

Group spotlight

Policy and Lobbying Group



The Bond Policy and Lobbying Group is a forum where members can share information, political intelligence and news on members' advocacy work.

Over the past year, the group played a key role in developing the joint Bond submission for the DFID White Paper consultation. Another priority of the group has been the UK General Election campaign.

The group led on developing the *Vote Global* manifesto which serves as the joint policy position of the sector and ahead of, during and after the election campaign. It has now been signed by over 200 organisations. Other joint projects during the election campaign included a comparison of parties' policies on

international development and the planning of World Poverty Day which was held on 18 April 2010.

Now, after the General Election, the Policy and Lobbying Group will focus on how best to engage with a new UK Government and make sure that international development is high on the political agenda ahead of key international moments such as the EU Summit and the G8/G20 summits in June as well as the UN MDGs Review Summit in September.

Sub-groups also work on effective joint engagement with a new Parliament and on how to present international development issues at upcoming party conferences in autumn 2010.

The Policy and Lobbying Group has about 30 active members, mostly advocacy and government relations experts of Bond members and partner networks.

If you want to become active in joint advocacy efforts and want to join this group, please contact Elvira Kanichay, Bond Network Policy Officer: ekanichay@bond.org.uk

For more information about the election campaign and our work going forward: bond.org.uk/election

Group meetings



Disability and Development Group

Thursday 10 June
11.00am – 2.00pm

Latin American and Caribbean Group

Tuesday 29 June
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Quality Group

Bond Effectiveness Programme quarterly working meeting
Tuesday 22 June
9.00am – 5.00pm

Complaints mechanisms – Tearfund
Friday 16 July
1.30pm – 5.00pm

To find out more or to attend either of these meetings, login to the members' area and go to the relevant group page: bond.org.uk/groups.php

Development and Environment Group

DEG has a new Coordinator

Welcome to Kate Munro who starts as DEG's new part-time coordinator on 2 June. Kate previously worked at Policy Connect managing activities, advocacy and communication strategies for two member networks. She brings lots of exciting skills, experience and enthusiasm to help DEG become even more effective.

Thank you to Liz Gallagher

DEG would like to thank Liz Gallagher from CAFOD for her time and engagement with the DEG Steering Group. We wish you all the best in your new job. Liz leaving creates a vacancy on the DEG Steering Group for a development NGO. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved with DEG at this level: groups@bond.org.uk

Group chairs contribute to Bond strategy consultation

The group chairs' consultation meeting, held on 10 May, provided an opportunity for the chairs and committee members of the 16 Bond groups to contribute their valued ideas towards the development of the Bond strategy 2011-16.

The event opened with an introduction from Nick Roseveare who explained the strategy, its themes, and the ways that Bond groups can feed into the process.

Participants then identified some of the key challenges facing the international development sector including climate change, bringing development and the environmental agenda together, inclusion of Southern voices, the role of Bond in public support for development and how groups can engage in national, regional and international processes.

Participants also had discussions around the three key organising themes – connect, influence, and strengthen. There was a consensus on the need for groups to share experience and work together in order to have more influence on lobbying and bringing desired change to policies.

Among other interesting suggestions, participants would like the network to have achieved the following by 2016:

- A secure funding base for UK NGOs
- A world in which the poorest and most vulnerable are able to hold powerful institutions accountable to decisions that affect their lives
- A strong unified sector dealing with new UK Government
- More engagement in EU and international advocacy and with international CSO coalitions
- Working closely with new UK Parliament
- Exploring working with other actors including think tanks and academics

The meeting ended with participants pledging to involve members of their different groups in putting together a joint response which will be fed in to the final strategy document.

The Bond Strategy 2011-2016 development consultation runs for 12 weeks from mid-March to mid-June 2010.

For more information: bond.org.uk/strategyconsultation