



The Africa APPG
Annual Report
(September 2015-September 2016)

Overview from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual Report of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Africa. The Group exists to further a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United Kingdom and the African continent and to give a voice to the African diaspora here. It is the largest group in Parliament, a testament to historical and present day links between the UK and Africa as well as the importance many Parliamentarians place on this relationship.

This has been my first year as Chair of the APPG and I would like to thank my parliamentary colleagues for their confidence in me as well as my Co-Chair Lord Chidgey and all the officers for their support. We agreed that trade, health and culture would be the key workstreams for the APPG this Parliament and we have made significant progress– as Lord Chidgey’s report demonstrates with regard to health.

On trade we have held a number of lively and informative debates on aspects of trade with and within Africa, particularly European Partnership Agreements and investment into Africa. The UK’s vote to leave the European Union has of course changed the emphasis of this work making it both more important and broader. We will be visiting South Africa and Namibia as part of the research for the report we intend to publish towards the end of the year.

We have also made considerable progress working with partners, both within Parliament such as the CPA-UK and other APPGs including Anti-Corruption, Nigeria and Sudan and South Sudan – and outside of Parliament including the African Union Foundation and the UN Economic Commission for Africa . We look forward to broadening and deepening our partnerships. I’d like to particularly thank the Foreign Office and the previous Minister for Africa, James Duddridge for their support here.

All this would not have been possible without our secretariat, provided by the Royal African Society. I would like to thank the Society’s Chair – Zeinab Badawi, Director - Richard Dowden – and Hetty Bailey who brings it all together!



Chi Onwurah MP, Chair of the APPG for Africa

Officers and Executives 2015-2016

The Annual General Meeting to elect the Officers of the group was held on the 14th September 2016.

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 from the Lords:	Lord Chidgey
Vice-Chairs with regional leads:	Lord Purvis (North Africa) Jeremy Lefroy MP (East Africa) Pauline Latham OBE MP (East Africa) Anne McLaughlin (West Africa) Baroness Northover (West Africa) Lord Oates (Southern Africa)
Secretary:	Patrick Grady MP
Treasurer:	Baroness Uddin

Publications

February 2016- Lessons from Ebola affected communities: Being prepared for future health crises

This Africa APPG report written with health think tank Polygeia focuses on community-led responses to health crises as a result of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. It also provides information about how UK and international donors can best support community-led approaches to health systems. The report was led by Co-Chair Lord Chidgey and paid for by the Royal African Society.

Africa in Parliament regular Westminster bulletin.

Delegations

31.03.16 – 05.04.16 Delegation to 9th Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Following an invitation to the Royal African Society and the Africa APPG from Dr Carlos Lopes the UN Economic Commissioner for Africa. Lord Chidgey, Co-Chair of the Africa APPG and also Head of UK AWEPA section together with Irish AWEPA consultant Paul Goodison undertook a delegation to the conference. The delegation was arranged by the Africa APPG and costs for Lord Chidgey were funded by the Irish AWEPA section, partly funded from the budget for their “Joint Monitoring Team” project with the Irish Parliament, funded by Irish Aid. RAS staff, Shushan Tewolde Berhan and James Wan also joined the delegation with RAS funding.

The delegation focused on gathering initial background information to inform the Africa APPG’s inquiry into economic partnership agreements- the focus inquiry for the APPG in 2016 and also an area of interest to Irish AWEPA.

A full report of the visit from Lord Chidgey is available in Appendix A.

Meetings Held

08.09.2015 Africa APPG roundtable with Nic Hailey, FCO Director Africa & Rachel Turner, DFID Director East and Central Africa

Speakers: Nic Hailey, FCO Director Africa & Rachel Turner, DFID Director East and Central Africa

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

09.09.2015 Africa APPG roundtable on the role of communities in the Ebola response: lessons for health systems strengthening.

