

**EXPORT GUARANTEES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2021**

**Present:** Mr Alistair Clark (Chair)  
Dr Ben Caldecott  
Ms Vanessa Harvard Williams  
Mr Neil Holt  
Mr Stephen Prior  
Dr Roseline Wanjiru  
Mr John Morrison

**In attendance:** [Redacted]  
Ms Esi Eshun  
[Redacted]  
Ms Davinder Mann  
[Redacted]  
Mr Richard Simon Lewis  
Mr Louis Taylor (UKEF CEO)  
[Redacted]  
Mr Gordon Welsh  
[Redacted]

**Apologies:** None

**Secretary:** [Redacted]

**1. EGAC only session**

1.1. The Council members met with no UKEF staff present.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING**

2.1. The minutes of the December 2020 meeting were approved by the Council and will be published in due course.

**3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE**

3.1. Mr Taylor provided the Council with an update on business. New business recorded for 2020/21 totals £4,240m with 601 issued and effective facilities (to end of January

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2021). Of these 561 are Short-Term facilities and 40 are Medium and Long-Term facilities. This provided cover for 146 exporters, of which 119 are SMEs.

3.2. Mr Taylor updated the Council on product and policy development. The meeting noted the progress with the General Export Facility, the Supply Chain Discounting Guarantee, the Supplier Credit Refresh and the Export Development Guarantee (EDG). It was agreed that more detail on the EDG transition product would be provided to the Council at a later meeting.

### **ACTION: Transition EDG to be added to EGAC forward agenda.**

3.3. The meeting noted that in December 2020, the Prime Minister announced that the UK will no longer provide any new direct financial or promotional support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas; and that a public consultation was launched to seek views on how to further enable an accelerated growth in UK clean energy exports, and on the impacts of the timing of implementation of the policy shift.

3.4. Members were informed that this consultation closed on the 8th February and a cross-government working group, in which UKEF was embedded, was summarising the responses and preparing recommendations for the PM's approval; and that UKEF was preparing internally to comply with the new policy when implemented.

3.5. The Council noted that following the policy announcement, UKEF had received meeting requests from a range of fellow ECAs (including Holland and Canada) to share our experience of policy making and suggest best practice and to help lead a "coalition of the willing" of those ECAs prepared to adopt similar commitments.

3.6. The Council was updated on the actions in respect of the Judicial Review relating to the decision to support the Mozambique LNG project.

3.7. The Council discussed the upcoming COP26 and whether ECAs would be discussed. It was noted that while ECAs wouldn't be a major focus, there was the opportunity to hold events on the fringes.

## **4. CATEGORY A PROJECT: TEMA – AFLAO ROAD PROJECT, GHANA**

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- 4.1. [Redacted] from the UKEF E&S Team presented the Tema-Aflao Road project to the Council, noting the environmental and social due diligence process and discussed the key environmental and social issues identified.
- 4.2. Members discussed the resettlement action plan, the steps taken to reduce the resettlement impact and noted that a new market was being constructed as an alternative trading location.
- 4.3. The Council were informed that it was typical for husbands and wives to live in separate communities on opposite sides of the road and that on the new, wider road it would no longer be possible to cross as easily or safely, causing severance issues, and potential for increases in gender based violence. Members welcomed information that gender sensitive consultations were conducted, and streetlights added along central reservation and road junctions, and footbridges provided instead of underpasses.
- 4.4. Members discussed the importance of the grievance procedure with regard to resettlement and how to improve engagement with the process; and whether the road project would lead to reduced carbon emissions – it was noted that this information wasn't available, while congestion would be reduced, traffic would also increase.
- 4.5. The Council noted the Covid-19 complications which made attendance at engagement meetings impossible, and that resettlement numbers could not be verified post-signing.
- 4.6. The Council thanked [redacted] for her presentation.

### 5. **E&S Annual Report**

- 5.1. [Redacted] introduced this item. Members noted the summary review on the activities of the E&S Team in the period January – December 2020.
- 5.2. The Council welcomed the report noted that it was up to its usual high standard. The Council discussed whether the E&S Team had enough resources. It was noted that the team felt stretched but agreed that the SR20 settlement would help to alleviate

some of that pressure when recruitment had been completed. It was agreed that the E&S Team would provide detail of resourcing at the Autumn EGAC meeting.

**ACTION: Secretariat to add E&S Team resourcing to the forward agenda.**

5.3. Members considered the additional risks taken on through operating remotely. It was agreed that operating remotely did add additional risks, but that the alternative, to halt the projects altogether or to withdraw from the deals would not be appropriate.

5.4. The Council welcomed the use of local consultants to mitigate the lack of international travel, noting that this built up trust and local capacity.

### 6. INTRODUCTION TO SPoCC

6.1. The Director of Strategy, Policy and Climate Change (SPoCC), Davinder Mann provided the meeting with an introduction to the new directorate, covering the areas that they would focus on, and how the directorate would be structured.

6.2. The meeting discussed the Government's fossil fuel policy and the responses from both industry and civil society organisations. It was noted that a fast implementation period would be a challenge for UKEF.

6.3. Members were informed that the TCFD direction statement would be published ahead of the Annual Report and Accounts and would be provided to Members by written procedure.

**ACTION: Members provided with TCFD direction statement / update on TCFD by written procedure.**

6.4. Members considered whether benchmarking TCFD performance against the financial sector would be useful, and suggested looking at what the FCA required in terms of TCFD disclosure.

**ACTION: SPoCC to look at TCFD benchmarking and FCA TCFD requirements.**

6.5. The meeting were informed of the climate change survey conducted among UKEF staff. Noting that the results were positive with regard to training, but that additional training around private finance initiatives would be useful. Members were given an update on the UKEF Climate Strategy.

### 7. EGAC SCORECARD

7.1. The Council reviewed the advice it had provided and decisions it had taken and noted that all actions arising from these were either complete or in hand.

**ACTION: UKEF to update and develop the scorecard accordingly.**

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1. There was none.

**[Redacted]**

**SPoCC Secretariat**