

## **Scottish Parliament CPG on International Development**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 18:00-19:15 pm**

### **Glasgow Climate Dialogues and Look Ahead to COP26**

*\*Please note that it is not the intention of the minutes to record a verbatim account.*

**MSP Attendees:** Sarah Boyack MSP, Karen Adam MSP, Maggie Chapman MSP, Colette Stevenson MSP, John Mason MSP, Mark Ruskell MSP, Maurice Golden MSP, Graham Simpson MSP,

**MSP Apologies:** Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Foysoyl Choudhury MSP, Alasdair Allan MSP

**Member Organisation list:** Scotland's International Development Alliance, ACTSA, Leprosy Mission Scotland, Link Education International, Secure Scotland, Clean Water Wave, Comfort International, Corra Foundation, Dundee university, IIED, SCIAF, Tearfund Scotland, , Thrive, Unicef UK, University of Dundee, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, Water Witness International

**Individual List:** Peter McColl, Guy Ingerson, Hamish Goldie-Scot

**Non-member Organisation List:** Catherine Currie consulting Ltd, Engineering Outcomes, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada; Consultation Institute, Church of Scotland, National Justice & Peace Commission

**In attendance:** Lucy Ssendi, Kenya ( Glasgow Dialogues); Alastair Dutton SCIAF, Professor Saleemal Huq ICCDA, Bangladesh, Eunis Jassemi (representing Foysoyl Choudhury MSP)

**Welcome:** Sarah Boyack opened the meeting and welcomed everyone especially the speakers who had joined to update the committee on the outcomes of the Glasgow Dialogues

**Election of officials.** Lewis Ryder-Jones of Scotland's International Development Alliance chaired the meeting temporarily to call for nominations for convenor of the parliamentary group. Karen Adam nominated Sarah Boyack as convenor. This was seconded by Maggie Chapman. Colette Stevenson nominated Karen Adam to be deputy convenor. This was seconded by Sarah Boyack. Sarah Boyack then proposed that Scotland's International Development Alliance remain as the secretariat to the group.

**Sarah Boyack** then led the meeting as convenor and started by introducing the 3 speakers; Alastair Dutton from SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) as chair of the Glasgow Climate Task Force: Dr Lucy Ssendi from Kenya and Professor Saleem al Huq from Bangladesh.

**Alastair Dutton** representing the Glasgow Climate Task Force (with representatives from the Scottish Government, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, from organisations in the global south including experts from Malawi, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Ghana) introduced background information on the Glasgow Dialogues. He highlighted the four key topics of discussion:

- Access and participation
- Adaptation
- Finance for loss and damage
- Just Transition

Al also noted that the Dialogues were funded by the Scottish government and he encouraged the government to promote the final communique. (link at the end of these minutes)

Al pointed out that it is essential that voices from the global south are heard at COP26 as the most important voices to be listened to. He noted that climate justice is about global solidarity which means reflecting on the opportunities to learn from the real experts at the sharp end. On this issue it is the global south that can teach the rest of the world. It is essential that the Scottish government can speak confidently about more than Scotland's own attempts at mitigating the impacts of climate change. The Paris agreement includes important commitments to help finance adaptation and help compensate people for the harm already done. Scottish climate justice fund is a good example of a unique contribution. Scottish government can play an important role at COP 26 by speaking about adaptation and loss and damage. The Glasgow dialogues communique should give the government the ability and confidence to talk about these issues. Al urged MSPs to consider how the communique can be best disseminated in the run up to COP26 and asked MSPs to sign up to the motion proposed by Fiona Hyslop MSP and to participate in the ensuing debate around the motion.

**Lucy Ssendi** presented the key outcomes of the Glasgow Dialogues. She started by explaining that the invitation to participate in the Dialogues was at once an honour and a daunting proposition, given the need to represent wide views and also because of potential internet connectivity problems. Lucy shared the outcomes of the four themes.

Access and participation: global south voice asked that plans are made to ensure access building on lessons learnt from Covid, including plans for remote participation in addition to provisions to encourage physical participation.

Adaptation; developed countries must meet the \$100 bn annual finance promised as a 50:50 split between adaptation and mitigation. This commitment should be in the form of grants. We need to see global finance commitments beyond 2025 with improved access to finance for developing countries and small island states with easier access and finance that is responsive to the needs and rights of the disadvantaged.

Loss and damage: the Glasgow dialogues confirmed that loss and damage effects the coming generation and the most vulnerable most and needs to be finalised as a 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Just transition; the Glasgow dialogues call for recognition of the differentiation between the north and the south and recognising the right to development in the global south in the context of an infinite planet in order to avoid repeating the destructive path of the global north. Workers rights should be upheld and workers should participate in decisions that will affect them.

Lucy said that she was encouraged by Scotland's commitment to climate justice and hoped that the voices of the global south would continue to be listened to.

**Saleemal Huq**, Director of International centre for climate change and development in Bangladesh, noted that he had attended all 25 COPs so far and was looking forward to the 26<sup>th</sup>. He noted that he was an expert in locally led adaptation. Saleem shared some thoughts coming out of the discussion on Loss and Damage during the Glasgow Dialogues. He noted that although the COP had been postponed climate change had kept on happening and impacted many communities all around the world, including in richer countries. In addition the working group on science report published in August 2021 had for the first time acknowledged that climate change is happening as an attributable result of the rise of carbon emissions.. Saleem noted that it is the severity of such events that is the problem although he also noted that Bangladesh has bigger floods than were seen in Germany and the US but did not have any deaths because they were better at taking adaptation measures. Saleem suggested that there was more to do by Scotland to encourage exchanges of such good practices from the global south.