Speakers: Dr Paul Richards, Njala University, Sierra Leone

Chair: Lord Chidgey

14.09.2015 Building Bridges youth diaspora event

Speakers: Virendra Sharma MP, Chi Onwurah MP, Obi James

Chair: Josette and Daniel (RAS Interns)

In collaboration with RAS and Six Weeks Collective

16.09.2015 Tech Lunch with Africa Union Foundation

Speaker: Andre Pienaar

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with AU Foundation & RAS

20.10.2015 Trade & EPA's roundtable with Members of the Ghana Special Budget Committee

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with CPA-UK

03.12.2015 Breakfast with Dr Carlos Lopes- Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa Investing in Africa's wealth to fuel transformation

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with RAS

08.12.2015 Roundtable with James Duddridge MP Minister for Africa on New FCO Africa Strategy

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with FCO

13.02. 2016 Roundtable with Members of the Selection Committee of the National Assembly of Kenya

Chair: Lord Steel

In collaboration with the CPA-UK

03.02.2016 Building Inclusive digital economies in Africa

Speakers: James Mwangi- Executive Director of Dalberg Development Advisors and a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, Ken Banks- CEO of Archbishop Tutu's Global eHealth Foundation & Ellen Wratten- Deputy Director, Policy and Innovation, Policy and Global Programmes Directorate at DFID

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with RAS & Inmarsat

09.03.2016 Lessons from Ebola affected communities: launch of the Africa APPG report with Polygeia

Speakers: Samara Linton and Tom Hird from Polygeia, Susan Elden from DFID, Kate Muhwezi of Restless Development, Prof. Aliko Ahmed of Public Health Africa Initiative, Nick Hurd, PUSS at DFID

Chair: Lord Chidgey

In collaboration with Polygeia

22.03.2016 Developing sustainable & accessible energy infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa

Speakers: Edward George of EcoBank, Julia Prescott of EAIF and David Kennedy of DFID

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with EAIF & AFFORD

23.03.2016 Roundtable with Guy Warrington, New British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone

Chair: Chi Onwurah

10.05.2016 Corruption, Conflict and the role of the International Community: Meeting with the Africa Minister in advance of the PM's Anti-Corruption Summit

Speakers: James Dudderidge MP- Minister for Africa at the FCO (Keynote speech), Emma Vickers- Global Witness & Leah Wawro- Transparency International.

Chair: Mark Durkan MP

In collaboration with the Anti-Corruption APPG, Nigeria APPG, Sudan & South Sudan APPG

11.05.2016 Meeting with the Nigerian Committee on the Army

Chair: Richard Fuller MP

In collaboration with Nigeria APPG and CPA-UK

26.05.2016 Meeting with the Speaker of the Namibian National Assembly- Hon. Prof. Peter Katjivivi MP

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

In collaboration with CPA-UK

06.06.2016 Roundtable with Daher Ahmed Farah- Leader of the main opposition of Djibouti

Chair: Baroness Uddin

14.06.2016 Parliamentary roundtable with Neil Wigan OBE, FCO Director Africa

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

27.06.2016 Stories of Migration & Displacement

Speakers: Kayo Chingonyi, Zodwa Nyoni, Inua Ellams

Chair: Baroness Young of Hornsey

In collaboration with Africa Writes & APPG on Diaspora, Migration & Development

06.07.2016 Human Rights in the Gambia

Speakers: Stephen Cockburn - Deputy Regional Director, West and Central Africa, Amnesty International, Lucy Freeman – CEO, Media Legal Defence Initiative, Alieu Badara Ceesay - Founder, Campaign for Human Rights in The Gambia UK

Chair: Anne McLaughlin MP

In collaboration with Human Rights APPG

12.07.2016 Roundtable with Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad, the secretary-general of CUF, former Chief Minister and Vice President of Zanzibar

Chair: Pauline Latham OBE MP & Lord Dholakia

In collaboration with Tanzania APPG

12.07.2016 Africa-UK Trade & Investment Agreements after Brexit

Speakers: Edwin Laurent- Director of the Ramphal Institute, Liz May- Head of Policy at Traidcraft; Dr. Eka Ikpe- African Leadership Centre, Kings College London, HE Dr Kaire Mbuende- Ambassador of Namibia to the EU and Chair of ACP Sub-Committee on Sustainable development

Chair: Chi Onwurah MP

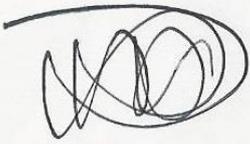
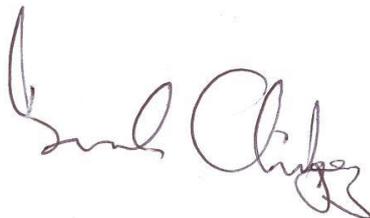
In collaboration with RAS.

