



ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

Reflecting NWT Priorities in the Development of the NWT Chapter

Engagement Session With Non-Government Organizations

January 19, 2018, Yellowknife

DRAFT

***'What We Heard'* Session Summary Report**

February 1, 2018

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Appendices

APPENDIX A: PRE AND POST SESSION REFERENCE MATERIALS SUBMISSIONSA-1

- Dr. Bob Bromley, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, submitted the following references in support of the session discussion:

Edward Struzik, *Red Alert for the Future Arctic*. Article published in The Conversation (January 1, 2018) <https://theconversation.com/a-red-alert-for-the-future-arctic-89122>

Larry Elliott, Economics editor, The Guardian, 22 and 23 January 2018. Articles published on *Global Inequality*:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/jan/23/davos-high-priests-parallel-universe>

https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jan/22/inequality-gap-widens-as-42-people-hold-same-wealth-as-37bn-poorest?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=GU+Today+main+NEW+H+categories&utm_term=261344&subid=24827534&CMP=EMCNEWEML661912



1.0 BACKGROUND AND SESSION PURPOSE

1.1 Background

On December 20, 2016 the federal government announced the development of an Arctic Policy Framework (APF) to replace both Canada's *Northern Strategy* (2009) and the *Statement on Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy* (2010). The objective of the APF is to provide overarching direction to the Government of Canada's priorities, activities and investments in the Arctic until 2030.

The objective as set out by the Government of Canada is to develop a '*new Arctic Policy Framework resulting in a more coordinated effort by all levels of government, Indigenous groups, industry and other stakeholders to identify issues and possible solutions to meet the challenges and harness emerging opportunities in the Arctic*'.

The federal department of Crown and Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs is leading the development of the APF and has committed to work with Indigenous, territorial and provincial partners. While the APF will be a federal policy, each of the territories has been allocated a chapter in the final document to address specific territorial priorities.

1.2 Session Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the GNWT's engagement session with non-government organizations (NGOs) was to have an open dialogue and gather input for the NWT chapter to ensure that our goals and priorities are identified and accurately reflected.

The session was organized around a number of agenda items to support focussed and effective dialogue regarding the following:

- Overview of the federal *Arctic Policy Framework* Initiative
- Development of the NWT chapter with an initial focus on three interrelated potential themes: Theme 1: Healthy People, Health Communities; Theme 2: Economic Prosperity; and, Theme 3: Infrastructure.

The session with Non-Government Organizations included a total of seven (7) participants representing the following organizations and interests:

- Alternatives North
- Canadian Arctic Resources Committee
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness
- Women's rights and interests
- NWT community governments

1.3 Report Purpose and Structure

The '*What We Heard*' Session Summary Report is comprised of two sections: Session background and purpose; Overview of the federal; Arctic Policy Framework initiative; Development of the NWT chapter; and Post Session Reference Materials Submissions. The structure of the report is summarized below.



Section	Contents
Section 1.0	The session background, purpose and objectives are contained in this section.
Section 2.0	Section 2 contains a synthesis of the key points from presentations and discussion organized by specific agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Item #2: Development of the NWT Chapter <i>Theme 1: Healthy People, Health Communities</i> <i>Theme 2: Economic Prosperity</i> <i>Theme 3: Infrastructure</i> • Participant observations on the additional preliminary APF themes identified by the federal government. • Agenda Item #3: Next Steps: Process for Developing the NWT Chapter
Appendices	
Appendix A	Post Session Reference Materials Submissions



2.0 AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION KEY POINTS

2.1 Agenda Item #2: Development of the NWT Chapter

The non-government participants made a number of observations and statements that are important but may not necessarily fall under a specific theme. This includes a number of observations regarding the NWT Chapter:

- It is recognized that the GNWT 'holds the pen', but the chapter should represent the entire NWT and not just a GNWT perspective. The chapter needs to speak for all the people.
- The NWT chapter should avoid focusing largely on infrastructure and the economy (and make the assumption that other needs will be met). There also needs to be a link to the broader Indigenous reconciliation process.
- There is a need to change the sequence of the APF themes in the NWT chapter, as currently the policy areas are not aligned.
- Community governments need more recognition and profile as a level of government in the NWT chapter.

