



SMP Annual Gathering and AGM 2020 with the President of Malawi, the First Minister of Scotland and Daliso Chaponda

Saturday 3rd October 2020

Digital Meeting

Minutes

On the 3rd of October 2020, the Scotland Malawi Partnership held its first digital Annual Gathering and AGM, with over 200 members and partners joining via Zoom. The meeting was split into 7 distinct sessions:

Session 1: Opening Remarks

Session 2: Seizing the Opportunities

Session 3: Covid-19 – Responding to the Challenge

Session 4: Build Back Better

Session 5: AGM Core Business

Session 6: Special Guest Performance – Daliso Chaponda

Session 7: Prizes and Closing Remarks

Session 1 – Opening Remarks

- **Welcome, Administration and Purpose of the Day** David Hope-Jones, CEO, SMP

Chief Executive of the SMP, David Hope-Jones, welcomed participants and laid out the agenda, themes and technical admin for the afternoon.

- **Chair's Welcome** Prof. Heather Cubie, Chair, SMP & Dr. Ann Phoya, Chair, MaSP

SMP Chair Prof. Heather Cubie echoed David's points, gave specific welcomes to some of the public figures in attendance and encouraged participants to read the [2019-20 Annual Report](#).

MaSP Chair Dr. Ann Phoya expressed MaSP's excitement about the meeting and looked forward to the ideas that would emerge to help face challenges in both countries.

- **Keynote Speech** Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi

The SMP was very pleased to feature a keynote address from Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, the newly elected President of Malawi, who gave a passionate call for the Scotland Malawi Partnership to grow.

Speaking as the Hon. Co-Patron of the Partnership, alongside HRH The Princess Royal, The President used his keynote address to give Scotland three ambitious challenges:

- First, to scale up the Scotland Malawi Partnership, from 1,200 bilateral civic links to 1,500, and to increase the total number of Scots and Malawians involved from 300,000 to 500,000.



- Second, for Scotland to host, within five years, a high-level conference, to track and celebrate and progress made in the implementation of the vision set down in the September 2018 *'Malawi and Scotland: Together for Sustainable Development'* conference.
- Third, to ignite a movement of climate change activists amongst our peoples and capture the imagination of Malawian youths.

The President of Malawi committed to working closely with Scotland to fight climate change, including at the global climate conference, COP26, which will be hosted in Glasgow in 2021.

The President's inspiring and energizing speech, urged participants to re-double efforts, as the two countries stand together at this challenging time, in friendship and solidarity. He praised the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership in helping coordinate and support Covid-19 cooperation over the last six months, despite Scotland's own domestic battle with the virus.

You can view the full address [here](#).

- **Scottish Government Address** Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland

The SMP surprised participants with a second special address from First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, who similarly celebrated the bonds of friendship between the two countries at this critical time.

The First Minister said: "This is a great opportunity to explore the key issues facing our two countries and the ways in which we can work together to address them." She continued: "We are determined to engage ever more closely with our partners in Malawi. We want to ensure all the work we do is guided, first and foremost, by Malawi's priorities and needs."

"Scotland remains committed to the [Scotland-Malawi Global Goals Partnership Agreement]. It is important not just to our countries' governments but to hundreds of businesses, charities, universities and organisations in both our countries." She continued: "Since 2005, our relationship has made a lasting and beneficial difference to the lives of thousands of our people. We want to build on those shared achievements in the years ahead. That's why I very much welcome events like this."

You can view the full address [here](#).

- **Youth Reflections** Chinsisi Kazuwa, Project Officer, Malawi Young Leaders' Climate Change Project & Gift Thompson, Youth Committee Member, SMP

Chinsisi Kazuwa, Project Officer for the Malawi Young Leaders' Climate Change Project, was excited to see such enthusiasm from both the First Minister and President towards taking action against climate change. Chinsisi looks forward to the upcoming COP26, where she hopes to see young people come together and make a real impact in the war against climate change.

Gift Thompson, Trustee of STEKAskills and member of the SMP Youth Committee, was excited by the eagerness from both the First Minister and the President to see more connections between Malawians and Scots, such as increased exchange programmes. Gift has experienced first-hand the many mutual benefits such programmes provide, and emphasised the importance of youth representation and leadership.