Income & Expenditure Statement

This statement of the Africa APPG covers the period from 1st September 2015 to 14th September 2016.

Date	Description	Expenditure	Income	Balance
01.09.2015	Opening balance brought forward	-	-	£305.81
14.09.2016	Closing balance	-	-	£305.81

Date	Source	Benefit in kind	Value
16.09.2015	African Union Foundation	Sponsorship of lunch in parliament for members and external guests	£1501 - £3000
03.12.2016	Royal African Society	Sponsorship of breakfast in parliament for members and external guests	£1501-£3000
01.02.2016	Royal African Society	Costs of sponsoring related field work from in-country NGOs and of publishing Africa APPG report	£1501-£3000
31.03.2016	Irish AWEPA Section	Costs of sponsoring Africa APPG Co-Chair to attend a joint delegation to an AU Conference in Addis Ababa	£1501-£3000
31.03.2016	Royal African Society	Costs of covering RAS staff to attend the joint delegation to Addis Ababa with the APPG & AWEPA	£1501-£3000
01.09.2015 – 14.09.2016	Royal African Society	Employment of full-time Secretariat of the group	£31,501 - £33,000

	
Baroness Uddin, Treasurer of the Africa APPG	
	
Chi Onwurah MP, Chair of the Africa APPG	Lord Chidgey, Co-Chair of the Africa APPG

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Appendix A

Note on Attendance at AU Finance Ministers Annual Conference

Addis Ababa, April 2016

Dr Lopes and his team in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) provided excellent support and engagement throughout the three day visit. Over breakfast, he provided an off the record current briefing of the progress with negotiations leading up to the signing and implementation of the various EPAs.

UNECA specialists, David Luke and Simone Mevel delivered a slide show addressing the four concerns of the APPG regarding EPAs, summarising the outcomes of their research and computer modelling. The presentation is available on line, and highlights the complexity of EPAs delivery in five distinct economic and geographic regions of Africa, and in 33 nation states. It should provide a firm foundation for the terms of reference for the enquiry.

The Economic Commission for Africa are undertaking an investigation into concerns over the EPAs. Informal off the record discussions with Swedish and Danish diplomats and UK Embassy staff showed general support for the EPAs.

Lord Chidgey 07.04.2016

Appendix B

Minutes from the Africa APPG AGM –
September 14th 2016, Room O, Portcullis House at 4pm

Parliamentarians present: Chi Onwurah MP, Lord Chidgey, Lord McConnell, Lord Steel, Patrick Grady MP, Baroness Uddin, Lord Oates, Baroness Barker, Lord Howe, Lord Purvis, Anne McLaughlin MP & Mark Durkhan MP

Also present: Hetty Bailey (Coordinator), James Wan (Editor African Arguments), Richard Dowden (Director at RAS), Eleanor Bayley (Africa Lead at the CPA-UK) & Scott Taylor (Office of Patrick Grady MP)

Apologies: James Duddridge MP, Lord Foulkes, Baroness Hodgson, Nigel Evans MP, Danny Kinahan MP, Andrew Mitchell MP, Lord Cameron, Lord Luce, Lord Judd

Official business

1. Election of Officers

The incumbent Chair Chi Onwurah MP opened the meeting before handing the Chair over to the Hon. President Lord Steel who then presided over the election of the new Chair. Chi Onwurah MP was elected by majority vote of members present as Chair of the Africa APPG proposed by Baroness Uddin and seconded and by Lord McConnell.

Chi Onwurah MP then resumed Chair and proposed the election of at least five Vice Chairs with regional leads- North, Southern, East, West & Central Africa with role sharing and additional Vice-Chairs or Officer leads if desired by members. The motion was put and agreed to by all members present.