Supplementary details and theme-specific observations were provided by Dr. Bob Bromley, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee after the session, in support of the discussion. The references are: Edward Struzik, *Red Alert for the Future Arctic*, article published in *The Conversation* (January 1, 2018); and, Larry Elliott, Economics editor, *The Guardian*, 22 and 23 January 2018. Articles published on *Global Inequality*. See Appendix C: Post Session Reference Materials Submission)

2.1.1 Theme 1: Healthy People, Health Communities

In what areas do NWT communities most need federal engagement and funding to support healthy people and healthy communities?

Equality and Gender Based Perspective

- Decision making gender-based analysis is needed in programming and investment decisions. Women carry the burden of 'development', with little to no benefit. This results in negative impacts on families and communities.
- Consensus-style government model does not enable or encourage women to engage in politics. Additionally, there need to be changes to the electoral system to move away from the 'first past the post model'.
- Decisions need to be made in the NWT - by communities and Indigenous governments to strengthen taking a holistic and systems-wide approach to sustainable communities and regions.
- Sustainable communities are defined by a holistic and whole ecosystem understanding – with everyone having a place. An ecosystem view equals self-sustainability and sufficiency.



Health and Housing (shelter)

- There is a need for additional investments that increase individual and community health, i.e. emergency shelters, homeless shelters and access to mental health and addictions services.

Food Security and Cost of Living

- Continue to assess ways to lower cost of food and cost of living (food insecurity is a key issue in small communities linked to incidence of low income and poverty).

Funding Community Programs

- Existing program funding models not effective for NWT, such as family violence funding (e.g., on and off reserve) in part due to methodology and criteria to define an 'Aboriginal community'.
- There needs to be a stronger understanding of the distinction between 'equity' and 'equality'.
- Stronger recognition of the higher cost of delivering programs and services in the NWT, including additional factors and cost drivers in small and remote communities.
- More understanding by funding agencies of the diversity within and across communities in the NWT and how that impacts the design and delivery of programs and services.
- Need a broad-based perspective on programs and services, many of which are intended to address interrelated issues.

Capitalism Based Economic Model

- Corporate control of governments and public policy has resulted in a lack of needed social and economic change. The neo liberalism myth of trickle down economic theory results in little local benefits. Additionally, governments have engaged in policies of declining corporate tax rates, and contribute to a 'race to the bottom'.
- Discussion is needed of the potential of a guaranteed minimum income model to meet basic needs in the NWT.



Education and Capacity Building

- A key area should be further investment in early childhood development as a foundation for later life.
- We need to come to terms with the reality of notable capacity issues and ‘invest’ in ourselves and build capacity and skills. Respect and support the knowledge that exists within communities.
- There are significant benefits to additional investment into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for girls.
- Work and meaningful employment/occupations is still the key to healthy and sustainable communities.

2.1.2 Theme 2: Economic Prosperity

Where are federal investments, engagement or support most needed to help diversify and expand sustainable development of the NWT economy?

Responsible and Sustainable Economic Development

- The historical and current focus on non-renewable resource development reflects inadequate attention to the larger public interest. Revenue generation from exploitation of public resources is not satisfactory, with the NWT (apparently) only collecting some $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of what it should from a royalties and tax fair regime perspective.
- There is a need for strong local economies that first and foremost meet the basic needs of local people. Production of local and regional needs to be the core objective. Investment in communities has a significant economic benefit based on the multiplier effect, where \$1 million expenditure creates 13 jobs (there is a lower impact with territorial and federal investments).
- Socio-economic agreement with industry not fulfilled, including unmet employment targets. Additionally, there is little to no consequence for industry.
- There is a need to address one unintended consequence of impact benefit agreements — the negotiated benefits are clawed back by government in program and services benefits. This results in a negative economic impact.
- The GNWT should focus less on its ‘identity’ and partner with federal resources to invest in communities. The GNWT is resisting devolving and sharing power with communities.



