



All-Party Parliamentary Group for
Aid Match

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Aid Match

Tuesday 21st March 2023, (17:33-18:46), House of Lords Committee Room G

In attendance

Parliamentarians:

Alex Sobel MP Chair
Lord Northbrook
Lord Shinkwin
Lord Londesborough
Lord Hussain
Baroness Gohir
Baroness Prashar
Dame Andrea Leadsom MP
Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick
Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top
Lord Crisp
Lord Browne of Ladyton
Lord Trees
Lord Sahota
Lord Agnew
Lord Rennard

Secretariat

Renu Mehta
Vijay Mehta
Oliver Mihell-Hale

Guest Speakers

Dr. Mo Ibrahim
Ambassador Thomas Stelzer

1. **Introduction from Chair Alex Sobel.**
2. **Quorum established.**
3. **EGM - Election of Officers**

Approval of motions to elect the following as Vice-Chairs of the APPG: Lord Khan of Burnley, Lord Hussain, and Baroness Gohir— motion approved.

4. Update

- Explains Aid Match.
- Explains Renu Mehta's role as founding secretariat
- Notification of communication to Minister Andrew Mitchell proposing a meeting to explore increasing Aid Match Funding

5. Individual Introductions of those present.

6. Group Discussion of Future Direction & Strategy of the Group

- Lord Shinkwin provides update on attempts to contact Andrew Mitchell, no response yet.
- Renu Mehta reiterates importance of pressure coming from both chambers to achieve the group's goals.
- Lord Londesborough suggests formalising the question of APPG future funding rounds into a written question as means of further pressuring.
- Renu Mehta raises question of how to make the APPG effective.
- Importance of inviting Parliamentarians directly and mapping those the group seeks to reach raised by Baroness Gohir.
- Value of publicising the cause also raised by Lord Londesborough.
- Discussion over the importance of cross referencing other similar APPGs.
- Discussion over further recruitment for APPG.
- Alex Sobel suggests inviting recipients of Aid Match to talk.
- Lord Hastings raises the issue of the relatively low profile of Aid Match.

7. Discussion over getting policies on party manifestos.

- Issues of timing and conferences, what opportunities may be present are discussed.

8. Reiteration of goals of the APPG for those who are new.

9. Luminary Speeches.

- Renu Introduces Ambassador Thomas Stelzer.
Ambassador Thomas Stelzer talks on the importance of education on anti-corruption and how to carry out this education. He addresses the importance of fighting corruption to meet SDGs. He makes more specific reference to the importance of the anti-corruption work in relation to SDGs in Africa.
- Renu introduces Dr Mo Ibrahim.
- Dr Mo Ibrahim talks about his background and how it led to the establishment of his foundation. Discusses issues of governance and Leadership in Africa and how this has prevented the continent from achieving its potential. Talks about incentivising democratisation on the continent, confronting international corruption from foreign businesses, the illegal movement of money out of Africa.

10. Renu Mehta speech

Renu Mehta thanks Alex Sobel for his outstanding leadership. She sets out the rationale for the Group and how both sides of the political divide can unite around common development objectives. She explains the secretariat's involvement in the policy provenance of the Government's aid matching programmes. She sets out the Group's short- and long-term goals as well as appeals for action high impact actions during parliamentary business. She concludes by imploring parliamentarians to join at the very least as a member to stand in solidarity with the Group's mission to call on the Government to dramatically increase aid matching policies.

11. Q&A session with speakers.

- Renu Mehta asks Dr Mo Ibrahim how Parliamentarians can help. Dr Mo Ibrahim responds that they have a role to play in preventing the illicit flow of money out of Africa and can act to ensure proper business behaviour.
- Baroness Gohir enquires after the activity of banks in relation to Dr Mo Ibrahim's speech. Dr Mo Ibrahim responds that issues are found across the business and banking sector, that there has been a failure of banking and due diligence culture.
- Baroness Prashar asks how to approach the money that has been siphoned out of Africa legally.
- Dr Mo Ibrahim responds that questions over "legal" or "illegal" movement of money should be framed as "is it proper?". He also emphasises the importance of dealing with creative accounting.
- Lord Hastings asks about the amount of money that France extracts from its former colonies, the banking measures it enforces on former colonies, and what proportion of the money flow out of Africa is legitimate.
- Dr Mo Ibrahim explains that he does not have exact figures to hand but that this is not just an issue related to France, many non-African countries engage in similar activity.

12. AOB None

13. Meeting ends