Each Officer was then elected by majority as follows:

Honorary Officers: (non-elected)

Hon. President

Lord Steel of Aikwood

Hon. Vice-Presidents

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey

Lord Lea of Crondall

Newly elected officers:

Chair

Chi Onwurah MP

Co-Chair from the House of Lords

Lord Chidgey

Vice-Chairs with regional leads

Lord Purvis (North Africa)

Lord Oates (Southern Africa)

Lord McConnell (Central Africa)

Anne McLaughlin MP (Joint West Africa)

Baroness Kinnock (Joint West Africa)

Pauline Latham MP (Joint East Africa)

Jeremy Lefroy MP (Joint East Africa)

Secretary

Patrick Grady MP

Treasurer

Baroness Uddin

Once the Officers were elected, the Chair also proposed that APPG have some topical leads (i.e. Conflict, Illicit Financial Flows etc.) as and when it is needed throughout the year which was agreed to. The Chair asked for ideas from parliamentarian for topical areas and if anyone would like to volunteer to lead in a specific area of their interest or expertise. Lord McConnell expressed an interest in leading on conflict and security issues and was agreed to.

2. Consideration of annual report and income & expenditure statement

All members were sent draft annual report in advance containing the income and expenditure statement covering the period from 1st September 2015- 14th September 2016. Hard copies were also available at the meeting. The report and statement was put and agreed to by all present members.

Non-official business

- Lord Chidgey- AWEPA

Lord Chidgey provided an update to the APPG on AWEPA- he reminded the group that as there is no AWEPA UK Section at present that it was agreed a while ago that Africa APPG members automatically become honorary members of AWEPA. He mentioned that in light of the Brexit vote there was uncertainty about the UK parliament role in AWEPA in the future but said he was hoping to gain some clarity on this at the AWEPA Governing Council meeting (which Lord Chidgey is a member of) in Barcelona in October.

- Chi Onwurah MP- Ongoing inquiry & upcoming delegation

Chi Onwurah MP updated the members on the Africa APPG ongoing inquiry into EPAs and trade arrangements with African countries in the post Brexit and interim period. She asked for members interested in joining the inquiry committee to contact the Coordinator Hetty

Bailey for more information. So far, on the committee are- Chi Onwurah MP, Anne McLaughlin MP, Amanda Solloway MP, Patrick Grady MP, Lord Oates & Lord Chidgey. It was agreed by members present that this inquiry was especially important and timely given the Brexit vote and restructure of departments with the creation of the new Department for International Trade. It was suggested by Lord McConnell that we host a meeting with the new Secretary of State for DFID Priti Patel to feed into the inquiry to discuss trade, industrialisation and job creation across Africa. Lord Purvis suggested we bring in CDC who has an interest specifically in job creation.

She also mentioned the upcoming Africa APPG delegation to Namibia and South Africa to contribute to the inquiry which Anne McLaughlin MP, Amanda Solloway MP and Chi Onwurah MP are undertaking together with Hetty Bailey and Richard Dowden from the Royal African Society.

She announced that there would be a report back meeting afterwards and that the CPA-UK also intend to follow up on our delegation with a visit to Namibia in either November or February to build on the findings of the visit with particular reference to parliamentary oversight of international trade agreements and suggested to contact Eleanor Bayley at the CPA-UK if members were interested.

- Chi Onwurah MP- Key work streams

The Chair then recapped the current key work streams which included but were not limited to- trade with and within Africa , culture, civil Society and democracy and health systems(following on from the report on community led health systems strengthening led by Lord Chidgey and launched by the APPG in February 2016).

Briefing on current outlook with James Wan, Editor of African Arguments

The AGM was then followed by a briefing from James Wan, Editor of African Arguments followed by Q&A. The key points from the briefing are below.

DRC

Exemplary sleeping giant – abundant potential and natural resource wealth but mired in political crisis.

The one today is particularly unpredictable. In the words of one of African Arguments' contributors, the government is effectively boycotting its own elections.

President Joseph Kabila's second term in office is set to expire on the 20th December – with elections in November – but there has been no progress whatsoever in organising elections. The idea behind this strategy (known as 'glissement') is that as long as elections are delayed and delayed, Kabila stays in power. Buying time.

At the same time, rumour has it that members of his inner circle appear to be testing out other possible strategies for him to stay in office in a more sustained fashion. One would be to amend the constitution to abolish term limits; something his government tried and failed to do a couple of years ago but seems to be testing the water for once more. Another is to

find a successor who can essentially act as a proxy for Kabila, though there are no obvious candidates for this role at the moment. And so the strategy known as 'slippage' continues. But the rest of the country is not just watching idly.

