# **Policy Committee Meeting Tuesday 24th August 2021 2pm-4pm**

Venue: Online.

**Committee members:** IIED, Christian Aid Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, Tearfund Scotland, SCIAF, Water Witness International, Carey Tourism, Thrive, Water Aid, HALO Trust, IDEAS, British Red Cross

**Present:** Geraldine Hill (SCIAF), Dorcas Pratt (Water Witness International), Simon Anderson (IIED), Chris Loughran (HALO Trust), Jamie Livingstone (Oxfam), Chris Hegarty (Christian Aid), Hazel MacIver (Tearfund), , Frank Pringle (individual member), Chrissie Hirst (Corra), Emma Gardner (IDEAS) Benjamin Carey (Carey Tourism), Frances Guy (the Alliance), Lewis Ryder-Jones (the Alliance)

**Apologies:** Kenneth Watt (Red Cross), Cathy Ratcliff (Thrive), Michael Alexander (Individual member)

**Summary of decisions and actions:**

Decision – Alliance to maintain watching brief on Global Public Investment (GPI) and engage when appropriate

Action - Simon will consult Cathy on Committee ToRs and come back with some suggested changes

Decision - Committee agree to make Glasgow Climate Dialogues focus of first CPG meeting on 6th October

Action – Lewis to meet with SCIAF staff and Simon on finalising CPG meeting summary and speakers.

Decision – Get research paper on WSD Bill ready to go by early 2022. Given intel suggests that WSD Bill won’t appear in Parliament this coming year, we have time to develop position but should not wait to get going

Action - Committee members to agree on research questions and suggested outcomes by mid September. See [draft ToR for research consultant here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GVJSSLuxhM910OMXxKti7YbtYBaS39a48dbb0cmRhd8/edit?usp=sharing) . Please add comments and amends asap so we can finalise.

Action – Committee members to feedback via email on agenda items not discussed (on [new SG and Greens deal](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/agreement/2021/08/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-shared-policy-programme/documents/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-draft-shared-policy-programme/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-draft-shared-policy-programme/govscot%3Adocument/SG%2BSGP%2BTalks%2B-%2BDraft%2BPolicy%2BProgramme%2B-%2BFINAL%2B-%2BOFFSEN.pdf), [UKG Consultation on Developing Countries Trading Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/designing-the-uk-trade-preferences-scheme-for-developing-nations) & Committee membership suggestions)

**Discussion**

**1. Introductions, welcome Frances Guy, new Alliance CEO**

- Simon introduced Frances Guy. She is keen to understand the role of the Policy Committee in shaping the Alliance.

- Committee members talked through their own roles, experiences, priorities, and their interest in this group.

**2. Review last meeting notes and action points**

- Simon highlighted action points of last meeting’s agenda

- Lewis provided update on Global Public Investment – reached out to organiser (Jonathan Glennie) and published details of their events on website. Plans to hold meeting within membership to discuss have not yet materialised, low turnout at engagement event (UK and Western Europe event), leaving open the possibility of future conversations/examination, but SDG Bill took precedence during last quarter.

- Simon discussed the interest of maintaining contact with Jonathan as it could lead to further projects/development in the future. Jamie discussed how funds are allocated per country, and highlighted the disparity between large cash injections with minimal criteria attached.

Decision – Alliance to maintain watching brief on GPI and engage when appropriate

- Referendum debate: the Alliance should maintain its focus on the medium-long term process of this item.

- Simon highlighted the efforts of Members of Parliament in highlighting global issues (particularly Afghanistan) and discussed other action points from last meeting’s minutes.

- Decolonisation/anti-racism: Benjamin highlighted the more practical efforts that can be made by the Alliance to diversifying its mission, membership, etc. to further deepen its goals within the ID sector (i.e. such as highlighting the systemic problems and linking those to the historical actions and perspective). –

- Simon discussed the need to respond to the International Development review by ScotGov – where there was some discussion of decolonisation/localisation

- Chrissie highlighted how framing the Alliance’s response to issues shouldn’t be dictated by major publications/events, and that our work on anti-racism / decolonisation should be driven by the broader context.

- Jamie suggested that we could organise 1/2 sessions a year when we ask for Alliance members to bring colleagues in the global south to our meetings so that we stress test the focus/workplan of our policy work in Scotland and ensure that it matches the priorities of those in the global south. This shouldn't be seen as a substitute for enhancing diversity of the core policy group, but as a supplement to it.

Chris said in terms of racial diversity, there's a challenge in Scotland, which is that (according to the most recent census), 24 out of every 25 people in Scotland are white. It means that many of the steps being taken eg by Christian Aid in metropolitan England are v challenging here. Doesn't mean we don't take the right steps. obviously...

- Simon asked the Committee in which ways the Committee can be more diverse in its membership. Members discussed the ways in which the Alliance membership can be a reflection of what the Committee make-up can be made-up of and how its work can be influenced by this.

**3. Review and update to Committee ToRs**

- Frances highlighted that the Alliance is advertising for 3 posts in order to address Chris’ point of highlighting discussion at the previous meeting of the capacity of the Alliance being a hindrance on its ability to operate effectively and efficiently enough on issues.

- Simon pointed out that the Board will endeavour to work more proactively in taking on key work packages and successfully working together in a holistic way.

- Members highlighted the importance of striking a balance between diversifying the Alliance and maintaining the substance of discussion of the Committee

- Simon discusses the ToRs and highlights Points 4 and 9 as key points for further discussion/examination in the Committee in the future, making reference to the previous discussion point;

- Simon spoke about the ways in which the ToRs are subject to review and emphasised Committee members’ role in shaping change in these areas – whilst highlighting their robustness in providing structure to the workings of the Policy Committee.

