



## **COP 26 Mobilisation Planning Meeting**

2pm-4pm Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

At Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation

High School Yards, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh EH1 1LZ

### Meeting Notes & Next Steps

#### **Action Points & Important decisions (in a rough (and subjective!) chronological order):**

- Organise to meet regularly. Next meeting date – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020, 2pm-4pm, venue: TBC depending on numbers
- Get agreement on a common position for the Alliance. This could focus around climate justice and human rights dimensions, building solidarity. Alliance staff to draft and agree at next meeting.
- Mapping exercises to be undertaken (any offers of help for any of these most welcome!):
  - All useful major events between now and November 2020
  - What resources can be pooled
  - Which Alliance members are already registered for COP 26?
  - 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.
- seek and obtain financial resources. Can we pool?
- Collect and share certain common materials – timetables, info on other initiatives underway
- Engage more members – promote main takeaways from this meeting in all Alliance Comms channels in early January
- Decide main activities based on available resources – commissioning film? Roadshow of exhibition? Lobbying?
- Assess feasibility of Alliance 'Hub' which provides a space/platform to bring our voices together. In Glasgow Science Centre with Scot Gov? At Glasgow Uni? Both?
- Alliance to convene meeting with University members
- Aligning with UK organisations e.g. Join efforts with BOND to write to Secretariat ask for 'passes' as the deadline for 31 August has gone. How are they going to give us access?
- Alliance Annual Conference 2020 confirmed as Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Theme will be Climate Change and COP. A potential flagship date to work towards?
- Align other alliance activities to COP, e.g photo comp and exhibition.
- Storyline connecting and mapping activities across the Alliance
- All engaged members need to help engage others within membership. 36 present at meeting out of over 200 members in total (including 165 organisational members)
- Alliance members working with partner organisations in the 'Global South' should urge partners to reach out to governments and advocate for issues on climate change.

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## Summary of Agenda Items

### 1. Background on COP

General information about the COP process, a little bit of history etc. – see supporting slides (delivered by Simon Anderson, IIED)

### 2. COP 25 Update

What happened in Madrid? (delivered Subhi Barakat, IIED)

Subhi's experience of COP 25 wasn't particularly inspiring. Main takeaway: Adaptation, Least developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) must come to the fore at COP 26; no new multi-lateral agreement to emerge from COP25 (as was the case with Paris in 2015). Main issues included: Loss and Damage (particularly relevant to SIDS); Mechanisms (to tackle loss and damage question); Ambition.

Essential issues to highlight to the UK organising committee: importance of transparency (re. the process; also re. closed meetings taking place within the overall event – certain nations excluded from this, led to discontentment among member states; results in certain voices being marginalised).

May East added that it's important to highlight that Italy will be hosting the Pre-COP and the Youth COP event.

Subhi added that the Pre-COP tends to be quite closed; this changed last year when Costa Rica hosted it and made it an open meeting; hopes that Italy will do the same in 2020 as it is important to have LDCs at the table.

Some useful links to useful sources on COP25 outcomes. These were:

- <https://www.climatechangenews.com/>
- <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/12/17/vulnerable-un-climate-talks-no-longer-fit-purpose/>
- [https://youtu.be/g3nuz1\\_Ani0](https://youtu.be/g3nuz1_Ani0)
- [www.ecbi.org](http://www.ecbi.org)

### 3. COP 26 Civil Society Planning overview

Ben Wilson (SCIAF and Chair of International group at [SCCS](#)) gave some context around how the UNFCCC formal events and the fringe events fit together. Each year civil society creates an alternative COP, which the SCCS coalition is aiming to help coordinate.

He emphasised it is important to discuss what the Alliance do in terms of supporting civil society to mobilise around the COP; and what can it do to influence the outcomes of the COP.

On COP 25, Ben said that some of the bigger INGOs (SCIAF, Oxfam, Friends of the Earth, etc.) attended with a view to understanding how the COP works, what the process is, how the fringe/carnival event fits into the wider event.

