



## **2022 SMP Annual Gathering and AGM**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
Edinburgh City Chambers**

### **Minutes**

200+ SMP members and key partners joined us for our 2022 Annual Gathering and AGM, which was followed by a '(Very Malawian!) St Andrews Day Celebration', in partnership with the Association of Malawians in Scotland.

[Full details, papers and videos of this event are available here](#)

#### **Introduction, welcome and administration**

***David Hope-Jones: CEO, SMP***

The CEO welcomed Members and guests to the meeting.

#### **Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture** ***Angus Robertson MSP***

The Cabinet Secretary gave an inspiring speech pre-recorded address to open the meeting and give his support to the SMP. [Read here](#). [Watch here](#):

Key remarks included:

- "I want to send my best wishes to all attending this year's Scotland Malawi Partnership AGM."
- "We recognise the importance of supporting civil society at home and in our partner countries"
- "I am pleased to announce a continuation of our support for civic society link between Scotland and Malawi ... through the core funding of the SMP and MaSP"
- "I look forward to exploring how we can work together to make this future programme a success and best deliver meaningful, sustainable and transformative change"

#### **Lord Jack McConnell remarks:**

***Lord Jack McConnell***

Lord Jack McConnell addressed the event sharing his reflections on the current bilateral relationship and thanking the SMP and its members for its good work. Lord McConnell paid special thanks to David Hope-Jones who is standing down as CEO in January 2023.

#### **Conversation with MaSP:**

***Dr Ann Phoya & Stella Masangano***

Prof Heather Cubie, Chair of the SMP, led a conversation with Dr Ann Phoya (Chair of Malawi Scotland Partnership – MaSP), Stella Masangano (CEO, MaSP) and Lord Jack McConnell. The conversation was a chance to listen to our sister network in Malawi, including their priorities and plans.

#### **'World Café' discussions:**

Members attended two of the 14 'world café' style discussion groups, feeding in their input and reflections on these key questions for the coming year of the SMP:

1. Global citizenship: what does this mean for you, in practice?
2. Malawi leadership: how do we ensure that it is Malawi that is setting the agenda?
3. What does the cost-of-living crisis in Scotland and Malawi mean for our work together?
4. Scotland-Malawi governance strengthening: the next chapter?
5. Is it right to travel to Malawi if we're serious about fighting the climate crisis?
6. How do we further strengthen the relationship between the SMP and Malawi diaspora communities?
7. How should we engage the UK Government in the post-DFID, post-0.7% era?

8. How should we engage the Scottish Government in supporting its new International Development strategy?
9. Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals: what needs to change at 'half-time'?
10. What next for the Scotland-Malawi Partnership Principles at 10?
11. Can better understanding our shared past help to make a better future?
12. How can the SMP diversify its income and increase its sustainability?
13. How 'digital' and how 'in-person' do you want the SMP to be?
14. Equality, diversity and inclusion: what more can we all be doing?

**Core Business:**

***Heather Cubie (SMP Chair) &  
Claire Martin (Audit & Finance Committee Chair)***

The following core AGM business was conducted:

1. The [minutes of the SMP's 2021 AGM](#) were agreed (proposed by Claire Martin and seconded by Fiona Anderson).
2. The SMP's [2021-22 Annual Report](#) was presented to members.
3. The SMP's [2021-22 Annual Accounts](#) were approved by members (proposed Caroline Beaton by and seconded by Gift Thompson).
4. The [election of trustees](#) took place (proposed by Veronica Evans and seconded by Mick James), with:
  1. Six Trustees standing down, in accordance with the constitution: Claire Martin, Fiona Anderson, Chimwemwe Dorey, Andrew Goudie, Rachel Philips and Douglas Young.
  2. Jude Turbyne, Rachel Philips and Sally Rae elected to the Board;
  3. Douglas Young (the current HR Committee Chair), co-opted for a further year to ensure HR continuity.
  4. The Board asked to co-opt someone with financial expertise to the Board, and potentially chair the Audit and Finance Committee.
5. Wylie & Bisset was reappointed as Independent Examiners (proposed by Mick James and seconded by Susan Dalgety).

**Reflections from 15 years as CEO:**

***David Hope-Jones: CEO, SMP***

Following news that David Hope-Jones will be standing down as CEO of the Scotland Malawi Partnership, he was asked by the Board to share reflections from his 15 years leading the Partnership.

David used the opportunity to share highlights and fond memories, as well as to thank all those who have supported him and contributed to the work of the SMP. David paid particular thanks to his colleagues in the office and Trustees, past and present, as well as MaSP, Members, the Scottish Government, and all the SMP's political supporters.

David will stand down on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and Stuart Brown (currently Deputy CEO) will take over as Interim CEO. David was keen to emphasise that there will be no interruption in the SMP's work and the Partnership will continue to go from strength to strength under Stuart's outstanding leadership.

**Parallel thematic sessions:**

Everyone attended one of three different parallel thematic sessions, while the Council Chamber was re-arranged for the evening celebration:

- (i) **Mental health: sharing learning between Scotland and Malawi.**



Chaired by Joyce Juma-Phiri. Featuring: Habiba Osman, CEO, Human Rights Commission; Gertrude Kadzuwa, poet; Tamsin Lillie, Medic to Medic; Madeline Osborn Scotland Malawi Mental Health Project; and other diaspora speakers.

**(ii) Innovation, adaptation and sustainability: case studies and ideas about different ways of working.** Chaired by David Hope-Jones. Featuring: Rory Stewart, CEO GiveDirectly and former UK Secretary of State for International Development; Cecilia Mkondiwa and Seth Stover, Founders, TideRise; Mick James, Padziwe.

**(iii) Empowering women and girls: listening to key leaders in Malawi**  
Chaired by Susan Dalgety. Featuring: Hon. Vera Kamtukule, Minister of Labour; Maggie Banda, Women's Legal Resource Centre; Gertrude Chirambo, President Malawi women councillors at Malawi Local Government Association; Gertrude Kadzuwa, Widows Opportunity.

### **Closing Remarks:**

Heather Cubie thanked all those who had made the day a success, including SMP staff and volunteers, and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the City Chambers team for giving this fantastic venue without charge.

David Hope-Jones was surprised with a number of goodbye messages and thank you messages including a number of video messages, and a [letter from the President of Malawi](#).

### **A (Very Malawian!) St Andrews Day Celebration:**

Everyone enjoyed an informal, diaspora-led St Andrews Day Celebration, compered by Davie Luhanga, with:

- A brilliant poem about Scotland-Malawi links by Gertrude Kadzuwa;
- Scotland-Malawi fusion music by Nat Chalamanda and the Moyenda Band;
- A surprise musical battle between Louis Macmillan on the bagpipes and Davie Luhanga on the Malawian drum;
- A Scottish Ceilidh and Malawian dance;
- Malawian Mandazis and Scottish Haggis Balls;
- Malawian Gin and Tonics and various Scottish drinks;
- A closing set by Themba Bamusi.

Joyce Banda, Chair of the Association of Malawians in Scotland, thanked everyone for attending and thanked David Hope-Jones for his years with the SMP.