



The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa
Annual Report
(September 2017-September 2018)

Overview from the Chair

Whilst Brexit has largely dominated the UK headlines and the political agenda for the past year, conversely African states have been taking significant steps towards closer integration with the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in March in Kigali, Rwanda. As such, this year the APPG for Africa has been working to better understand the UK's intentions for trade and development cooperation with Africa post-Brexit and how the UK can support AfCFTA ambitions. This followed on from our last policy report which recommended that future independent UK-Africa trade agreement(s) should support Africa's regional integration agenda. As well as hosting follow up roundtable meetings with Government Ministers and Civil Servants to keep a breadth of developments, in February, we submitted evidence to two parliamentary committees scrutinising the Government's post-Brexit trade policy intentions towards developing countries.

This summer, the UK hosted the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London. To capitalise on the ecosystem this event created, the APPG for Africa hosted two high-level roundtable events. One before the Commonwealth Business Forum with the UK's Africa Trade Commissioner and one immediately following CHOGM with African High Commissioners and Ambassadors and Lord Ahmad (the Minister of State for the Commonwealth & UN). The latter discussed trade implications from CHOGM and how to build commonwealth support for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. The key message from this meeting was that whilst African Government's welcomed continuity of trade following Brexit, the UK's planned rolling over the EU's EPAs with no sunset clause was met with scepticism.

In May, the APPG hosted a public event on strengthening UK-Africa collaboration for new tech innovation and digital inclusiveness. Following the PM's recent Africa visit and subsequent announcement of new UK-Africa 'Innovation Partnerships', we will continue to follow this policy area closely.

Looking at the year ahead, we will follow up on the ongoing problems around short-term visas for African visitors to the UK as well as renewed focus on the Government's new cross-department 'Africa Strategy' and understanding how far it supports and compliments Africa's own development agendas.



Chi Onwurah MP
(Chair of the APPG for Africa)

Officers 2017-2018

The Annual General Meeting to elect the Officers of the group was held on the 17th October 2018.

Hon. President:	Lord Steel of Aikwood
Hon. Vice-Presidents:	Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
	Baroness Chalker of Wallasey
	Lord Lea of Crondall
Chair:	Chi Onwurah MP
Co-Chair:	Lord Chidgey
Vice-Chairs with regional leads:	
North Africa	Lord Purvis
East Africa	Jeremy Lefroy MP & Pauline Latham MP
West & Central Africa	Lord McConnell
Southern Africa	Baroness Northover & Lord Oates
Other Vice-Chairs:	Lord St John
Secretary:	Patrick Grady MP
Treasurer:	Baroness Uddin

Publications

Submission to International Trade Select Committee for their inquiry on UK trade with commonwealth and developing countries post-Brexit

February 2018

The APPG's submission is based on the findings of the APPG report on the subject from first published in February 2017. The key recommendation was that in the short-term the UK must ensure continuity of trade for developing countries through implementing an interim generalised scheme of preferences (GSP) and should seek approval for this from the WTO.

In the long-term the report recommended that the UK should not seek to "cut and paste" the EU's Economic Partnership Agreements which the APPG have found to be problematic for Africa's industrialisation and integration. Instead the UK should support Africa's own regional integration agenda and following a GSP, seek a trade agreement with a united African Customs Union and Free Trade Area following the future ratification of the African Union's Continental Free Trade Agreement. The agreement was signed by most AU countries in Kigali in March 2018.

Joint submission with the Royal African Society to the Trade Bill Committee, House of Commons Committee Stage

February 2018

This submission also reflected the recommendations of the APPG's last report which called for greater parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of future trade agreements post-Brexit.

These are available in full on the APPG part of the RAS website.

Meetings Held

24.10.17 Panel event- Divisions in Cameroon: Relationships between Anglophone and Francophone Cameroon

Speakers: Dr Richard Moncrieff (International Crisis Group), Verner Ayukegba (IHS Markit), Dr Ben Page (UCL) & Felix Nkongho (Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium)

Chair: Lord McConnell

08.11.17 Bilateral meeting with Co-Chair (Lord Chidgey) and DRC Ambassador Marie Ndjeka Opombo



29.11.17 Bilateral meeting with Chair (Chi Onwurah MP) and DFID Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Charlotte Watts

05.12.17 Roundtable with Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for the Department for International Trade to discuss the Trade Bill and what it will mean for trade with Africa post-Brexit.

