

## Fairtrade APPG Annual General Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Room T, PCH, 11-11.30am

### In attendance

Holly Lynch MP (Labour)

Jason McCartney MP (Conservative)

Lord Oates (Lib Dem)

Liz Twist MP (Labour)

Bambos Charalambous MP (Labour)

David Simmons MP (Conservative)

### RSVPs

Jeff Smith MP (Labour)

Navendu Mishra MP (Labour)

### Apologies

Huw Merriman MP (Conservative)

Anne McLaughlin MP (SNP)

Catherine McKinnell MP (Labour)

Lord McConnell (Labour)

Bishop of Manchester

Peter Gibson MP (Conservative)

Allan Dorrans MP (SNP)

Sarah Champion MP (Labour)

Baroness Jay of Paddington (Labour)

Debbie Abrahams MP (Labour)

Margaret Ferrier MP (happy to remain as member)

Wendy Chamberlain MP (Lib Dem, expressed wish to join APPG)

### Meeting Minutes

- Jason McCartney MP began the meeting with welcoming those in attendance to the APPG for Fairtrade's AGM. Jason McCartney MP and Holly Lynch MP were proposed to remain as co-chairs of the APPG. This was passed by those in attendance.
- Jason McCartney MP then asked if there were any expressions of interest for vice-chair roles. Alice Lucas of the Fairtrade Foundation stated that Huw Merriman MP and Anne McLaughlin

MP, existing vice-chairs, had both put forward their intention to remain in these roles. This was agreed.

- Jason McCartney MP then suggested that Navendu Mishra MP might wish to become a vice-chair for the group. Alice Lucas mentioned that Navendu Mishra MP had RSVP'd to the event but had likely been delayed with parliamentary events. Alice Lucas offered to contact his office to offer this role, for follow up by the co-chairs.
- Jason McCartney MP then asked if there were any further procedures that needed to be undertaken at the AGM. Alice Lucas stated that attendees had been given a copy of the Annual Report 2020-2021 and an update prepared for the AGM. These would be submitted along with the minutes.
- Tim Aldred, Head of Policy at the Fairtrade Foundation then offered some updates and reflections from the Fairtrade Foundation. Tim Aldred spoke briefly on the Fairtrade Fortnight campaign and the challenges facing farmers and workers as a result of the climate crisis.
- He noted the need for investment at the farm level, which would not only support those on low incomes overseas, but also ensure resilience in UK supply chains. During the pandemic, Fairtrade saw evidence that those supply chains that had increased and longer-term investment over time as a result of Fairtrade certification, actually fared better during the onset of the pandemic, with the ability to furlough staff etc. Fairtrade buyers were also quick to understand the needs of farmers during this time, as they had existing relationships with producers and greater oversight of their supply chains.
- Tim Aldred said that in upcoming legislation, the big ask is: are farmers being put at the centre?
- Tim Aldred updated the APPG on the recent announcement from Mars, which has deepened its sourcing commitment to Fairtrade and its intention to move on the path towards sustainable incomes in the next 5 years.
- Holly Lynch MP stated that this was fantastic news, especially in light of the move away from Fairtrade by Nestle.
- Jason McCartney MP asked what the APPG should be looking out for in the recent Queens Speech, and whether there were any particular areas of focus.
- Holly Lynch MP noted the announcement that the Modern Slavery Act would be strengthened and asked whether Fairtrade commitments would offer extra assurance. Tim Aldred replied that if you are a Fairtrade company you will already be a long way down the road to the aims of future legislation, businesses would in principle remain responsible for meeting legal duties related to legislation. Fairtrade will be ready to work in partnership as businesses respond to strengthening requirements.
- Jason McCartney MP then suggested some future plans for events for the APPG. Jason McCartney MP mentioned that, given the announcement with Mars, the APPG might wish to do an event with Mars and the Co-op on supply chain challenges and resilience. An event could speak to the cost of living and what sustainability in their supply chains has meant to them. There was agreement in the room that this would be a good idea to pursue and the Fairtrade team agreed to explore it further.
- Tim Aldred suggested that DIT might be open to a conversation around trade and sustainability. Jason McCartney MP then suggested that the following event for the APPG would be to invite a Minister to discuss these issues.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11.30am. Alice Lucas and Tim Aldred said they would be in touch to follow up.