

## **8 Developments we really Welcome:**

### 1) Consultative approach:

We welcomed the consultations that took place latterly in the review period, with roundtable Zoom meetings inviting input from a range of stakeholders, including in Malawi and Scotland.

We also welcome the strong commitments made to working with the sector in the delivery of these changes, with roundtable digital discussion events to listen to and work with the sector in Scotland and partner countries. In her 3<sup>rd</sup> March written statement to the Scottish Parliament, Minister Jenny Gilruth said: *“The role of the international development sector and thematic experts in Scotland also remains fundamental and I want to give my ongoing commitment to discussion and dialogue with them in taking forward our international development programme. I and my officials will continue to meet regularly with the wider sector in Scotland... I will also look for other opportunities to engage the sector in Scotland as part of our ongoing dialogue as our Programme aligns with the new Principles and as international development theory and practice itself evolves. I look forward to discussing the outcome of the Review with representatives of the sector within the next week.”*

We also welcome the parliamentary engagement through the review, with the Minister meeting with the Malawi Cross Party Group on the [23<sup>rd</sup> September](#), a Parliamentary debate on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, and the Minister giving evidence to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee on the [3<sup>rd</sup> December](#).

We also welcome the detailed information given at the conclusion of the review, with reasons given for the decisions made, often linking back to points made in the roundtable meetings.

### 2) Principles-led approach:

We welcome the principles-led approach, with the same principles applying not just for the International Development Fund but also the Climate Justice Fund, climate adaptation and water programmes, and the NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Programme.

We welcome and fully support all eight principles, which we feel align closely to our own [Scotland-Malawi Partnership Principles](#) (which came from consultations with over 200 Malawian organisations and stakeholders, and which have underpinned our work, and our members, for almost a decade).

<b><u>SG Programme Principles</u></b>	<b><u>Scotland-Malawi Partnership Principles which broadly align</u></b>
Partner-country led development	Planning and implementing together
Equality	Parity (equality)
Amplify global-south voices	Respect, trust and mutual understanding
Inclusion and diversity	No one left behind
Collaboration and partnerships	Interconnectivity
	Reciprocity
Innovative, adapting and sustainable	Sustainability
	Effectiveness
Embrace technology	Appropriateness
Accountable, transparent and safe	Transparency and accountability
	Do no harm

We welcome the decision to translating these principles to Chichewa and encourage the SG to consider also translating to Chitumbuka.

3) Listening to, and led by, southern voices:

We welcome the strong commitment to being led by our partners' priorities and listening to range of voices in partner countries like Malawi. This has been a key feature of Scotland's fundamental approach to international development and underpins all the SMP's work.

4) Collaborative-working and peer learning:

We welcome the commitment to working with current IDF partners, partner country experts and others on the implementation of the Programme Principles and the key changes to the IDF. In her 3<sup>rd</sup> March Parliamentary statement, the Minister said: *"In all of our work on the priority thematic areas and intersectional equality issues, we want to ensure collaborative working, not only across the Scottish Government, the wider public sector and civil society in Scotland..."*.

5) Maintaining Malawi thematic priorities:

We welcome the decision, based on feedback from Malawi and the sector in Scotland, to keep the existing thematic priorities under the 2018 [Global Goals Partnership Agreement](#) (GGPA) (health; education; civic governance; sustainable economic development; renewable energy; and water and climate). We feel it would have been counterproductive to change these core priorities less than three years after the new inter-governmental cooperation agreement was signed.

6) Institutional capacity building:

We welcome the commitment to supporting institutional resilience through long-term partnerships based on capacity strengthening, and the specific commitments to continuing the excellent work with the College of Medicine in Malawi, which has been a key feature of the SG Programme since 2005.

7) Fighting inequalities:

We welcome the commitment to equality, with a strong focus on women, and on children and other vulnerable people in partner countries including Malawi.

8) Black Lives Matter: building on the work of others:

We are grateful for the strong support the Minister gave for SMP's [Black Lives Matter work](#) when speaking in Parliament and the report's recognition that "many of those working in the field of international development have been engaging in debate on the issues raised by BLM – such as systemic racism and inequality – for some time". This is a hugely important area and we welcome the willingness to listen to a range of voices in Malawi and Scotland, and build on existing discussions and consultations, including with diaspora communities.