



**MALAWI AT COP26**  
#ClimateCrisisMalawi



## **Scotland Malawi Partnership *Malawi at COP26* Strategy**

V3.0: Last updated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

This summary document sets out the Scotland Malawi Partnership's strategic and operational objectives for engagement of COP26, the global climate change summit hosted in Glasgow in November 2021. The below principles and objectives were agreed by members of the SMP and partners in Malawi in meetings in Feb and Nov 2020. With this strong member mandate, the SMP will now look to implement these plans while continuing to be as transparent and engaging as possible.

### **Main Strategic Objective:**

**Giving meaningful voice and visibility to Malawi at COP26 and, in so doing, raise awareness of Scotland's links with Malawi, promote our Members' work, and support climate justice in Malawi.**

We want to step up to the [President of Malawi's challenge to the SMP](#) to: *"ignite a movement of climate change activists amongst our peoples, to capture the imagination of Malawian youths... The time has come to escalate the sense of urgency among our people regarding the threats to our indispensable relationship with nature."* He has told the SMP: *"I am eager to see this partnership between us become an example to the world of two nations approaching climate change with the sense of urgency, and in the spirit of collaboration, commensurate with the existential threat this truly is."*

### **Principles of SMP's COP26 engagement:**

The SMP needs to:

1. Be member-led
2. Be focused on Malawi-related matters – our *sphere of influence*
3. Be strategic and outcome-focussed
4. Work within our [PARTNERSHIP principles](#), ensuring active Malawian leadership (in both Malawi and across the Malawi diaspora community resident in Scotland)
5. Not duplicate what others are doing
6. Support wider-collaborative efforts, within our means

### **Operational Objectives:**

**Listen:**

- Work with our sister network in Malawi to invite all those wishing to have a voice at COP26 in Malawi the chance to share their insight.
- Engage partners in Malawi, across civil society and Government, in an open and transparent way, to collect a range of Malawian perspectives on: (a) the real, lived, human impact of climate change in Malawi, and (b) what Malawi wants to come out of COP26.
- Embrace the opportunities that digital engagements offer to support active listening and two-way communication but also recognise the challenges inherent in much of Malawi, specifically the cost, bandwidth and often poor reliability of internet connectivity.

[www.scotland-malawipartnership.org](http://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org)

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#### **Amplify:**

- Develop, in partnership with others, engaging digital content, including short Malawi-produced videos from across the country, highlighting the impact of climate change today.
- Use all available media and social media channels (#ClimateCrisisMalawi) to amplify Malawi's voice at COP26: both the voice of Malawians physically present in Glasgow and the views and insights collected across Malawi.
- Explore the possibility of a Malawi-specific event/activity during COP26 if: (a) a venue is offered by an SMP partner, (b) there is strong Malawi buy-in for the idea, and (c) we are confident it will not complicate other LDC's participation.
- Look to use the 2021 SMP Youth Congress to engage young people in Scotland and Malawi, and specifically amplify this youth voice.

#### **Coordinate:**

- Create a space for our members to come together to connect and share information about what they are doing for COP26.
- Use a digital platform to give information, share stakeholders' digital content and reach out to others.
- Encourage and support active collaboration between our members.
- Offer "Malawi at COP26" branding and communications channels for members to use, if they wish, to assist their work.

#### **Support:**

- Offer useful, tangible advice and support for members engaging COP26.
- Provide UK visa support and formal endorsement, to ensure our members' partners have no issues securing a UK visa to attend COP26.
- If invited to do so, provide formal support for the Malawian delegations at COP26 and in the run up to the conference, working closely with the Government of Malawi.
- Assist Scottish parliamentarians, both MSPs and MPs, to be able to engage, support and amplify Malawi participants at COP26.

#### **Partner:**

- Work with our closest partners in this space, MaSP and the 2050 Climate Group, with whom we are already involved in youth-led climate justice work.
- Sign the SMP up to be an active member of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.
- Take part in coordination work with Scotland's International Development Alliance and others in the wider community.
- Engage the broader civil society COP26 coalition which is in development, supporting and taking part in the mass mobilisation events during COP26.

#### **Influence:**

- Use the SMP's leverage to support Malawi achieve its goals for COP26, in partnership with others.

#### **Act:**

- We cannot take part in discussions around the climate crisis without ourselves taking action. The SMP will therefore shortly be publishing our own Climate Crisis Commitments, outlining what we will be doing in the coming years to reduce our own climate impact. We also look to support our members, through advice, information and encouragement, to similarly reduce their climate impact.

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**November – December priorities and workplan, agreed 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020:**

1. Work with the Association of Malawians in Scotland to encourage and support active diaspora involvement.
2. Begin a programme of work aiming to get 26 short videos of young Malawians and Scots talking about the impact of climate change and what they want from COP26.
3. Explore having a webpage/website to share Members'/stakeholders' digital content in this area.
4. Secure and disseminate a clear list of Malawian priorities for COP26 from the Malawi Civil Society Network on Climate Change and the Government of Malawi, with broad consensus.
5. Establish a clear understanding of the critical processes/timescales for Malawi to have influence in the run up to COP26, and where Scottish support could be of assistance in this pre-COP process.
6. Firm up agreement in principle to have a Malawi-focussed event during COP26 in the Glasgow City Chambers, with the Glasgow Lord Provost and President of Malawi.
7. Expand the stakeholder database to include: more contact points in the Government of Malawi's COP delegation, private sector, media, academia and possibly Scottish Youth Parliament.
8. Establish programme of monthly meetings (first Thursday of the month), working with MaSP to see if Communication and Resource Centres can be used to facilitate no-cost Malawi digital participation.
9. Connect with SCCS, the COP26 Coalition and the Alliance, to ensure the SMP's work is not duplicating any others'.

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