

# Cross-Party Group on Malawi

Tuesday 17 January 2023

Minute

Present

MSPs

Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP  
Alexander Stewart, MSP  
Jenni Minto, MSP  
John Mason, MSP  
Sarah Boyack, MSP

Invited guests

Non-MSP Group Members

Abbie Stevenson, University of Dundee  
Ali Longden, Cooperatives College  
Calum Fisher, SOAS/Scottish Parliament  
Cassie Masterton, University of Dundee  
Chad Morse, Scotland Malawi Partnership  
Chris Jardine, The Co-operative College  
Dr Conor Snowden, University of Edinburgh  
David Hope-Jones, Scotland Malawi Partnership  
Dr Barry Klaassen, Scottish Emergency Medicine – Malawi project, Dundee  
Peter West, Malawi Consulate  
Dr Tracy Morse, University of Strathclyde  
Dorothea Nelson, Scotland Malawi Partnership  
Frances Guy, Scotland's International Development Alliance  
Jacqui Thomasen, The Co-operative College  
Kevin Simpson, Malawi Fruits  
Moirra Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund  
Prof Heather Cubie  
Prof Iain Gillespie, Principal and VC, University of Dundee  
Dr Peter McEleavy, University of Dundee  
Stuart Brown, Scotland Malawi Partnership

**Digital**

Address Malata, VC, Malawi University of Science and Technology  
Prof Emmanuel Kaunda, VC, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUNAR)

Prof John Saka, VC, Mzuzu University (MZUNI)  
Prof Mac Mallewa, VC, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS)  
Prof Nancy Chitera, VC, Malawi University of Business and Applied Science (MUBAS)  
Prof Samson Sajidu, VC, University of Malawi

Alan Laverock, Bananabox Trust / Scotland Malawi Partnership  
Alexandra Mackay, University of Glasgow  
Alistair Geddes  
Anne Brown  
Becky Kelly, Tiyeni  
Bobby Anderson  
Brian Kerr, The Soko Fund  
Cameron Smith  
Chawezi Gondwe  
Christine Campbell  
Demilade Elemo, University of Dundee  
Ellen Brooks  
Fatou Drammeh, UNICEF  
Felix Chimera Nyika, Kairos Leadership Institute and Theological Seminary  
Fordyce Davidson, University of Dundee  
Gaia Marini, Water Witness International  
Gertrude Kadzuwa, Yathu Widows Opportunity  
Hannah Bialic, University of Glasgow  
Ishmael B.M. Kosamu, MUBAS  
Jason Norris, University of Dundee  
Katia Mackley, University of Edinburgh  
Dr Ken Jeffrey, University of Aberdeen  
Major Juma  
Mwapatsa Mipando, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences  
Neil Calvert  
Neil Merrylees  
Nicola Veitch  
Pam Wilson  
Patrick Likongwe, Leadership for Environment and Development  
Prof Paul Garside, University of Glasgow, Wellcome Centre for Integrative  
Parasitology  
Rebecca Foster  
Robert Anderson, African Lakes Company  
Robert Mhango, Mtuli Foundation  
Sean O'Rourke  
Sosten Chiotha, LEAD  
Paul van Gardingen, University of Dundee  
Sphiwe Nyalugwe, LEADSEA  
Susan Levy, University of Dundee  
Tawachi Nyasulu  
Prof Wendy Alexander, University of Dundee

## Apologies

Mark Ruskell MSP  
Foyso! Choudhury MSP  
Oliver Mundell MSP  
Maurice Golden MSP  
Ruth Maguire MSP  
Mercedes Villalba MSP  
Alexander Burnett MSP  
Stephanie Callaghan MSP,  
Stuart McMillan MSP,  
Jackie Baillie MSP,  
Siobhan Brown MSP  
Craig Hoy MSP  
Meghan Gallacher MSP,  
Jackie Dunbar MSP  
Willie Coffey MSP  
Natalie Don MSP  
Liam Kerr MSP  
Clare Adamson MSP,  
Annie Wells MSP,  
Annabelle Ewing MSP  
Paul Sweeney MSP,  
Katy Clark MSP  
Jim Fairlie MSP  
Maggie Chapman MSP  
Brian Whittle MSP  
Russell Findlay MSP  
Edward Mountain MSP  
Ash Regan MSP  
Miles Briggs MSP  
Michelle Thompson MSP  
Finaly Carson MSP  
Joe FitzPatrick MSP  
Graeme Dey MSP  
Christine Grahame MSP  
Ross Greer MSP  
Sharon Dowey MSP  
Gordon Macdonald MSP  
Neil Bibby MSP  
Maggie Chapman MSP

## Welcome, apologies and minutes of last meeting

Alasdair welcomed attendees, recognised MSPs in attendance and noted apologies where these had been given. The minutes of the previous CPG were proposed by Prof Heather Cubie, Chair of SMP and seconded by Dr Tracy Morse.

## Presentation on the University of Dundee's evolving links with Malawi's six public universities

Prof Iain Gillespie, Principal and Vice-Chancellor gave a presentation about the University of Dundee's commitment to Malawian Partnerships. This is based on the University of Dundee Strategy to 2027 Social Purpose pillars: Research; Education and empowerment & engagement. The University's Africa Vision is to strengthen and form new alliances and partnerships, based on mutual respect and recognition of the need for co-design and co-delivery that meet all needs, particularly of those most disadvantaged. Prof Gillespie emphasized the University's aim to looking to the future whilst recognizing the past and living the University's long-held values.

