalf. The final version would be shared with the Association and published on the website in late July. The Chair thanked the Leadership Team, the team in Finance and PWC for their work.

CAMPAIGNS, POLICY AND INFLUENCING TEAM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Francoise Vanni introduced the strategic framework and the divisional plans for 2015/16. This included outcomes of the food and climate justice review and the UK poverty programme strategy. The framework had been developed after the Council seminar in March. Francoise outlined the aspects. Even it Up! would be the priority campaign, but Oxfam would continue to campaign on Food and Climate Justice with a more focussed agenda and role. Oxfam would ensure capacity and agility of the Rights in Crisis agenda, and the UK poverty strategy would focus on achieving impact at scale. She outlined the key moments in 2015/16. There was discussion and Francoise Vanni agreed to take forward the points made. A final version of the strategy including the UK Poverty Plan would be shared with Council. With these changes incorporated, Council approved the strategic framework. The Chair also drew attention to the information paper on the governance of campaigns. Training for trustees would be arranged in tandem with training for staff.

OXFAM INTERNATIONAL AND 2020 UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Nellie Nyang'wa, Oxfam International Regional Director for Oxfam South Africa. Mark Goldring referred trustees to the Oxfam International update in the CEO Report to Council. The issues in this report have been brought alive for trustees on their programme visits and discussions with Oxfam South Africa (OZA). Oxfam GB was closing its Southern Africa regional office but would continue its support role in the region as a Partner Affiliate in all countries and additionally as an Executing Affiliate in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The transition from OGB to OZA in South Africa was being led by Siphso Mthathi with the joint support of Nellie Nyang'wa and Daniela Costa. Nellie Nyang'wa and Daniela Costa spoke about the challenges of the transition. At the October Council meeting there would be a more in depth discussion on OI developments following the OI Executive Board meeting in September. This would include any necessary approvals for changes in the governance of Oxfam GB.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Mark Goldring introduced the report. He gave brief updates on Azerbaijan and on Gaza. The Chair advised that Trustees had discussed the publicity and issues arising from the Daily Mail and other media discussions during the trustee session and Mark would update the Leadership Team. The rest of the CEO report was noted.

GOVERNANCE

The Chair welcomed Mike Parkinson (Policy Adviser, Legal Team) for the discussion of these items.

- *Trustee Audit and Finance Group meeting on 24 June 2015.* The Honorary Treasurer referred trustees to the minutes and highlighted certain matters.
- *The Annual Report on the Trustee Code of Conduct* was approved.
- *Appointments to Council 2015.* Council was updated and the proposed appointments were approved for recommendation to the AGM.

The Chair thanked the managers and staff in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia for their welcome and their work on the programme visits and Council meeting.

The next meeting of Council will be on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 October, in Oxford.

Karen Brown
Chair