Supporting, Attracting and Developing Northern Businesses

- Support for and investment in locally owned business (not franchising) through additional incentives to be sustainable. There is large amount of independent analysis and data that supports this view.
- Look at co-ops and business incubator models given the small size of communities and market reach. Individual small business viability and sustainability is a challenge. We need to look at an economic system based on pooled resources and capacities.
- Foster co-operative and community development corporations implementing local ideas. Therefore, business development capital should be directed to local organizations.
- The economic opportunities include: Arts (represents a wide range that includes jewelry making) and artists in communities; Indigenous tourism; tourism infrastructure (i.e. accommodations, food preparation, support services); and, potentially a casino.

Capacity Building and Skills Development

- Additional recognition of and support for volunteer work and life skills learning and development (e.g., community gardens). There is a need to move away from jobs and think about ‘occupations’, in part due to the declining job market (due to rapid technology changes) that is and will continue to impact employment prospects.

2.1.3 Theme 3: Infrastructure

How should federal infrastructure investments be prioritized to maximize benefits to the most communities, reduce the cost of living in the NWT and grow the economy?

Comprehensive Planning and Capacity Building

- Commitment to responsible and evidence-based infrastructure investment decisions in everything from day care facilities, to long-term care facilities and other ‘critical infrastructure’ to ensure that public needs are met and that they are sustainable from initial feasibility and life-cycle costing, to capital investment through operations and maintenance funding.
- Projects that require southern contractors’ expertise (that may not be available in the NWT) need to build into contracts’ operations and maintenance phase educational opportunities and training for local people and businesses.
- Investment decisions need to balance values-based model and business-case model in decision-making, but communities have limited resources (due to chronic historical under funding) to make changes, i.e. renewable energy decisions.



- Reassess the trend to 'P3' projects as advocated by the new federal infrastructure bank in light of past experience and documented impacts. This includes the new Stanton Hospital – GNWT should not be pushed into this model on future projects.
- Community infrastructure bidding process – what can/should be done at local/regional level, i.e. contract design and sub-component bidding.

Utilities and Information Infrastructure

- Further investment in information-related infrastructure to create a range of opportunities – economic, educational and social. This type of infrastructure is enabling to a diverse range of current and potential opportunities.

Arctic Policy Framework Supplementary Themes

2.1.4 Theme 4: Arctic Science and Indigenous Knowledge

Setting the Research Agenda and Priorities

- Elders and Indigenous knowledge: Increasingly elders are less willing to participate in research projects as the earned money impacts their Canada Pension Plan payments. There is a need to address this issue and look at options on how to accommodate this concern.
- There is a need for a more unfettered funding model for research. Larger (and external) interests set the model that impacts the Arctic research agenda and community based priorities. There continues to be questions regarding the ownership of research information/data, particularly traditional knowledge.
- Further and sustained investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for girls.

2.1.5 Theme 5: Protecting the Environment and Preserving Arctic Biodiversity

Environmental Issues and Communities

- *Climate change impacts:* A serious public discussion is needed on the impacts of climate change and how all levels of government and other interests can work in partnership to make responsible decisions on what needs to be done to mitigate and adapt to the array of serious impacts which are already evident across the NWT. This needs to include (but is not limited to) addressing: Bring funding options together, i.e. on-the-land programs, guardianship programs, health landscapes, community conservation program; mitigation from wildfires; caribou herds and habitat; invasive species
- Full and comprehensive assessment of potential environmental impacts of any proposed new infrastructure projects (and remediation or decommissioning of existing and legacy infrastructure and abandoned sites).



2.1.6 Theme 6: The Arctic in a Global Context

Implementing the International Dimension of the Arctic Policy Framework

- International trade agreements are about local laws; therefore, large impacts and risk of being sued undermines sovereignty (including the rights of Indigenous governments). Governments are losing control and ability to protect public interest such as labour laws, wage standards and environment standards.
- There are potential opportunities to advance the concept of a University of the North (the Arctic) and the necessary infrastructure through collaboration with other circumpolar nations and achieving economies of scope and scale.
- International climate change agreements: Canada and the NWT alignment not meeting agreed to reduction targets.

Emergency Response

- Recognizing and managing the potential impact of increased shipping with the opening of the Northwest Passage and the risk of lower navigation standards.
- The Canadian Arctic jurisdictions may be called upon to respond to circumpolar emergency situations. However, at present has limited capacity and infrastructure to respond in an adequate and timely way.