In August 2022 the Vice Chancellors of all six of Malawi's public universities and the principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Dundee signed the Blantyre Declaration – A shared commitment to social purpose. This was illustrated by examples of some of the steps taken to meeting these commitments. Amongst others the twinning of the Botanic gardens, the launch of a new doctoral scheme for staff at partner institutions and developing research, education and engagement priorities, building on mutual strengths and needs. At his recent visit Prof Gillespie was inspired by the political support given, having had the opportunity to speak to HE Dr Chakwera and participating at a round-table discussion with six cabinet ministers focusing on climate justice.

## Input and Reflections from Malawi

Speaking from Malawi, Dr Sosten Chiotha from LEAD then addressed the CPG. He reported back from successful talks with cabinet ministers who acknowledged the tangible outcomes from the genesis of the partnership already as well as expressed their overwhelming support.

As an example Dr Chiotha mentioned the work done by University of Dundee on the inclusion of women as women were key in the education for climate action. Officials of the National planning commission are excited as they work with universities and private sector and feel this partnership has come at the right time.

We heard from all Vice Chancellors of all six public universities who each in their own words expressed their excitement of transforming the lives of students and people in Malawi by having this partnership and hopefully more to follow. Collaboration and practical partnership, not just on paper will contribute to the Malawi Vision 2063 and tie into the national education sector investment plan.

## Cooperatives College – University of Dundee links

Ali Longdon reported from Cooperatives College, an educational charity whose mission is empowering individuals and communities to build a fairer world based on

the cooperatives values and principles of co-production, co-facilitation and co-design. Their four main strategies are co-operative learning, thought leadership, international collaborative development and youth empowerment. Two areas of their work particularly applied to this meeting:

- Developing partnerships in higher education and the establishment of a scholarship programme.
- Building and growing stronger networks to develop existing and new co-operatives and networks to share knowledge and best practice.

## Q&A

**Dr Peter West**, consul of Malawi in Scotland mentioned the excellent initiative in 2010 funded by the Scottish Government which sent academics from Scotland to study and practice for a semester in Malawi and bring Malawian colleagues back for a semester or longer.

Q: Would you be open to widening the initiative to bring in other universities in the initiative? A: (Prof Iain Gillespie - IG) Yes, we want to make Blantyre Declaration work and look at it with other partners and funders – one step at a time.

**Sarah Boyack** MSP found presentations exciting, partnership, co-design approach was crucial. Q: Will there be feedback on impact? It would be an interesting model for other institutions to follow suit.

A: (IG) Yes, plan is to have summit of seven universities in summer, to measure the impact of moving into the implementation of the declaration, one step at a time. . Will keep CPG Malawi group informed on progress. Keeping it pragmatic and realistic to get things moving.

**Heather Cubie**, Chair SMP, Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh's Africa Committee. Q: It would be a wonderful opportunity for cross partnership across senior academics too and she would be happy to help advance tangential partnership.

A: IG preliminary discussion with president of RSE how does RSE work more closely with leadership of Scottish Universities? Important independent academic voice, work more closely on common issues. Sustainable partnership with Malawian colleagues. Co-design across.

**John Mason** MSP, spin off business start-up – does this happen in Malawi

Q: Is research in Malawi leading to businesses starting up? What are needs?

A: (Address Malata, VC, Malawi University of Science and Technology) This is happening but due to small Malawi economy we are doing as much as we can, learning lessons from other universities.

A: (Emmanuel Kaunda, VC, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUNAR)) There is a lot of interaction between private sector and industry. This is a great opportunity to learn from other Universities.

**Demi Elemo**, University of Dundee, fantastic presentation.

Commented [SB1]: Not sure what's meant here. May have been Speaker's stream of consciousness

Q:What is being done to commercialise research results? Are there plans to spread partnership/impact to other countries on continent.

A: (IG) Africa initiative at University of Dundee with seven universities in Malawi, strong link with Ghana as well as Nigeria. We are looking to learn from what we are doing. Things to learn from initiatives.

## AOB and Close

- Thanks to MSPs for attending SMP's Oct 2022 UN SDGs exhibition;
- Congratulations to Dr Barry Klaassen on his MBE investiture tomorrow;
- Stuart Brown will succeed David Hope-Jones as CPG Secretary.
- Cholera situation in Malawi difficult time in Malawi over 825 deaths so far, Scotland watching closely and giving all possible support. Scottish Government earlier allocation of £36000 earmarked for COVID support has at request of UNICEF been re-allocated to use in combat of Cholera
- Two SMP events coming up:
  - 26 January Water Forum with input from the Government of Malawi's Principal Secretary, Ministry of Water & Sanitation, Elias Chimulambe
  - 15 February Health Forum with members of Cholera Task Force

### Thanks from Chair - Dr Alasdair Allan MSP

Alasdair thanked speakers, attendees, MSP colleagues and the Scotland Malawi Partnership. After the meeting closed, in-person attendees had the opportunity for networking over Malawi gin and tonics or soft drink.

### Presentation to David Hope-Jones

A presentation was made to outgoing ex-officio Secretary of the CPG, David Hope-Jones, OBE who is moving on from his position as Chief Executive of the Scotland Malawi Partnership after almost 15 years. Speaking on behalf of the Co-Conveners and Deputy Co-Conveners, Liam McArthur MSP thanked David for the huge contribution that he has made to the bilateral relationship and to the life of the Malawi CPG, noting that this had been recognised in a motion in Parliament.

**Commented [SB2]:** Excellent minute. Thanks for the time and attention that's gone into this