Lots of Congolese are very angry at the government and have been staging protests as well as crippling strikes.

The political opposition has also been showing fairly impressive signs of unifying to take on Kabila, with the two main opposition figureheads Etienne Tshisekedi and Moise Katumbi coordinating their actions and organising rallies. These will intensify as November and December deadlines pass.

There is a faint possibility of a successful dialogue between the government and opposition, which could lead to some kind of transitional government or the organisation of delayed elections, but the two parties' pre-conditions for dialogue as it stands are simply incompatible.

If this remains to be the case, it's safe to predict that rallies and protests will intensify as we approach the end of the year.

Ethiopia

Protests and strikes ongoing. Little news – tight grip on flow of information, freedom of movement, internet restrictions – but that's not to say things aren't happening.

Since last year, there have been protests amongst the Oromo people, who make up around 35% of the population. The protests were triggered by the Addis Ababa Masterplan, which would have further displaced Oromo from their land to make way for the extension of the capital city, which is in Oromia. But the grievances go much further and are to do with long-standing feelings of marginalisation, repression and ongoing poverty and inequality. The government's suspension of the master plan may have dampened some of the anger but its heavy-handedness in tackling some of the protests did the opposite.

More recently, the Oromo protesters have been joined by those from the Amhara ethnic group, who make up around 30% of the population. These demonstrations have sometimes been framed as 'solidarity' protests with the Oromo and this is part of it, but the Amhara have their own grievances with the government.

These protests and strikes have continued and intensified particular over the past month. And this has been a watershed moment for the country where protests – certainly on this scale and scope – have been rare, and the Oromo and Amhara have historically been pitted against one another. Them coming together therefore is significant.

According to rights groups and witnesses, hundreds of demonstrators have been killed and many more arrested, but it is extremely difficult to get reliable figures or detailed accounts of what is happening on the ground as the government has restricted internet access and maintained its tight grip on the media.

The regime doesn't appear to be under immediate threat and it commands the loyalty of security forces, but unless it switches from dealing with the protests in its current manner with arrests and violence rather than seeing them as legitimate political outbursts, this discontent may dip below the surface but it won't go away.

Zimbabwe

Another place where protests are continuing is Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe's rule seems to be under genuine threat from a variety of angles as its ongoing economic crisis deepens.

To begin with there is the #ThisFlag movement which was prompted by pastor Evan Mawarire whose videos deploring the state of the country struck a nerve. Mawarire ended up spearheading a growing and ever more emboldened movement of Zimbabweans ready to gather on the streets to protest against the government or to stay at home and strike to show their discontentment.

These #ThisFlag protests, which were relatively organic and emerged from the ground up, have fizzled out a bit since Mawarire fled to South Africa, but the official opposition has attempted to pick up the momentum and take advantage of the disillusionment and fragility of the government.

A coalition of opposition parties have grouped together to organise mass rallies, which has most notably seen Morgan Tsvangirai of the MDC marching alongside Mugabe's former Vice-President and now opposition leader Joice Mujuru, with the likes of Tendai Biti and Welshman Ncube also willing to be part of a tactical alliance.

At the same time as all this, Mugabe is also having to deal with factional fighting within his own ZANU-PF party.

A lot of this infighting centres on the question of who will take over from the 92-year-old Mugabe when he eventually steps down, and he is understood to favour his wife Grace. However, another faction is led by Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa who is also vying for the position, and some believe he was behind a statement that the war veterans association released a couple of months ago that criticised Mugabe's rule in very strong terms, accusing him of responsibility for the economic crisis and of dictatorial leadership.

The government has tried a number of strategies to stem the protests. They've now banned demonstrations twice – the first time the courts overturned the move. They tried to arrest and try Pastor Mawarire, but again the courts threw out the case. And they've employed a familiar strategy of trying to discredit the protests by claiming they are all the work of evil outside interference.

They seem to have managed to undermine some of the more organic #ThisFlag mobilisations, but the opposition coalition will keep up pressure and have called for some mass rallies, while the economic situation is still appalling. Just last week, the government said it would have to axe 25,000 civil service jobs (around 8% of the civil service workforce) to reduce its spending.