

BOND Policy and Lobbying Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose and objectives

To share political news, information and ideas and to carry out some joint lobbying/advocacy *if and when* considered desirable by the Group, on cross-sector political priorities in global economic justice and sustainable development.

Membership and structure

The BOND Policy and Lobbying Group membership is open to any BOND member organization or partner network.

A Steering committee is under development and co-chair roles being developed.

Subgroups can be formed as appropriate.

Activities:

The primary purpose of the BOND Policy and Lobbying Group is to act as a forum in which members can share information, political intelligence and news on members' lobbying and campaigning work. BOND Policy and Lobbying Group may also choose to initiate and carry out some joint and coordinated lobbying in the areas of global economic justice and sustainable development (see below).

To accomplish this mandate, the Group may:

- Share, gather and disseminate information
- Recommend joint advocacy work and organise joint lobby meetings when deemed appropriate by the group, or by a group of members of BOND Policy and Lobbying Group.
- Occasionally invite others to share information on specific issues, as appropriate

NB Nothing within this mandate restricts the freedom of any member organisation from conducting its own advocacy.

Process for determining if and when to carry out joint lobbying/advocacy:

BOND Policy and Lobbying Group, as a group, or individual members of the Group, may propose opportunities for joint advocacy and lobbying vis à vis the Government or political parties (or any other advocacy targets). These proposals will be discussed by the Group and if there is a majority consensus to carry out joint lobbying/advocacy, individual members or a group of members will take responsibility for implementing and coordinating the work (supported by BOND), as appropriate. Where deemed

useful/necessary, members will agree to draft specific terms of reference for the joint advocacy work.

In the event of a joint UK NGO mobilisation on economic justice, and if/when BOND Policy and Lobbying Group is asked to draft and agree joint policy demands for collective campaigning (eg by Campaigning Coordination Team or in response to GCAP), the Group will discuss these and seek clarity on how and when these will be used. The Group will then discuss joint policy demands and aim to agree these as appropriate for joint mobilization. The Group will be clear about the context and basis on which these have been agreed. NB Any joint policy demands do not override or preclude individual organisations/networks from pursuing their own policy asks but the Group will endeavour to ensure coherence of policy demands across the different issues. In the event of a joint mobilisation, BOND Policy and Lobbying Group and a group such as Campaigning Coordination Team must both ensure effective communication eg by having 1 or 2 link people.

NB The Parliamentary group is largely made up of the same agencies/networks as BOND Policy and Lobbying Group but it meets separately (mainly by teleconference) and its remit is solely to share information and occasionally organise joint events with parliamentarians and political parties (eg at party conferences)

Functioning as a Group

The Group will base its work on the institutional knowledge of each participating organisation.

The Group will principally work in open meetings and in a consensual way decide the issues to be dealt with and will follow through on initiatives agreed by members. Activities may be undertaken directly by the Group or some individual members. When the work is delegated to a member, or a group of members, these will report back to others in the BOND Policy and Lobbying Group.

If the Group decides to meet with government or other officials, such meetings will be open to members to attend these meetings, but the emphasis will be on manageable numbers and best delivering the meeting objectives. BOND Policy and Lobbying Group members are asked to report back to the Group on the content and outcome of the meetings.

The Group will liaise with other networks that work on relevant areas.

The Group will normally meet at face-to-face meetings, roughly on a monthly basis. It may also meet by teleconference when warranted (e.g. to prepare a meeting with an official). At other times communication will be done by e-mail.

BOND

The Group has agreed that BOND will support and co-ordinate the work of the Group.

BOND has responsibility for:

- Acting as an information clearing-house within the bounds of its resources.
- Preparing the agenda, convening and supporting in chairing meetings, in consensus with members. Minute-taking will be done on a rotating basis.
- Keeping the membership list up-to-date
- Keeping and running a dgroup listserve.
- Coordinating the completion of any work agreed by the Group.
- Facilitating communication between members.

These ToR may be reviewed as and when considered necessary by the Group.