



## COP 26 Mobilisation Planning Meeting

2pm-4pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh

### Action Points & Important decisions

- Next 'Big Coalition' events: 28<sup>th</sup> January in Glasgow and 30<sup>th</sup> January in London.
- Scottish Government External Stakeholder meeting on COP26 on 4<sup>th</sup> February; this is the best way to influence Government thinking. Limited places, [sign up here](#).
- **Next Alliance meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 11am-1pm at the City Chambers, Edinburgh** (courtesy of the Scotland Malawi Partnership)
- **Next meeting to focus on inputs and resources.** What resources can be obtained? What can be pooled and for what activities/outputs?
- Alliance **staff to re-word position statement** based on feedback. See separate doc [here](#).
- **Members to assist in mapping activities** surrounding COP. This needs to be done so we can be aware of what is happening in the run up and during COP. These include:
  - All useful major events between now and November 2020
  - What resources can be pooled, e.g photo/film exhibition costs.
  - Which Alliance members are registered for COP 26 official badges? Can we coordinate?
  - What Alliance members plan for events etc. What organisations are planning and who they are approaching? We need to look at coordinating efforts so that it is a connected and coherent plan of activities.

### Summary of Agenda Items

#### 1. Overview of actions since last meeting

- Involvement in COP26 has had a breadth of interest from Alliance members, with requests to get involved in mobilisation as early as October 2019. So far, 51 individuals have gotten in involved from 34 organisations.
- The Alliance has now applied for observer badges are awaiting response on the outcome of their application.
- The Alliance has applied to become members of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS).
- SCVO are potentially keen to open up their office spaces in Glasgow to civil society organisations during COP
- Inquiries have been made for potential venues in Glasgow to provide space for an Alliance 'hub'. Contact has been made with the Arches & SWG3 in Glasgow. We are currently on the waiting list for the Warehouse space in SWG3. Both venues provide technical support, cost between £3-3.5k per day, and require advance payments.
- In exploring venues for an exhibition event before COP, Alliance staff have also found that The Lighthouse in Glasgow is also available for the duration of COP. The price is £635+VAT.

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## 2. Update from SCCS and Big Coalition – what else is going on?

- SCCS are a coalition of over 50 organisations working in climate with strong climate focus. Members include trade unions, grass roots groups, international development organisations etc.
- Last year when COP26 was announced, SCCS moved from work on the most recent Climate Act straight into COP planning. There were 8 members of SCCS at COP 25 in Madrid to find out how COP worked and how they could apply what they saw to COP in Glasgow. It was challenging to see that not much progress was made
- SCCS' draft priorities for COP:
  - build and diversify the movement
  - domestic policy leverage
  - international advocacy
  - influence sub state actors
  - welcome to global civil society
  - support members to engage with COP
- SCCS have secured funding to do practical actions such as building their new COP fringe events website. SCCS have secured venues, and are willing to open some out to others – conversation to be had.
- While there is a big policy element of the work they do, they do not have any 'hard' policy asks yet.
- SCCS is not the right group to represent all civil society organisations at COP.
- As Scottish Government won't be represented in the discussions, there is lots of collaboration going on – a 'big coalition' of a UK and Scottish civil society
- Next events = 28<sup>th</sup> January in Glasgow and 30<sup>th</sup> January in London. These events are still very much still in emergence, but key aims are to influence COP as best as we can. There is a hope that policy demands are democratically created
- A Committee is being created which will be populated by people from different constituencies. There also are 6 key working groups: logistics, communications, arts and culture, legacy mobilisations, fundraising, political strategy and international solidarity

## 3. Update from Scottish Government Climate Team

- Plans for COP are not advanced as hoped - due to a small team and big events in December such as COP25 and UK election
- Scottish Government are now setting up governance structures, for instance an executive board meeting was held in January.
- They have four work streams: security, transport, communication and policy work streams. They have had to prioritise safety, security and transport, but policy work – where the Alliance will have an 'in - is coming into being.
- Their objectives mirror UK government which are:
  - Green finance
  - Adaptation

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- Clean Growth
- Green finance
- With possible inclusion of gender and sub-national actors
- COP is a two-year programme rather than a 2-week event. COP itself, and then a subsequent year working on legacy.
- Activities for Scottish Communities including schools, civil societies, businesses are key.
- Scottish Government will be based at Glasgow Science Centre during COP but specifics have not been worked out
- Key aim is to create platform for Global South. Although Visa's can't be issued, Scot Gov are looking into how they can give this voice
- Scot Gov do not anticipate being in the official UN COP security area, but even if they are, they are looking into providing access. However, important to note the many external factors which influence this including security/terrorism threat etc.
- Stakeholder event is happening 4 February for external stakeholders; this is the best way to influence Government thinking. Proposals, ideas are welcome. May 2020 & beyond will be too late, so get involved now.