- Lewis highlighted the small changes that may be necessary to adjust the ToRs to sign up for campaigns and has indicated the discussion of the complexities of signing up to partnerships and the obstacles brought by standing by policy decisions. Simon highlighted that due to lacking a full-time CEO over the last few months, this has negatively effected the campaigning/activity of the Alliance

- Simon highlighted the importance of coherence in the ToRs and how fluidity of membership could have negative implications for Quorum and formality of Policy Committee meetings.

- Supports inviting those into Committee, but respecting ToRs as they stand with reference to Policy decisions.

Action - Simon will consult Cathy on ToRs and come back to committee/board with some suggested changes

**4. CPG re-establishment – first meeting 6th October, COP26 focus**

- Lewis updated the Committee on the updates of the CPG, highlighting the accession of Sarah Boyack MSP as Convener and search for deputy Convenor.

- Karen Adam MSP (SNP) has agreed to take on deputy convenor role.(as of 30th August)

- Lewis seeks to publish date of meeting and highlighting the importance of appointments in the CPG.

- Sarah Boyack very keen to have first meeting revolve around COP and hopes the Committee will focus on what the Alliance will do. Lewis seeks to focus meeting on outcomes for MSPs, highlighting past successes of this approach – using the CPG to bring voices from the Global South to this.

- Simon emphasised the ways in which the CPG can attempt to put political pressure on ScotGov prior to COP26 to champion a genuine output of dialogue with global partners. Hazel noted that their staff in the Global South are extremely busy with issues such as Covid, climate disasters, political unrest and other issues and will likely see an invitation as something to miss.

- Chrissie emphasised the importance of linking the mission of the COP and the mission of the CPG and using that link to focus the ID CPG’s mission in influencing government policy.

- Lewis noted that CPGs can be useful as an influencing vehicle, however this is not always the case. At the core they are designed as a mechanism for MSPs to communicate with external organisations.

Lewis is seeking to lodge a proposal with Sarah Boyack – dependent on it being featured on the Glasgow Dialogue – as soon as possible, and emphasising the importance of outcomes for MSPs.

Decision - *Committee agree to make Glasgow Climate Dialogues focus of first CPG meeting on 6th October Action – Lewis to relay with SCIAF and Simon on finlaising meeting summary and speakers.*

**5. Next steps on Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill**

- Thinking so far after sub-group meetings ( [see summary short paper](https://nidos.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/Ed0Hsnlt1ApHlvLDz1Ou_pMBWUyxBet65I68JQLdqknkPg) & proposed [draft ToR](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GVJSSLuxhM910OMXxKti7YbtYBaS39a48dbb0cmRhd8/edit?usp=sharing))

- Seek decision and support for commissioning research and setting timeline

- Focus on ‘Next Steps’ of document; updated draft of document, and will seek further consultation on a research piece to look for consultants

- type of consultant sought - Not going to be a perfect – requires consultant with a knowledge of broader policy process and an understanding of existing legal duties re. LPBs and Policy coherence in ID. Lewis noted that a paper would be a useful tool to inform broader engagement with lawmakers and civil servants – and other parties involving in the bill drafting process.

- Oxfam Scotland committed to this

- Geraldine (SCIAF) will investigate any availability from them and will keep in touch with Lewis regarding this.

- Meeting with Andy Wightman: In broad agreement, a need to set out what the requirements of the bill are and developing thinking further on the scope of the bill; and what the resulting impact of such a bill would have on LA’s. May investigate the possibility of bringing in COSLA and LA partners in at an earlier stage than anticipated. Highlighted the ineffectiveness of ‘nice language’ in legislation in effecting change and Lewis highlighted the importance of including reporting mechanisms within the bill to improve accountability within the legislation.

Decision – have research paper ready to go by early 2022. Given intel suggests that WSD Bill won’t appear in Parliament this coming year, we have time to develop position but should wait to get going

Action- Committee members to agree on research questions and suggested outcomes in coming weeks. See draft ToR and add comments by mid September

**6. COP26 updates**

- Geraldine gave an overview of the Glasgow Dialogue initiative and the various partnerships and projects involved in this. Will come out with a Communique on the 23 September to give a full run-down of events. Raising awareness of the Communique, outcome: CPG could lodge a motion welcoming the Communique and seeking commitments to act on this.

Simon highlighted the importance of these themes as indicators of the potential success of COP, by extending invitations to partners in the Global South to speak/participate in this event/CPG. Lewis will seek to speak with Ben and Geraldine to acquire resources to pass onto Sarah Boyack.

- Dorcas highlighted the push of Water Witness for a Call to Action on water usage

- SCIAF is campaigning on COP issues (Blue and Green zones) with UK and ScotGov partners and planning to bring representatives from Zambia and Malawi to the event.

- Simon stated that the numbers of people being able to attend COP will be vastly reduced; issues with securing third country representation, but work going ahead to improve this through hybrid forums/meetings to ensure continued dialogue.

**7. MSP constituency mapping (5 mins)**

Frank and Lewis updated the Committee on mapping of MSPs and Members across Scotland.

Suggestions made by Simon to broaden this to MP mappings and to include CPG representations.

**8. Emerging issues and AOB**

No time to discuss following items:

* Reflections on [new SG and Greens deal](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/agreement/2021/08/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-shared-policy-programme/documents/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-draft-shared-policy-programme/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-draft-shared-policy-programme/govscot%3Adocument/SG%2BSGP%2BTalks%2B-%2BDraft%2BPolicy%2BProgramme%2B-%2BFINAL%2B-%2BOFFSEN.pdf)
* [UKG Consultation on Developing Countries Trading Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/designing-the-uk-trade-preferences-scheme-for-developing-nations)
* Committee membership suggestions – 2 spaces to fill relating to current ToR

Action – Committee members to feedback via email on above emerging issues