

Cross-Party Group on Pakistan

7th February 2023, 6:00pm, CR5 and on TEAMS

MINUTE

Present

Kaukab Stewart MSP (Convener)
Sarah Boyack MSP (Vice Convener)
Pam Gosal MSP

Invited Guests

Mr Atif Sharif
Director General Crisis Management Unit
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad (Pakistan)

Non-MSP Group Members

Nadia Aslam (Sectetatiar)
Naveed Asgar
Sandy Sneedon
Capt. Farid Ansari
Dr Azra Meadows, University of Glasgow
Sabah Aslam
Syed Waqar Nabi, Chair, Scottish Pakistani Association
Dr Saeeda Bhatti, Lecturer, University of Glasgow
Shazia Babar
Hanif Raja
Habib Atif
Muhammad Shakin
Nadeem Baqir
Naseem Anwar
Somaira Mohsin
Tariq Pervaiz
Moyra Boland
Hilary Brown (MSP Staff)
Bryony Lovett (MSP Staff)

Apologies

Foyso Choudhury MSP
Murdo Fraser MSP
Willie Rannie
Farah Farzana

The convener of the CPG welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed condolences on the passing of General Pervez Musharaff, former President of Pakistan.

The convener spoke about the appalling earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and mentioned that Islamic Relief are among the charities collecting donations to help the relief effort and asked people to donate if they were able to do so.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Presentation from Mr Atif Sharif on the on-going situation in Pakistan following the monsoon flooding last summer

See Attached Presentation.

He asked the CPG members to approach the Scottish parliament and ask if they will offer further cooperation, including renewable energy expertise.

Naveed Syed raised the subject of 1) qualitative research on internally displaced persons and 2) structural research on the effect of climate change on healthcare provision.

Azra Meadows asked what are the key Provincial short and longer term requirements? NWFP is self sufficient in that regard. Sindh and Balochistan are in dire need of support.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Feedback from Education and Climate Emergency sub groups

Education Update

They have a list of ideas (see attached). University Vice Chancellors are visiting the UK in the next few weeks. Is there any plan to meet them as the Education SubGroup?

Sandy Sneddon referred to research (2016 ScotGov policy strategy) showing discriminatory elements in educational material in Pakistan.

Action point: Sandy to share the report with the group.

Climate Emergency Update

Community investment and support; Flood resilience support; Energy knowledge are the key ideas they want to work on. (See attached report)

Action Point: Which Scottish educational institutes already have links with Pakistan – Kaukab's office to investigate and report back.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Proposed future actions and agenda

KS to share education resources with the group.

SB to share climate emergency resources with the group. SB also going to look into the UK innovation fund.

Explore a small project in Balochistan, as proposed by Mr Sharif in his presentation and to involve the Pakistani community in Scotland in the project.

Convener and Vice Convener to decide on the next speaker.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Date and time of next meeting

23 May 2023 at 6pm in Committee Room 4, The Scottish Parliament