

Cross-Party Group on Malawi

Thursday 28th October 2021, 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Alasdair Allan MSP (Chair)
Alexander Stewart MSP
Colin Smyth MSP
Fiona Hyslop MSP
Foysol Choudhury MSP
Jenni Minto MSP
Richard Lochhead MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Liam McArthur MSP

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Alan Laverock
Antonia Ho
Archie Marshall
Brian Kerr
Dave Alsop
David Hope-Jones
Douglas Blackwood
Eve Broadis, Fair Trade Scotland
Heather Cubie
Helen Mein
Iain Fulton
Iain Woodhouse
Ian Mitchell
Jade Stein, Scotland Malawi Partnership
Jailos Mapeza Mhango
Jenifer Barrett
Kate McLaughlin
Pam Wilson
Paul Garside
Ray French
Robert Kalin
Rosemary Harrison

Sally Rae
Sarah Black
Sheena Nicolson
Stuart Brown
Susan Dalgety
Thomson Chirwa
Tim Eden
Tracy Morse

Apologies

Angela Constance MSP
Angus Robertson MSP
Annabelle Ewing MSP
Claire Haughey MSP
Finlay Carson MSP
Jamie Hepburn MSP
John Mason MSP
Maurice Golden MSP
Michelle Thomson MSP
Natalie Don MSP
Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
Stuart McMillan MSP

Agenda item 1

Introduction, welcome and networking

Agenda item 2

Election of Position Holders

Agenda item 3

Proposal: Continue to work closely with the UK Parliament's Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

Agenda item 4

Breakout Groups

Agenda item 5

Close

On the 28th of October 2021, the Malawi Cross Party Group (CPG) held their first meeting of this session, chaired by Alasdair Allan MSP. The full recording of this meeting can be found via the past events page at www.scotland-malawipartnership.org.

Introduction, welcome and networking

Alasdair Allan MSP welcomed attendees and David Hope-Jones gave apologies for those who could not attend. Alasdair then gave a short briefing on technical admin and the purpose of this meeting.

[Election of Position Holders](#)

David went through the election of Co-Convenors and Co-Vice Convenors. **Alasdair Allan MSP**, **Alexander Stewart MSP** and **Liam McArthur MSP** were re-elected as **Co-Convenors**, proposed by **Prof Heather Cubie** and seconded by **Prof Robert Kalin**. **Mark Ruskell MSP** and **Sarah Boyack MSP** were elected as **Co-Vice Convenors**, proposed by **Prof Paul Garside** and seconded by **Brian Kerr**. Alasdair went through the election of the Secretariat. **David Hope-Jones** was re-elected as **Secretary**, proposed by **Liam McArthur MSP** and seconded by **Prof Heather Cubie**.

[Briefing on the Scotland-Malawi relationship](#)

David gave a briefing on the history and current state of the Scotland-Malawi relationship.

Alasdair suggested Governance could be a fruitful topic and useful theme to focus on in the period ahead given the challenges put forward by the President of Malawi. He also hoped that a key message that would arise from COP26 is that 'those countries least responsible for climate change are those who are most affected by it'.

Liam McArthur MSP echoed these sentiments, and emphasised the exemplary nature of the partnership between Scotland and Malawi, and the importance of not undervaluing the benefits that Scotland derives from it.

Alexander Stewart MSP added that the large number of individuals and organisations in Scotland with active links to Malawi had allowed the Malawi CPG to move to the next level, beyond many other groups within the Scottish Parliament.

Fiona Hyslop MSP commented on the importance of the Malawi CPG, in its ensuring that Government understands the strength of belief that the Parliament has in Scotland-Malawi links. She assured those attending that their support helped bring ballast and impetus to the genuine and very effective work that the Scottish Government does.

[Proposal: continuing to work closely with the UK Parliament's Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\)](#)

David went through the proposal to continue working closely with the UK Parliament's Malawi APPG. This proposal was approved, being proposed by **Prof Robert Kalin** and seconded by **Alasdair Allan MSP**.

Break Out Groups (footage of this section was not captured due to technical limitations)

Separate breakout groups were opened, where attendees could speak directly with the MSPs in attendance. Any attendees who wish to have further conversations with any of the MSPs should email david@scotland-malawipartnership.org, who will share their email addresses with the respective MSPs.

Closing remarks

Alasdair thanked all those who took part, asserting the value of the CPG being a regular occurrence, involving those in Malawi and groups around the country who are active in promoting Scotland-Malawi links.