On Loss and Damage, Saleem noted that discussions were not progressing because rich countries were avoiding the reality of liability and compensation. He noted that there had been some slow progress in setting up the Warsaw Convention and the Santiago Network on loss and damage. But he warned that approving implementation of the Santiago network was a very low achievement if that is all that is achieved at the Glasgow COP, something that so far the UK government seems content with. Saleem noted that separate finance is needed for loss and damage to support those most affected. Talking about insurance is also not sufficient as poor people can't afford to insure themselves. There is a need to raise finance for loss and damage.

Saleem asked that MSPs might convene a separate meeting on loss and damage outside the formality of the UNFCCC, including interested foundations and governments. He urged the Scottish parliament to help tackle the climate injustice of loss and damage.

Sarah Boyack thanked the presenters, not least for the challenge to think more about loss and damage. She noted the strong interest demonstrated by the high level of MSP attendance.

**Discussion:** In response to a question **Sarah asked Alastair Dutton if he had any thoughts on what more Scotland should be doing.** Al noted that the industrial revolution started in the central belt in Scotland and that we have a clear responsibility for the harm that has been caused. He noted that the climate justice fund has so far been adaptation funds only. We know that there are already people in the small island states in particular who are having to move because of climate

change and that we need to increase our funding as Scotland's share of the damage caused is more than the collective funds of the total development spend. As an outcome from COP 26 we could have a target figure for loss and damage (beyond the \$100 bn already committed)

Saleem went further to **suggest that Scotland could use the climate justice fund to create some seed funding for a potential future fund on loss and damage.** If it were possible to convene a separate meeting, including like-minded governments and foundations, this could initiate a discussion on raising funds for loss and damage. **He also suggested that the First Minister might invite the prime minister of Bangladesh as leadership of the most vulnerable countries forum, Sheikh Hassina, to a separate meeting while she is in Glasgow to discuss how to raise finance for loss and damage.** Saleem noted that PM Hassina has been promoting the issue as in need of serious discussion.

Sarah Boyack noted that such ideas deserved to be listened to. She asked Lucy what action the Scottish Government could take.

**Lucy said that the Scottish Government could support locally led adaptation.** This would bring adaptation to the most affected.

In answer to a question on what might be a **good method to share knowledge from south to north,** Saleem noted that he was already in touch with some **Scottish universities and that there are always lessons to share from local adaptors around the world.** He noted that he would be happy to explore with **others, beyond universities, when he is in Glasgow.** He also noted that the climate justice fund could support research in this area.

Sarah Boyack noted that perhaps Saleem could also meet representatives of the finance sector in Scotland.

**Karen Adam MSP asked Lucy what more could be done to help women as amongst the most affected.** Lucy noted that supporting local adaptation was a good way to address gender inequalities as strengthening the local level gives opportunities to the most disadvantaged. She agreed that engaging in collaborative research was a good first step but that strengthening locally led inclusive adaptation is the best way forward. Lucy noted that she also is coming to Scotland and will be happy to meet others.

**Mark Ruskell MSP asked what interventions could best be made by those with access to the blue zone.** Saleem noted that influencing the negotiations is very difficult unless you already have an inside track to influence them. Lobbying the UK COP presidency might be the best way to influence in the short term.

**Maggie Chapman MSP asked about measuring all of Scotland's emissions in the supply chain.** Sarah Boyack noted that there were a number of key issues in the chat box. **In the limited time available Sarah asked Al Hutton what global north organisations could best do in solidarity.** Al said that we had to keep facilitating others to speak, including how to help those coming from civil society groups in the global south get their views across. Al noted that the 2 page summary

communicate from the Glasgow Dialogues is a good step. There is a need to help those with first hand knowledge access those who are most influential in the negotiations.

**Sarah Boyack noted that Simon Anderson IIED had suggested that Scottish MSPs could host other parliamentarians and said that she would share the Glasgow dialogue communique with the Commonwealth parliamentary group.**

She also noted that **MSPs can help with the kind of language they used as well as support Fiona Hyslop's motion in parliament and share the communique with their colleagues and networks.** She thanked Lucy and Saleem for their impactful presentations and Alastair for all his hard work and the Alliance for helping create a successful CPG meeting.

Sarah Boyack noted that the next planned meeting on 16 March would be an opportunity to follow up.

### **Links that were shared in the chat that might be useful:**

Glasgow Dialogues communique: <https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Communique-Glasgow-Climate-Dialogues.pdf>

Glasgow dialogues general info: <https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/campaign/glasgow-climate-dialogues/>

The video on the Glasgow dialogues that was shown: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yH3O584Emu8&ab\\_channel=sccscotland](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yH3O584Emu8&ab_channel=sccscotland)

Fiona Hyslop's motion <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01490>

### **Issues raised in the discussion:**

The IPCC report from August: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

locally led adaptation: <https://www.iied.org/principles-for-locally-led-adaptation>

Professor Saleem's newspaper column: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/politics-climate-change/news/combating-climate-change-needs-business-unusual-approach-2191441>

The UK's share of emissions; [https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/FairShareUK\\_Infographic.pdf](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/FairShareUK_Infographic.pdf)

The climate vulnerable forum: <https://thecvf.org/>

Children's risk register: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/childrens-climate-risk-index-report/>