# **Policy Committee Meeting Thursday 11th August 2pm-4pm**

Venue: Online. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81934473721>

**Committee members:**

IIED, Christian Aid Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, Tearfund Scotland, SCIAF, Water Witness International, Carey Tourism, University of Edinburgh, Thrive, Water Aid, Halo Trust, IDEAS

**Present:**

Geraldine Hill (SCIAF), Kenneth Watt (Oxfam), Hazel MacIver (Tearfund), Cathy Ratcliff (Thrive), Dorcas Pratt (Water Witness International), Lewis Ryder-Jones (Alliance), Simon Anderson (IIED), Ben Wilson (WaterAid), Chris Loughran (Halo), Sarah Freeman (SCIAF), Josephine McLaughlin (IDEAS), Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

**Apologies:**

Benjamin Carey (Carey Tourism)

**Decisions & Action Points:**

1. **Roundtable with Minister agenda points**

Decision – committee members suggest: PCSD (with link to GCE), COP26, PfG prioirities, and COVID-19 (impacts on small NGOs and broader Green and Just Recovery) as areas for discussion.

Action - All - by start of September, committee members to share more detail and questions on each area of interest

Action - Alliance staff - carry out follow up data collection on COVID-19 impacts on membership

1. **Updates on COVID-19**

Action – DCEO to follow up with Alliance staff about how best to make sharing of best practice and guidance on COVID-19 possible at Digital Summit

1. **DFID/FCO merger, and recent UK Aid cuts announcement due to COVID-19**

Action - Alliance staff - need to find out who, if any, members may be affected by cuts to work out if any further advocacy is necessary

1. **2021 Election**

Decision – Policy committee members happy to sign off on general shape of the document. Document to be tidied up and finished asap, so published designed version can be shared with manifesto teams at earliest possible date.

Action - Kenneth to help re-work format of document to pull asks out at front of document.

Action - Alliance to share ‘manifesto asks and influencing toolkit with membership once doc is ready.

Action – DCEO - reach out to members to sign off on final wording when ready

Action - Simon - will draft potential questions for Aid Attitudes polling and share by email.

Action – All - policy committee members encouraged to reach out to other party spokespeople as well.

1. **CPG**

Action – Simon, Dorcas, Ben - end of august discussion between IIED, WaterAid and WWI to develop agenda for next CPG on water. Share with group.

1. **AOB**

Action – all – consider how we can approach Black Lives Matter in this group for next meeting. please join Unconscious bias training on 8th September. Sign up via website.

**Discussion**

1. **Roundtable meeting with ID Minister 7th October agenda input**

Suggested areas for discussion:

* PCSD – the inter-ministerial group - if it is mentioned in Programme for Government, then follow up on what has been committed to. Gauge the Minister’s own priorities DECs doing some work targeting MSP – link what’s happening in education this week with GCE and PCSD
* COP26 – what is relevant to her position – e.g. UK gov have adaptation and resilience stream – so how can her team engage with that? Also indicative NDC, influencing EU NDC, operationalisation of the Santiago network on loss and damage
* COVID-19 – existential threats to small charities. Chris L and Cathy Ratcliff happy to help. Probably need more data on what impacts COVID-19 will have on alliance members.
* Programme for Government priorities

Action – Alliance staff to carry out further research on COVID-19 impacts

Suggestion - invite small member to give case study at Meeting w/ Minister about COVID-19 impacts

It was noted that the Minister can’t talk about election priorities for next year per se due to SG Ministerial rules, but a way in might be the Programme for Government priorities and how that influences the wider agenda?

Question about format and size of meeting - Should southern partners join in? need to discuss in full, but overriding view from committee members is that it depends on the agenda - if there is a high priority point that is best spoken to by a partner then absolutely. Return to this by email once agenda is set.

General point on Alliance policy on inviting overseas partners. View from members is that partners should definitely be invited join digital summit, but it is completely right that participation in smaller meetings and training events be limited.

1. **Updates on COVID-19 – impact on sector, advocacy opportunities, Green and Just recovery etc.**

SCIAF putting a briefing in for Scottish Parliament Debate on 12th August on Economic recovery, other policy committee members have been involved drafting a briefing under auspices of the Just and Green Recovery campaign. Ask on PCSD interministerial group has been included. Alliance endorses and supports.

Question from Michael Alexander - Sharing good practice and guidance on COVID-19, would it be useful?

Policy committee members - consensus agreement that it would be and would like to see opportunity at upcoming digital summit to share, review and critique different organisations response

Ben Wilson to share WaterAid guidance on COVID-19 response, will speak to colleagues and share guidance on this with other orgs if it would be useful - perhaps a doc for the conference papers?

