



## **All-Party parliamentary Group (APPG) for Aid Match Inaugural Meeting**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 17:00 – 17:26, House of Lords Committee Room G**

### **Present (Parliamentarians)**

- Alex Sobel MP
- Lord Alton of Liverpool
- James Daly MP
- Lord Desai
- Preet Kaur Gill MP
- Lord Shinkwin

### **Apologies for absence**

- Dr Lisa Cameron MP
- Baroness Cox
- Tobias Ellwood MP
- Fabian Hamilton MP
- Chris Law MP
- Lord Londesborough
- Lord Northbrook
- MP Lord Parekh
- Virendra Sharma MP
- Lord Randall of Uxbridge
- Baroness Wheatcroft
- Baroness Young

### **1. Introduction from Chair – Alex Sobel MP**

**1.1** Chair welcomed colleagues and Observers to the meeting, especially thanking attendees for all their support for the vision of the APPG for UK Aid Match.

**2.1.** It was moved that Alex Sobel MP would serve as Chair of the APPG is. All voted in favour.

**2.2.** It was moved that the following parliamentarians will serve as Officers of the APPG. All voted in favour.

### **2. Election of Officers**

- Lord Desai
- Dr Lisa Cameron (in absence)
- Baroness Cox (in absence)
- Tobias Ellwood (in absence)
- Preet Kaur Gill MP
- Lord Londesborough (in absence)



- Lord Northbrook (in absence)
- Lord Shinkwin
- Lord Randall of Uxbridge (in absence)
- Chris Law (in absence)
- James Daly MP

### **3. Name**

3.1 Attendees agreed the name of the Group would be 'APPG for Aid Match'.

### **4. Statement of intent**

**4.1** Attendees agreed the Group's statement would be: *'To promote the scaling up of cost-effective aid policy and practice; namely proven Aid matching mechanisms to unleash more funds for more direct delivery to front line organisations. To inform debate and propose Real Aid recommendations and action towards reducing aid wastage to boost the impact of international development.'*

### **5. Secretariat**

**5.1** The Chair affirmed Real Aid non-profit will act as the Group's secretariat that will provide support for the Group's APPG for the year ahead. The APPG for Aid Match was founded by Renu Mehta who is both founder and CEO of the Fortune Form Charity and Real Aid organisations. Renu Mehta expressed her desire to act as hands on coordinator in assisting the Group to streamline its activities, particularly in organising parliamentary actions outside of scheduled APPG meetings.

Renu Mehta indicated that as the group's income and expenditure is expected to fall way below the audit threshold of £12,500 and below reporting for any benefits with a value of over £1,500, there would be no requirement for a Treasurer. This is because there are no plans for overseas trips, with careful oversight to avoid wastage such as the hosting of unnecessary 'motivational' meetings in pursuit of the Group's goals.

### **6. Discussion for the Group's strategy for the year ahead**

**6.1** Renu Mehta opened a discussion on how to most effectively call on the Government to scale up UK Aid Match from an paltry 0.2% of the foreign aid budget to at least 2% (as a starting point), in which Lord Shinkwin suggested that this Group's agenda should be brought to the attention of all parties for consideration of inclusion in their upcoming party manifestos. While the APPG for Aid Match summary has already been circulated to cabinet level ministers of all parties, it was agreed that a concerted effort should be made to specifically implore parties to find ways of including this pledge in their party manifestos.

Lord Alton of Liverpool and Lord Desai suggested various strategies for enlisting outstanding parliamentarians who are active on, and in favour of good quality development. Lord Alton of Liverpool offered some meeting information as to various upcoming and relevant parliamentary activities.

Lord Shinkwin's suggestion of seeking a Conservative co-chair to help the Group facilitate engagement with Government and to take the pressure of and support the current co-chairs, as well as creating a more balanced cross party leadership was agreed by all. Renu Mehta raised her desire to enlist support from the Liberal Democrat party, as the Group at present does not have their participation nor their perspectives.

### **7. AOB**

No further business was discussed