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

06.12.17 Roundtable with Felix Tshisekedi, leader of The Union for Democracy and Social Progress in DRC to discuss the situation in DRC and expectations from the international community

Chair: Lord Chidgey

11.12.17 Roundtable with Remi Marechaux, Director for Africa at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss French policy towards Africa following President Macron's speech (Nov 2017) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

11.01.18 Dinner- Time to mobilise: Financing the Sustainable Development Goals

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with the Royal African Society and the CDC.

30.01.2018 Roundtable with Donal Brown, DFID Director for East and Central Africa

Chair: Pauline Latham MP

31.01.2018 High-level roundtable on post-Brexit trade with SADC sugar delegation

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

Joint with Trade out of Poverty APPG & Agriculture and Food for Development APPG.

05.02.2018 Roundtable with George Turkington, DFID Director for West and Southern Africa

Chair: Baroness Northover

21.02.2018 Briefing on Smart Trade for Industrialisation from UNECA's African Trade Policy Centre

Speakers: David Luke (Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre at UNECA) and Lily Sommer and Jamie Macleod (UNECA)

Chair: Lord Chidgey

26.02.2018 High level discussion on trade in the Commonwealth

Speakers: Dr. David Luke- African Trade Policy Centre, Emma Wade-Smith- UK's Africa Trade Commissioner and Lord Marland- Commonwealth Enterprise & Investment Council (opening remarks).

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with the Royal African Society and the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC).



21.03.2018 APPG members introductory meeting with the new Africa Minister- Harriet Baldwin MP

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

16.04.2018 Roundtable with Ghana's Minister for Trade & Industry, Hon.Alan Kyerematen and Ghanaian fruit industry representatives to discuss trade between UK and Ghana post-Brexit

Chair: Lord Chidgey

16.04.2018 Bilateral meeting of Chair (Chi Onwurah MP) with Ethiopian High Commissioner

23.04.2018 High-level parliamentary roundtable with African Ambassadors and High-Commissioners to discuss implications of CHOGM for Africa

Chair: Pauline Latham MP

In collaboration with the Uganda APPG, APPG for Kenya & Tanzania APPG.

09.05.2018 Roundtable with Liberian parliamentary delegation

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

Joint with BGIPU.

06.06.2018 Afrobarometer lunch briefing

Chair: Lord Browne

In partnership with the office of Lord Browne.

14.06.2018 Panel event- Bridging Digital Divides: Pursuing UK-Africa collaboration for inclusive digital trade

Speakers: African tech entrepreneurs- Bosun Tijani, Barabara Bugundo & Robyn Farah

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with Africa Tech Summit London as an official fringe event.



16.06.2018 Chair (Chi Onwurah MP) speaking engagement: Africa Tech Conference Panel

31.06.2018 Chair (Chi Onwurah MP) speaking engagement: Food security in the Sahel (organised by Action Against Hunger)


13.07.2018 Bilateral meeting of Co-Chair (Lord Chidgey) with the Ambassador of Guinea

Income & Expenditure Statement

This statement of the APPG for Africa covers the period from 4th July 2017 to the 31st September 2018.

Date	Description	Expenditure (£ GBP)	Income (£ GBP)	Balance (£ GBP)
04.07.17	Opening balance brought forward from last reporting deadline. (Contribution from the University of Birmingham for public event in 2018 on UK-Africa relations over the last decade.)	-	-	1720
31.09.18	Closing balance	-	-	1720

Date	Source	Benefit in kind	Value (£ GBP)
29.09.2017-30.09.2018	The Royal African Society	Staff and administration costs for the APPG for Africa	24,001-25,500
11.01.18	CDC	Paid for high-level dinner which some parliamentary members of the APPG attended.	1501-3000
31.01.18	AB Sugar	Paid for tea and coffee refreshments for roundtable.	>100
23.04.2017	CWEIC	Paid for tea and coffee refreshments for high-level roundtable in parliament	>100

	
Chair of the Africa APPG	

Contact Details

The secretariat of the APPG for Africa is provided by the Royal African Society.

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