Ben said it was interesting to see how different individuals (Claire Perry and Roseanna Cunningham) placed more or less emphasis on Scotland as the host nation (as opposed to the UK); and suggests focusing particularly on Glasgow as the host (very fitting given the origins of its name; its history re slave trade; and rise and decline as an industrial centre, etc.).

He also emphasised that lots are keen to frontline the voices of people from the global south, and that we could be telling the Scottish Government there is room to champion the voices from the global south.

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COP will take place in SECC. You don't need to have a badge to be part of the COP. Lots going on outside the badged. Huge number of things for people to engage in.

#### 4. Group Discussions

##### i. General points

- A common voice is critical in demonstrating mass/weight, and mobilising others.
- The deadline to register for official badges for COP 26 was late August 2019; for that reason, we need to think very carefully about how we can maximise the opportunity available to us through those NGOs which are registered.
- Even if climate not their main focus, many organisations present feel they have something to offer, so mandate for Alliance action is clear based on attendance and main messages from those present.
- Each and every person and organisation in the Alliance has a network of partners, with things to say about climate and justice. For example, one member is part of the Via Campesina, which campaigns in favour of family farming and fair access to land. Given Scotland's own land ownership patterns, the work of VC resonates with work on getting fairer distribution of land in Scotland.
- We should be wary of "global north / south dichotomy": indigenous communities given lip-service by UNFCCC "people love local knowledge", but actually orgs turn a blind eye to human rights defenders suffering
- The aim should be "front line voices" (and specifically those who are marginalised) rather than simply "global south voices", because Governments can dilute and overshadow those who are left behind.
- History of Glasgow should be about people making connections, rather than focussing on the negotiations themselves
  - Universities have important role in linking with other universities in the global south. Universities should liaise rather than compete with each other; Scottish Funding Council could be approached with a view to securing funding to bring voices from Global South to the event; ensure that the roles are balanced where it comes to hearing voices – the South is not just portrayed as the victim; North is not just portrayed as being responsible for causing all the problems
- DFID are talking to the cabinet office team to look at fresh water and resilience as a key theme – they may put out a landmark publication for the event.

##### ii. Individual organisation's plans/updates

- Scotland Malawi Partnership: MaSP connection. 2050 climate group – keen to speak to 2050 group. Keen to support collective effort. Good links with MSPs and Scotland's MPs in terms of mapping to them what happens in their constituency in Malawi. Would be keen to synthesise a call to arms from each of the MPs and MSPs. Scotland Malawi Partnership is also very happy to help support visa applications for Malawi
- University of Edinburgh: Academics involved in high level discussions and fringe events; will establish a working group meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> in January (academics, snr management, student reps). 1. Academics will be involved through research; 2. Public engagement activity – potentially looking at an event series – possibly through arts, culture, festivals to engage with the public (Sept – Nov); 3. Opportunities for student learning (we have sponsored students in the past, given passes, etc.) working with the 2050 climate group.
- The Centre for the Sustainable Solutions at University of Glasgow is new and well-funded – it is primed to support stuff on COP, and is particularly interested in how the universities can work together.
- Nourish Scotland looking to do high-level side event 'Good Food for the World' - looking at the global food system to raise the voices of global voices.
- JTS – planning to walk the John Muir Way with rice farmers from Malawi late April/May. Will hold meetings along the Way with civil society groups to highlight the way that climate change is already affecting the farmers and to relate how they are responding and attempting to build more resilient communities. With the Scotland Malawi

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## Scotland's International Development Alliance

Partnership and Scottish Fair Trade Forum we will holding a a short conference in the Edinburgh City Chambers on May 6th, looking at issues around climate change, trade justice and sustainable development.

- Mercy Corps – member of [Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance](#) – a multi-sector partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities strengthen their resilience to floods globally (floods being one of the largest and most disruptive challenges of today).