- **Reflections from former MaSP CEO** Vera Kamtukule, Deputy Minister of Labour

Former MaSP CEO Vera Kamtukule, who recently accepted a role in the Malawi Cabinet as Deputy Minister of Labour, reflected on her work with MaSP. She praised the people-to-people model used by MaSP and the SMP, and was hopeful that this idea was being exported to others. She also emphasised the importance of the Partnership Principles as an integral part of any developmental partnership. Vera will be a champion of MaSP and the SMP going forward, and bid farewell to all of the members she has worked with over the years.

Session 2 – Seizing the Opportunities

- **Five Concurrent Discussion Groups** Introduced by Stuart Brown, Deputy CEO, SMP

Deputy Chief Executive of the SMP, Stuart Brown, introduce the next session, where participants were randomly allocated to five separate breakout groups to discuss the following key areas:

1. **Decolonising, Diversity and Representation** – Facilitated by Emma Wood, with Chisomo Kalinga
This group explored the important themes of ‘Black Lives Matter’, reflecting on what we do well and how we can improve to best reflect our core partnership principles.
2. **Governance Strengthening** – Facilitated by Susan Dalgety, with Hon. Vera Kamtukule, Sir Andrew Cubie & John Barker
We heard the President’s challenge for us to use the bilateral relationship to strengthen governance. This group discussed how we do this.
3. **Climate Crisis and COP26** – Facilitated by Ben Wilson, with Chinsisi Kazuwa, Luke Mwale & Isabelle Raynor
We heard the President’s rallying cry for the bilateral relationship to be a model for the world, to inspire a generation of climate activists and work together on COP26. This group discussed how we do this.
4. **Inspiring Others** – Facilitated by David Hope-Jones, with Gift Thompson, Joyce Phiri & Charlie Bevan
We heard the President’s challenge to increase SMP membership to 1500 and total number involved to half a million. This group explored how we inspire new sections of society in both nations to get involved.
5. **The New Digital World** – Facilitated by Stuart Brown, with Matthews Mtumbuka & Rachel Sibande
This group looked at the new opportunities that we all have in this incredible new digital world. How do we use Zoom and other technology effectively and appropriately?

Session 3 – Covid-19 – Responding to the Challenge

- **Summary of SMP’s Covid-19 Response to Date** Stuart Brown, Deputy CEO, SMP

Deputy Chief Executive of the SMP, Stuart Brown, summarised the SMP’s work to date in regards to Covid-19. Staff quickly moved to homeworking at the start of lockdown, and a Covid-19 [Response Strategy](#) and [Risk Register](#) was agreed with members. The SMP has supported **20 separate Scotland-Malawi covid fundraising appeals**, leveraging significant donations from across the UK, with many of these funds reporting they have exceeded targets thanks to the SMP. The SMP has



also hosted **nine major regular Covid-19 coordination Zoom meetings**, each lasting 2-hours, with high-level involvement, and a **total attendance of over 680 organisations** and key individuals. The AGM was counted as the tenth. Covid **coordination services were taken up by 279 organisations** and individuals working in this area. **94%** of the organisations that have given feedback on the SMP's Covid coordination work have **rated it as 'Excellent' or 'very good'** and **95%** of those who have given feedback say the SMP's support has **strengthened their link with Malawi**. It is hugely moving to see the President speak so passionately about how this work by the SMP is appreciated in Malawi, and the positive impact this commitment to coordination has had.

- **Summary of where Malawi is now with Covid-19** Dr. Mwapatsa Mipando, Principal, Malawi College of Medicine

Dr. Mwapatsa Mipando, Principal of the Malawi College of Medicine, gave an update on the latest situation with Covid-19 in Malawi. You can find his slides [here](#). While new cases are declining, Dr. Mipando emphasised that preventative measures must continue to prevent a second wave. Malawi has seen a relatively low number of cases compared to other countries, so it is his hope that the reason for this can be identified and shared with the world.

- **Summary of Travel Changes and Outlook** Kate Webb, Co-Founder, Orbis Expeditions and Responsible Safari Company

Kate Webb, Co-Founder of the Responsible Safari Company in Blantyre and Orbis Expeditions in the UK, gave an update on the travel and tourism situation in Malawi. International travel restrictions have resulted in the loss of an estimated 40,000 jobs from the Malawi tourism industry, and an estimated 45 billion Malawi Kwacha in tourism revenue. Measures are being taken to reinvigorate the industry and, while no date can be guaranteed, there is a tentative timeline of Spring/Summer 2021 before main tourism groups can return. Orbis sees travel and tourism as being at the heart of the partnership between Scotland and Malawi, and is excited to work with both countries to build the industry back better.