2.2 Agenda Item #3: Next Steps: Process for Developing the NWT Chapter

The GNWT will be posting the Discussion Guide and *What We Heard* reports on the GNWT website, and will be giving people an opportunity to provide written submissions. Participants will receive an e-mail with the web link once the site is available. Additionally, the following resource information and web links are available.

Additional Engagement Resources and Web Links

Crown and Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) web links:

- <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1503687877293/1503687975269> (English)
- <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fra/1503687877293/1503687975269> (French)

Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development:

<http://anothernterritorialvision.ca/documents/17-191%20Pan%20Territorial%20Vision.pdf>



**APPENDIX A: PRE AND POST SESSION REFERENCE
MATERIALS SUBMISSIONS**



**Post- Session Submission: Red Alert for The Future Arctic
Dr. Bob Bromley, the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee**

A Red Alert for the Future Arctic

Edward Struzik, January 1, 2018

Queen's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, Ontario

<https://theconversation.com/a-red-alert-for-the-future-arctic-89122>

Disclosure statement

Edward Struzik is a fellow at Queen's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy in the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University. He is on the board of Directors of the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, a citizen's organization dedicated to the long term environmental and social well-being of the Canadian Arctic and its peoples. The organization was born more than forty years ago as a response to the first Mackenzie Valley pipeline proposal, the Berger Inquiry, and cumulative environmental impact for the Joint Panel Review of the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. Board members include four university academics, as well as former political and social justice leaders from the Canadian North. The board position is non-paying.

Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod was right when he issued a [“red alert”](#) in November and called for an urgent national debate on the future of the Northwest Territories. His peers, the premiers of Nunavut and the Yukon Territory, would be justified in calling for the same thing.

As [housing](#), [poverty](#) and [unemployment](#) statistics show, Northerners are at a crossroads in their efforts to find a balance between a traditional way of life that puts country food on the table and one that provides basic goods, luxuries and economic opportunities that most southerners take for granted.

McLeod, however, was wrong in complaining about a [“colonial” attack](#) on the future of oil and gas development in the Arctic.

If the past tells us anything about the future, forging the Arctic's future on fossil fuel development is not the way to move forward.

Leading energy experts have been saying this since 2006, when international energy consultants Wood Mackenzie and Fugro Robertson questioned “the long-considered view that [the Arctic represents one of the last great oil and gas frontiers](#) and a strategic energy supply cache” for the U.S. and Canada.

Sliding into the sea

In Canada, Arctic oil and gas has offered no significant returns since the late 1960s when the Canadian government engineered a plan to consolidate the interests of 75 companies with holdings in the Arctic. As a major shareholder in Panarctic Oil and Gas, and then Petro-Canada, the government used its resources, regulatory control and taxpayer money to encourage oil and gas exploration in the region.



Since then, government subsidization of Arctic oil and gas development has continued unabated at a very high cost. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Bob McLeod, premier of the Northwest Territories, disagree over the future of Arctic oil and gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick

In 2008, the federal government [launched a program](#) to bring petroleum geologists to the Arctic each year. To date, this program has spent nearly \$200 million of taxpayers' money to help the energy and mining industries find new sources of fossil fuels and minerals in the region with very limited success.

Another \$16 million was spent to find ways to extract natural gas from [methane hydrates in the Mackenzie Delta](#), a resource the energy industry has showed little interest in because of the [technical and economic challenges](#) associated with extracting it.

The recently completed \$300 million Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, built on rapidly melting permafrost, is another example of this misguided government strategy. According to a study done by the Northwest Territories government, it promises to save the town of Tuktoyaktuk \$1.5 million in cost-of-living deliveries, and increase tourism — a good thing if it weren't for the fact that the town of 900 is sliding into the sea.

Its main purpose, however, was to support energy development. It promises to deliver between [\\$347 million and \\$516 million](#) in increased cash flows from transportation savings over 45 years to resource companies operating in the Arctic.

The problem is that none of this Arctic oil and gas has ever made it to market, with one exception: A few shiploads of oil that Panarctic sent out from Melville Island in the 1980s.

Breaking even

Many have blamed the failure of Canada's Arctic oil and gas strategy on [Justice Thomas Berger's Mackenzie Valley Pipeline inquiry](#) in the mid-1970s.

