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## **OXFAM GB**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING 6 AND 7 OCTOBER 2016 HELD AT OXFAM HOUSE, OXFORD**

The following people were present at the meeting:

#### *Trustees*

Karen Brown (Chair)  
James Darcy  
Kul Gautam  
Wakkas Khan  
David Pitt-Watson  
Ruth Ruderham  
Katy Steward  
Gavin Stewart  
Nkoyo Toyo  
Steve Walton  
Ken Caldwell (Trustee Designate)  
Lois Jacobs (Trustee Designate)

#### *Corporate Management and Staff*

Mark Goldring (Chief Executive)  
Penny Lawrence (Deputy Chief Executive)  
Tim Hunter (Fundraising Director)  
Andrew Horton (Trading Director)  
Jack Lundie (Communications Director)  
Cherian Mathews (International Programmes Director)  
Alison Hopkinson (Finance & Information Services Director)  
Matthew Spencer (Campaigns, Policy & Influencing Director)  
Joss Saunders (Company Secretary)  
Anne Gornall (Governance Officer)

Apologies were received from Gavin Stewart. Council also noted the resignation of Matthew Spencer as a trustee.

No additional conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting on 7 and 8 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **REFLECTIONS ON TRADING SEMINAR 6 OCTOBER 2016**

Gavin Stewart (Lead Trustee for Trading) and Andrew Horton (Trading Director) thanked trustees and staff who had participated in this seminar which had considered the priorities for Oxfam GB's Trading going forward. Some costed propositions will go forward to the budget and annual plan in early 2017.

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The CEO's report was reviewed. Mark Goldring also updated trustees on some more recent events. This included the Category 1 emergency in the Chad Basin, the Haiti cyclone, and other issues arising on humanitarian response including the scale of funding. There was also a discussion on fundraising and some current initiatives on corporate fundraising; there was also an update on lotteries, where the first lottery will take place in December 2016. The newly appointed Campaigns, Policy and Influencing Director (Matthew Spencer) shared some initial impressions including the collective pride in Oxfam's humanitarian activity and work. Finally there was an update on the challenges involved with regard to working in Syria.

#### **THE NEW POLITICS: THE UK IN 2016 AND BEYOND**

Trustees considered what Brexit and the wider political and media environment might mean for international development and Oxfam. They were joined by Jon Slater (Head of News) and Tim Livesey (Head of UK Policy and Government Relations). The situation was fluid in the context of the declining trust in public institutions, attacks on aid, and different personnel in the government.

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There was also an unpredictable financial market. A number of suggestions were made to enable positive engagement, a sector wide approach, and different ways to engage with the public.

### **OXFAM INTERNATIONAL**

In preparation for the upcoming Oxfam Executive Board meeting, Mark Goldring and Penny Lawrence updated trustees on the considerable progress that was being made with regard to senior appointments and capacity in the Secretariat. Some challenges remained in terms of stretch in both the Secretariat and affiliates, choices on confederation development going forward, and financial challenges in a number of the affiliates. There would be further updates after this meeting and going forward.

### **GOVERNANCE: UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS, REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, RETIREMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

These included:-

- Approval of Lidy Nacpil to serve on Council. This was confirmed by the AGM later in the day.
- Approval of committee appointments, with a final tranche to follow in December 2016.
- A report from the Chair Search Group. Council approved the recommended candidate, and an announcement would be made at an appropriate time.
- A report from the Honorary Treasurer (David Pitt-Watson) and the lead trustee for health and safety, security and safeguarding (Steve Walton). This included discussion at the recent meeting of the Trustee Audit and Finance Group, including changes to delegation of authority and standard operating procedures, and the people risk report.
- Reports from the Fundraising and Programme Committees.
- James Darcy (Vice-Chair) reflected on his six year period on Council. Trustees expressed appreciation for his huge range and depth of knowledge, particularly around humanitarian issues.

### **AGM**

Trustees adjourned to the Annual General Meeting. At this meeting they agreed in principle to the proposed delegation of responsibility for the delivery of programme activities from the Trustees of the Company to Oxfam International. They also approved the appointment of Lois Jacobs and Lidy Nacpil to Council. After the AGM Trustees joined Oxfam Friends for their annual meeting and reflection on Oxfam's activities and work during 2015/16.

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 1 and Friday 7 December 2016.

**Chair**