- **Recovery and Resilience** Prof. Andrew Goudie, Scotland's Leading Economic Advisor

Prof. Andrew Goudie, former SMP Board member and one of Scotland's leading economic advisors, shared his thoughts on recovery and resilience in the wake of Covid-19. He asked attendees to consider the importance of global recovery, and how the pandemic will affect progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. He concluded that the challenge was not to simply rebuild and recover our partnerships and programmes to where they were at the end of 2019, but to make a step-change in their quality and sustainability if at all possible, and to address resilience in a new and urgent light.

- **Ten Concurrent Discussion Groups**

Participants were then randomly allocated to ten separate discussion groups, facilitated by a volunteer in Scotland or Malawi, all discussing the following three questions:

- (a) What has been the impact of the pandemic on your Scotland-Malawi link?
- (b) What feedback would you give on the SMP's Covid support?
- (c) What more/different Covid support, coordination and representation do you want the SMP to offer?



Session 4 – Build Back Better

- **Introducing the Idea of Build Back Better** Linda Dembo, Programmes Officer, MaSP

A [short video](#) on Build Back Better was played, and Linda Dembo, MaSP's Programmes Officer, introduced and discussed Malawi's approach to the idea.

- **Scottish Government International Development Review** David Hope-Jones, CEO, SMP

David gave a summary of the [Scottish Government's international development review](#), which was announced at the start of September, and shared the SMP's views on this.

The Scottish Government has set out seven guiding principles for their review:

1. Partner-country led development
2. Do no harm
3. Amplify global-south voices
4. Inclusive
5. Collaboration and partnerships
6. Innovative, adapting and sustainable
7. Embrace technology:

The SMP welcomes and supports all of these principles, but is disappointed that there is not an open consultation for people to share their input, unlike in 2016, when the policy was last reviewed. The Scottish Government is to be commended for the high quality consultation, which all were able to feed in to.

Minister for Europe and International Development, Jenny Gilruth MSP, did attend the start of the [Malawi Cross Party Group](#) on the 23rd of November and gave information about the review and there are a small number of, as we understand it, by invitation meetings where the Minister will take input.

The SMP thinks it is essential that the Scottish Government listens to wider civic society, given a great strength of the Scotland's approach is the way it works in constructive synergy with the many civic links.

The SMP thinks that, if it is to be a 'partner-country led approach', the views expressed today by the President of Malawi should be taken into account, and there should be meaningful consultations with civic society in Malawi. If this is not possible, The SMP hopes the Scottish Government falls back on its largest ever consultation and discussion event in Malawi, the September 2018 '[Scotland and Malawi: Together for Sustainable Development conference](#)'. Hundreds of representatives of civic society, government and parliament met in Lilongwe and, over two days, agreed a vision for the next chapter in the relationship, how to deliver the intergovernmental agreement and have a wrap-around civic component. This resulted in a very detailed 128-page report, democratically agreed and co-written by dozens of Malawians and Scots.

Going forward, the SMP will listen to and help represent the views of their members and partners in Malawi.

- **Ten Concurrent Discussion Groups**



Participants were then randomly allocated to ten separate discussion groups, facilitated by a volunteer in Scotland or Malawi, all discussing the following two questions:

- (a) What are the essential elements of Scotland's approach to international development, you do not want to lose?
- (b) What would you want to change in:
 - The Scotland-Malawi relationship,
 - The Scottish Government's international development policy, or
 - Scottish internationalism generally

Session 5 – AGM Core Business

- **Approval of Minutes from 2019 AGM** Prof. Heather Cubie, Chair, SMP

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were proposed by Yonah Matemba and seconded by Mick James.

- **Election of Directors** Prof. Heather Cubie, Chair, SMP

Heather summarised the Director election process. Six Directors were required to stand down from the Board as they had completed their three year term. Of these six, Nicholas Gubbins, Claire Martin and Tione Mtalimanja chose to stand for re-election. Not standing for re-election were Isabel Bruce, Jeremaya Phiri and Ken Ross, and Heather thanked them for their contributions to the Board. The remaining candidates standing for election were Blessings Kachale, Eoghan Mackie, Gift Thompson, Professor John Briggs, John Lang, Mick James and Susan Dalgety. All SMP members were emailed a link prior to the AGM which allowed them to vote for six of the ten candidates. Polling closed at 16.20 on the 3rd of October and the results were announced at the end of the AGM.