[Berger's report recommended](#) a 10-year moratorium on pipeline construction in the Mackenzie Valley so that First Nations could resolve their land claims with the federal government. It also led to the creation of a complex permitting process, which has slowed approvals for a more recent pipeline construction project.

The inquiry cast Berger as a symbol of environmental and social justice with his recognition of Indigenous rights.

Chief Justice Thomas Berger listens to testimony in March 1974 in Yellowknife at a federal inquiry into the development of a natural gas pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley. CP PHOTO

But the real reason why Arctic oil and gas has never made it south is because of the high cost of piping it over land or shipping it by sea to market.

The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project that Justice Berger considered in the 1970s was touted as [“the biggest project in free enterprise history.”](#)



Had it been built, it would have been an economic disaster. Bob Blair, the Calgary-based entrepreneur who wanted to build one of two proposed pipelines, suggested as much years later when he [wondered why anyone would try again to ship Arctic oil and gas south](#).

The second Mackenzie Valley pipeline would have fared even worse. First proposed in 2004, the pipeline would have required gas prices to be in the range of \$6 to \$8 to break even.

That looked good in the years that followed when gas prices temporarily soared to nearly \$15 in June 2008. Since then, however, the price has sat largely in the range of \$2 to \$6. The cost of the \$20 billion pipeline would now need gas prices to triple from current rates to recoup its cost. That's why Imperial Oil, its main proponent, received permission to delay the project until 2022 at the earliest.

In the meantime, Canadian governments have seemed oblivious to the fact that human-caused climate change — largely due to the burning of fossil fuels — is ending the Arctic as we know it. Since the 1970s, air temperatures in the Arctic have risen by as much as 5°C and sea ice area has declined by about 12 per cent per decade.

The ripple effect

A warmer and shorter ice season means some polar bears have less time to hunt seals, and mosquitoes and flies have more time to [take their toll on caribou](#), whose populations are at a historic low.

As sea levels continue to rise, powerful storm surges are causing massive saltwater intrusions, imperiling the freshwater lakes, wetlands and deltas that support tens of millions of nesting birds.

Soon low-lying coastal Inuit communities such as Tuktoyaktuk, sitting on rapidly thawing permafrost, will have to be relocated, like residents of the [Alaskan community of Shishmaref](#) have voted to do.

Rising sea levels and thawing permafrost threaten Arctic coastal communities, including Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T, seen here in August 2009. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

We are already seeing the rippling effects of some of these changes throughout the Arctic ecosystem.

Capelin, not Arctic cod, is now the dominant prey fish in Hudson Bay. Killer whales, once largely absent from the Arctic, are beginning to prey on narwhal and beluga, important food sources for the Inuit. Polar bears at the southern end of their range are getting thinner and producing fewer cubs. Trees and shrubs are overtaking tundra landscapes. [Sub-Arctic forests are burning bigger, hotter and more often](#).

What the future holds for Inuit and First Nations peoples of the north, whose cultures grew out of a close association with this frigid world, is a puzzle.

Those cultures are already in a state of rapid economic reorganization and social readjustment. Most of these people continue to live in overcrowded houses. They have stopped or reduced their consumption of caribou, walrus and other Arctic animals, not because they prefer store-bought beef



and pork but because the caribou populations are collapsing, and the receding sea ice makes it difficult for them to hunt marine mammals.

Steered by Northerners

What will the future Arctic look like? That is a wide-open question that can only be answered by debates steered by northerners.

Here's a list of topics worth discussing. Oil and gas development isn't one of them.

The Canadian Arctic needs an affordable and efficient air and road network that can bring in tourists and investors.

It needs museums to display artifacts — such as those in the recently discovered Franklin ships — that have been routinely shipped south.

It needs food security that goes beyond subsidizing the transportation of southern foods to the North.

It needs renewable energy to replace diesel, which is prohibitively expensive and polluting.

It needs a better form of post-secondary education that combines traditional knowledge with western scientific knowledge — and a way to convince its best students to stay home, instead of relocating to the south.

It needs a forward-looking ecological conservation plan that will ensure a future for polar bears, caribou, walrus, narwhal, beluga and other Arctic species.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Nathan Denette

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's decision to temporarily [ban future oil and gas exploration in the Arctic](#) in December 2016 was a good start to setting a new course for the North.