### iii. Summary of discussion questions responses

#### a) How can we ensure voices from global south are heard when COP comes to Glasgow?

- Need to define 'Southern voices'. 'Global South' a very broad term (*too* broad). Essential to unpack e.g. Smallholder farmers; Youth; SIDS; and LDCs more broadly.
- It's a good thing to look at ourselves in the UK and not focus solely on 'global south' - we have a role to play – not let perpetrators of climate change off the hook so easily
- The COP fortnight will be a scrum, so it is better to find opportunities much earlier to shape the narrative and get voices heard.
- does this always mean people coming to Glasgow? what are the pros and cons, or might there be other means – video clips?
- Alliance should be bold and say we don't only want to be involved in the fringes, in the carnival. We should be involved in the 3 levels, 3 territories. Voices of global south need to be presented at all levels in all three territories – in the fringe, at credited events with NGOS/UNFCC and the ministerial negotiations level.
- Commonwealth Secretariat has a group called 'Women and Climate Change', which could provide another route to include Alliance members
- We are much stronger if we come together as a coalition.
- Could have an Alliance 'pavilion' or 'hub', which provides a space/platform to bring our voices together.
- Aligning with UK organisations e.g. Join efforts with BOND to write to Secretariat ask for 'passes' as the deadline for 31 August has gone.
- Scottish Government have booked the Science Centre for the duration of the conference, we could get it involved in this arena as well.
- find out how those 47 LDC countries could have access into the process.
- Alliance members working with partner organisations in the Global South should urge partners to reach out to governments and advocate for issues on climate change.
- 'Carnival/Fringe' aspect of the COP 26 isn't really organised; organisations are free to rent premises and put together their own events. IIED, for example, has organised 'Environment and Development' days (for the past 10 years or so) during COPs; brings in some of the negotiators involved in the formal COP proceedings to speak at these events.
- Funding will be important – what resources are available? Can we pool?

#### b) How can we use the COP to help us achieve our shared long-term objectives relating to international development in Scotland?

- Need to make sure that even the most marginalised have voices, even marginalised groups within the poorest countries. Can use as an opportunity to support non-traditional voices.
- Storyline connecting and mapping activities across the Alliance – this is what happens under our own roof, this is what our international partners are doing, this is how we want to influence the Scottish Government
- Language – the UK Government hate the term 'climate justice' - don't want to risk alienating them.
- These meetings are a form of network building and mobilisation

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Scotland's International Development Alliance  
4th Floor, Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ, UK  
+44 (0)131 281 0897 | [info@intdevalliance.scot](mailto:info@intdevalliance.scot) | [www.intdevalliance.scot](http://www.intdevalliance.scot)





- Think more of the COP as a *stepping-stone* to a further goal. What does participation do for us towards climate change work
- Most institutions want to get involved in events, but without long term agendas – let's not do this. How do we connect the events and use the outcomes going forward?
- “It affects everyone” is not the given narrative for everyone – how do we mainstream the conversation into every given sector. Develop and mainstream awareness that business as usual is going to be a lose-lose for everyone
- Promote the issue of the gaps between the predicted emissions and our policy targets (with low ambitions). (conditional and unconditional targets). I.e. low ambitions, high emissions – ‘close the gap’ a possible campaign name?

**c) What can the Alliance do together that will complement the work of other civil society groups?**

- Providing front line voices. That is what they want, and we can bring them. **And we have a duty to make sure it is relevant and real, not just lip-service.** We need to make sure we are cautious of that, and remind people in the wider network of that.
- **Needs to be more meaningful engagement. Need to also ensure that groups from the global south are genuinely engaged and understanding**
- Having a hub where civil society members can come and network and share news from the negotiations and wider activity in the fringe.
- Can offer a 'safe space' for Scottish civil society more widely
- Open agenda for people/organisations who don't have space on the formal agenda to host events
- Feeding into the '[Climate Action Network](#)' / [CAN International](#) – a worldwide network of over 1300 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in more than 120 countries, working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.
- The Alliance (as a part Scot gov funded umbrella body) is perhaps well placed (better placed than SCCS?) to attempt to host a space inside the Scot Government Science centre space, and also outside it to maximise opportunity to amplify the front line voices we have access to... Alliance should explore possibility of securing space within Glasgow Science Centre/finding out more about what is happening there
- Need to ensure that climate change is mainstreamed into every strand of international development; we need a long term agenda
- The Alliance should urge its members to do their own bit to lower emissions.

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