Full details of the election process can be found [here](#).

- **Movement to Becoming a SCIO** Prof. Heather Cubie, Chair, SMP

Heather summarised the SMP's proposal to change its legal status to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The SMP is currently a Company Limited by Guarantee (SC294378) and a registered Scottish Charity (SC037048). This was proposed by Caroline Beaton and seconded by Eoghan Mackie. All SMP members were emailed a link prior to the AGM which allowed them to vote for 'Yes' or 'No' to this proposal. Voting closed at 16.20 on the 3rd of October and the results were announced at the end of the AGM.

Full details on the proposal can be found [here](#).

- **Presentation of 2019-20 Accounts** Claire Martin, Chair, SMP Audit and Finance Committee

Chair of the SMP Audit and Finance Committee, Claire Martin, gave a quick summary of the [2019-20 accounts](#). The accounts were proposed by Moira Dunworth and seconded by Caroline Beaton. All SMP members were emailed a link prior to the AGM which allowed them to vote for 'Yes' or 'No' on whether they approve the accounts. Voting closed at 16.20 on the 3rd of October and the results were announced at the end of the AGM.



- **Appointment of Independent Examiners** Claire Martin, Chair, SMP Audit & Finance Committee

Claire summarised the motion to appoint independent examiners. The motion was proposed by Douglas Young and seconded by Christine Campbell. All SMP members were emailed a link prior to the AGM which allowed them to vote for 'Yes' or 'No' on whether to appoint independent examiners. Voting closed at 16.20 on the 3rd of October and the results were announced at the end of the AGM.

Full details on the motion can be found [here](#).

Session 6 – Special Guest Performance – Daliso Chaponda

- **Comedy Set & Q&A** Daliso Chaponda & David Hope-Jones, CEO, SMP

The SMP was delighted to have had the afternoon brought to a close with a special one-off, live performance by Malawi's most famous comedian, Daliso Chaponda!

Daliso has a *huge* number of fans across the SMP's membership and has been delighting audiences across the world for a number of years, including regularly featuring in the Edinburgh Fringe.

Since reaching the [Britain's Got Talent](#) finals, Daliso Chaponda has been perhaps one of the most famous Malawians in the performing arts. His two outstanding BBC Radio 4 series ([Daliso Chaponda: Citizen of Nowhere](#)), have explored serious themes of identity, representation, global citizenship and migration in genuinely light-hearted and engaging ways. He has been an inspiring Malawian voice on the airwaves and on the television.

Daliso Chaponda answered members' questions and spoke about how he uses comedy to help engage people in difficult, and potentially uncomfortable, topics.

You can view Daliso's full performance and Q&A [here](#).

Session 7 – Prizes and Closing Remarks

- **Prizegiving for Best Virtual Background** Daliso Chaponda

Daliso chose Edgar Bayani and Fiona ??? to receive tourism prizes for their excellent Malawian backgrounds and dress.

- **Results of AGM Voting,** Alan Laverock, Finance Officer, SMP

SMP Finance officer Alan Laverock confirmed the results of the AGM voting. These were as follows:

- The six candidates with the most votes to become Directors were:
 - Blessings Kachale
 - Claire Martin
 - Gift Thompson
 - John Briggs
 - Susan Dalgety
 - Tione Mtalimanja



- The 2019-20 Annual Accounts were approved by 100% of respondents
- The appointment of Independent Examiners was approved by 100% of respondents
- The movement to becoming a SCIO was approved by 98.48% of respondents

- **Closing Message** _____ Prof. Heather Cubie, Chair, SMP

Heather thanked all of those who contributed and took part in the meeting, and looked forward to the next chapter of the partnership, which she hopes will be one of growth, innovation, development and showing a proud face to the world.

- **Feedback and Next Steps** _____ David Hope-Jones, CEO, SMP

David thanked everyone who made the meeting possible and encouraged attendees to share their thoughts and reflections from the meeting on social media. It was confirmed that a written report and footage from the meeting would be made available afterwards, and the meeting was brought to a close.