Simon shared IIED docs - <https://www.iied.org/shared-vulnerabilities-connecting-climate-health-cities-make-change-happen-podcast-episode-7>

Action – DCEO to follow up with Alliance staff about how best to make sharing of best practice and guidance on COVID-19 possible at Digital Summit

1. **DFID/FCO merger, and details of recent cuts announcement due to COVID-19 reducing GNI. Updates from different organisations**

WWI – were about to get a 4-year funding round, but at last minute they did U-turn. Match funder still going to do project. Still following up with DFID, but no news at the moment

Feeling is that cuts are likely to come where they are easiest to make – i.e. contracts that are yet to start.

Integrated review will shape objectives. Will be finished before the end of the year. No change likely to gender and disability focus e.g. SCIAF grant for gender-based violence in DRC still happening.

Diageo position – not unexpected, but not good for what they do in global south

Mike Russell – where does Scotland sit on this down the line? Alliance waiting for response to set meeting date. Government may be interested in a discussion about what role the SG can play in increasing its international development role as DFID merges into the FDO

Alliance to monitor where cuts land and how that affects members & how it will affect 0.7%. Need to focus on influencing the new department.

Action - Alliance need to find out who, if any, members may be affected by cuts to work out if any further advocacy is necessary

1. **2021 Election manifesto policy priorities – see google doc** [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hzZS3ZzWm40y7UnbmZesyIrSFIsnFqwl7tr0VCBZG9M/edit)

New additions to climate section, economy section and PCSD section

Other Gaps:

* Ben Wilson noted that Something needs added on debt, unclear where this would go – economy section? Scot Gov will want to "trailblaze" and be the first, rather than follow the Welsh
* Hazel MacIver - Need to pull out asks and lay out in a list of sorts at front of document. Manifesto teams will not look for asks inside each chapter.
* Well-being of Future Generations Act needs another name?
* Sarah at SCIAF asked if SG are still using the term ‘good global citizen’? may need checking.
* Is there wording change needed on the figure in IDF ask to match ‘increased CJF’ ask or reference the fact that an increase to one must be additional to the increase in the other. Figure of increase has been arbitrarily calculated by Alliance staff for IDF ask (£15m), should figure be removed? Or a figure be added to CJF ask?

SCIAF fine with overall shape, but would be keen on tweaks with wording.

Sign off agreed on general shape of doc by all

Before sign off SCIAF still has a concern around the wording on the CJF ask. I'm not sure if this was changed in the SCCS Int'l group meeting this morning

Ben Wilson – response - Wording on CJF agreed at SCCS Int Group and is now what is now included in the Alliance doc - including the point 3) sent on this morning "Undertake a review of the CJF to build on its success, ensuring that it is fully aligned with best practice in climate adaptation globally."

Decision - asks need to be consistent throughout. Ben going to review lots of docs now we have sign-off on the wording to make sure its consistent everywhere...

Hazel MacIver (Tearfund) - send it to the party HQs in Scotland - they do the party political work so will make sure our manifesto ends up in hands of people who write the manifesto who we won't necessarily know.

Decision – Policy committee members happy to sign off on general shape of the document. Document to be tidied up and finished asap, so published designed version can be shared at earliest convenience.

Action - Kenneth to help re-work format of document to pull asks out at front of document.

Action - Alliance to share ‘manifesto asks and influencing toolkit with membership once doc is ready.

Action – DCEO to reach out to members to sign off on final wording when ready

Polling on attitudes to ID

Decision - agreement to move forward with this.

Tearfund, SCIAF, the Alliance, WaterAid, Halo Trust, Oxfam & IIED can support, so up to 7 questions possible in terms of spend?

Action - Simon - will draft potential questions and share by email.

Upcoming meetings with party spokespeople – Lewis has organised one with Tories spokesperson, but no luck with others to date

Action – policy committee members encouraged to reach out to other party spokespeople as well.

1. **COP26**

Restart planning for climate/water oriented CPG at Holyrood? - yes Timing? – to be decided (note that a CPG meeting must hold in October anyway)

Water still good focus – accountability, water stewardship angle useful

IIED and WWI to organise, with support from WaterAid

Action point – end of august discussion between IIED, WaterAid and WWI to develop agenda. Share with group

Ben Wilson - my inclination is towards CPG before the Ministerial meetingSCCS and Alliance linked up on Climate stuff through Lewis and Ben

1. **AOB**
   1. BLM – is there a role for the PC to play in tackling racism in our sector? Unconscious bias training on 8th September.
   2. SNP conference side-event – any interest? Yes
   3. Just and green recovery debate in parliament tomorrow