So was Mary Simon's report "[A New Shared Arctic Leadership Model](#)." It makes 40 recommendations, many of which have been made several times in the past four decades.

Now it's time to find new ways of moving forward with a road map to the future that will lead to economic advancement and improvements in the quality of life that Northerners long for and deserve.

The oil and gas industry has tried and failed for more than 40 years to make a contribution. It doesn't deserve to be part of this future.



Post- Session Submission: Inequality **Dr. Bob Bromley, the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee**

Inequality gap widens as 42 people hold same wealth as 3.7bn poorest

Larry Elliott, Economics editor, The Guardian, Monday 22 Jan 2018

https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jan/22/inequality-gap-widens-as-42-people-hold-same-wealth-as-37bn-poorest?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=GU+Today+main+NEW+H+categories&utm_term=261344&subid=24827534&CMP=EMCNEWEML6619I2

The development charity [Oxfam](#) has called for action to tackle the growing gap between rich and poor as it launched a new report showing that 42 people hold as much wealth as the 3.7 billion who make up the poorest half of the world's population.

In a report published on Monday to coincide with the gathering of some of the world's richest people at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Oxfam said billionaires had been created at a record rate of one every two days over the past 12 months, at a time when the bottom 50% of the world's population had seen no increase in wealth. It added that 82% of the global wealth generated in 2017 went to the wealthiest 1%.

The charity said it was “unacceptable and unsustainable” for a tiny minority to accumulate so much wealth while hundreds of millions of people struggled on poverty pay. It called on world leaders to turn rhetoric about inequality into policies to tackle tax evasion and boost the pay of workers.

Mark Goldring, Oxfam GB chief executive, said: “The concentration of extreme wealth at the top is not a sign of a thriving economy, but a symptom of a system that is failing the millions of hardworking people on poverty wages who make our clothes and grow our food.”

Booming global stock markets have been the main reason for the increase in wealth of those holding financial assets during 2017. The founder of Amazon, [Jeff Bezos, saw his wealth rise by \\$6bn \(£4.3bn\) in the first 10 days of 2017](#) as a result of a bull market on Wall Street, making him the world's richest man.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and world's richest man, arrives at the 75th annual Golden Globe awards. Photograph: Michael Buckner/Variety/Rex Shutterstock

Oxfam said it had made changes to its wealth calculations as a result of new data from the bank Credit Suisse. Under the revised figures, 42 people hold as much wealth as the 3.7 billion people who make up the poorer half of the world's population, compared with 61 people last year and 380 in 2009. At the time of last year's report, [Oxfam said that eight billionaires held the same wealth as half the world's population.](#)



The charity added that the wealth of billionaires had risen by 13% a year on average in the decade from 2006 to 2015, with the increase of \$762bn (£550bn) in 2017 enough to end extreme poverty seven times over. It said nine out of 10 of the world's 2,043 dollar billionaires were men.

Goldring said: “For work to be a genuine route out of poverty we need to ensure that ordinary workers receive a living wage and can insist on decent conditions, and that women are not discriminated against. If that means less for the already wealthy then that is a price that we – and they – should be willing to pay.”

An Oxfam survey of 70,000 people in 10 countries, including the UK, showed support for action to tackle inequality. Nearly two-thirds of people – 72% in the UK – said they want their government to urgently address the income gap between rich and poor in their country.

In the UK, when asked what a typical British chief executive earned in comparison with an unskilled worker, people guessed 33 times as much. When asked what the ideal ratio should be, they said 7:1. Oxfam said that FTSE 100 bosses earned on average 120 times more than the average employee.

Goldring said it was time to rethink a global economy in which there was excessive corporate influence on policymaking, erosion of workers' rights and a relentless drive to minimise costs in order to maximise returns to investors.

Mark Littlewood, director general at the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: “Oxfam is promoting a race to the bottom. Richer people are already highly taxed people – reducing their wealth beyond a certain point won't lead to redistribution, it will destroy it to the benefit of no one. Higher minimum wages would also likely lead to disappearing jobs, harming the very people Oxfam intend to help.”