#### 4. Feedback from group discussions:

##### Group 1:

- Overall, position statement was good in having a focus on 'marginalised' voices and on solutions
  - **Outcomes:** more focus on getting voice of Global South out in terms of outcomes. A focus on what they actually need rather than what we think they need. Creating a sustainable platform on which these voices can be shared
  - **Deliverables:**
    - engineer presence of Global South physically or digitally. The group are unsure on logistics, but there were suggestions on roundtable events, solver networks (similar to roundtables but focused on problems and demonstrating success).
    - Having MP/MSP country champions – i.e. match an MP/MSP to a country in Global South and get them to meet with in-country representative to help them understand those countries, possibly link to the media

##### Group 2:

- Key concern – making sure our narrative has the same sustained energy/momentum that other climate groups have
- Making sure voices of Global South are captured, through ethical photography and filmmaking. Making sure we create positive messaging, not 'doom and gloom'
- Mission statement should be realistic in what we are trying to achieve. Alliance have a lobbying role ahead of 2021 election – utilising momentum of COP26 and moving it into lobbying further down the line

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- Broaden scope beyond Glasgow – making sure narrative isn't focused on Glasgow, utilising Scottish local media and local campaigners to make sure the focus is taking into account Scotland's whole geography
- Making sure we're reaching those who the messaging we have is focused on, focusing on impacts, making sure there are domestic consequences that need to be brought to life too.
- Outputs: similar timeframe of Scottish Government – two year, not two week. Possibility of holding event before and after COP
- Linking to other institutions to give credence to traditionally anecdotal stories – make these more quantifiable

### Group 3:

- Outcome: - ensuring voices from Global South are heard but as agents of change and solutions, not victims
- What do we mean by voices from Global South? We must take note of different subgroups e.g. smallholder farmers, marginalised sectors of society such as women, those with disabilities
- Outcome 2: increasing ambition and ensuring that we raise awareness of the wider Scottish public – outside of our direct membership network e.g. exhibition – trying to raise awareness of Scottish action on global scale and equip people with tools to do something about it
- Output: develop case studies to ensure voices are heard, ask members to tell us when their partners are coming to Scotland. E.g. Rice farmers are visiting Alliance member in May. This can also be done virtually.
  - Putting questions to those who actually live in Global South what *they* want from COP26 (in person or virtually through surveys), compile series of case studies using video, photo, text, etc.
  - Member blogs, Huw's background in media could be useful in creating member blogs/giving members ideas for what they can do
  - Photo exhibition
- Inputs: didn't get very far – financing and connections vital

Final thoughts: The idea of creating a 'Scotland challenge' where other countries can show that their commitment to the climate emergency is the same as Scotland's – what is our signature? What is our 'niche', our identity and how can we project that to the global platform?

- Suggestion to change the wording of our statement, taking 'poorest countries' away

### Group 4:

On the statement:

- Following on from the idea of language – need to move away from 'defeatism', not just about mitigation, but about adaptation too.
- Suggestion to add Scotland in there, make it clear that Scotland is a leader on this issue. Push it as a Scottish initiative.
- A connection between climate and the SDGs would be good to make.
- Perhaps more emphasis needed on the existential threat posed to all. Create a sense of urgency (at a recent meeting with the Scottish Government's External Affairs Dept, they were interested in that).

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- Adaptation: can we highlight this more? Combines amplifying voices from the global south, positive success stories AND creating a sense of urgency (as it focuses on those being affected as we speak).
- Avoid making it detached – this is not a “global south problem”. Someone reading this in Glasgow may not feel the necessary connection to the issue.

**Outcome:** Scotland as a leader but also as a subnational group, if the outcome of COP is bad, we could provide inspiration/motivation for other sub-state actors

- How do we bring the SDGs into the conversation?
- Key importance in creating digital spaces, leading across continents. Is there work to be done about a code of conduct? Offsetting?
- Emphasis on the universality of the climate emergency – Scotland can genuinely be a focal point as a sub-state actor, but at the same time focusing on universalising the problem
- Being as strategic as we can be in this year so by the time we come to the annual conference/COP we have digested fully what has happened between then and now – enhanced national contributions are to be published by end of year, and the UK's ambition to mitigation will have already have been published by COP. Focus on COP finance ambition through the prism of universality and justice, sub-state actors. This gives us something really coherent to talk about

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