



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Briefing for Members' Business — Thursday 11 November 2021

[S6M-01490](#) Fiona Hyslop: Publication of the Communiqué Setting Out the Conclusions of the Glasgow Climate Dialogues

Summary

This briefing has been prepared for MSPs in advance of the Members' debate, on 11th November, on "Publication of the Communiqué Setting Out the Conclusions of the Glasgow Climate Dialogues" ([S6M-01490](#)).

The background to the Glasgow Climate Dialogues is explained, as well as the main conclusions of the process, as set in the agreed communiqué. These relate to access, participation, and voice; to adaptation; to Loss and Damage; and to Just Transition. The relevance of these issues to the debates, ongoing at COP26, is explored and some questions for Scottish Ministers are suggested.

Flowing from the Communiqué, SCCS is calling for COP26 to deliver meaningful progress in the following areas:

- Rich, developed nations committing new and additional finance to address irreversible climate impacts, known as Loss and Damage, such as those flowing from sea level rise, building upon the Scottish Government's announcement of £1m.
- Rich, developed nations ensuring delivery in full of the \$100bn per year of climate finance to support least developed countries to reduce their emissions and to adapt to climate impacts, while agreeing a stretching new global public finance goal for adaptation for post-2025.
- Detailed commitments to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C through the delivery of a just transition based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and the right to development.
- The need for an action plan to address issues of access and participation to ensure groups most impacted by climate change have a level playing field in global climate negotiations.

Introduction

[Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) ("SCCS") is a diverse coalition of over 60 civil society organisations in Scotland who campaign together on climate change. Our members include environment, faith and belief groups, international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups. We believe that the Scottish Government should take bold action to tackle climate change, with Scotland delivering our fair share of action in response to the Paris Agreement and supporting climate justice around the world. More background on the climate change context, and Scotland's response, is set out in annex 1.

This briefing seeks to explain the background to the Glasgow Climate Dialogues and the main conclusions of the process, as set in the agreed communiqué. The relevance of these issues to the debates, ongoing at COP26, is explored and some questions for Scottish Ministers are suggested. SCCS warmly welcomed the tabling of this motion, its cross-party support and is pleased that it has been selected for debate on 11th November. This provides an important opportunity to highlight, as COP26 draws to a close, the issues that were raised in the Dialogues. The full text of the motion is reproduced in annex 2 to this briefing.



The Glasgow Climate Dialogues: background

The [Glasgow Climate Dialogues](#) were four online sessions co-hosted by the Scottish Government and Scottish civil society. Each session focused on a specific theme:

- Access, Participation and Voice;
- Adaptation and Resilience;
- [Loss and Damage](#); and
- Just Transition.

These four themes were developed in collaboration between SCCS and the Scottish Government. They were informed by understanding of Global South priorities ahead of COP26 and determined to be areas where there was clear opportunity for collaboration, dialogue and joint learning between Scottish actors and international partners.

The Glasgow Climate Dialogues were designed to engage with, learn from and platform key Global South stakeholders on climate change ahead of COP26. The Dialogues were hosted in recognition of the fact that the Global South is disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and that to have a successful summit, it is essential to elevate and support representation of people from the Global South.

The Glasgow Climate Dialogues were planned by a task force made up by representatives from civil society organisations in the Global South, members of SCCS and representatives of the Scottish Government's COP26 team. Between May and August 2021, the task force met four times to make decisions on content and processes. Each of the four sessions were planned by two facilitators – one from the Global South and one from a Scottish civil society organisation – who collaborated on securing relevant speakers and making choices about key questions.

The Glasgow Climate Dialogues were attended by leading climate experts on each of the respective topics. Global South experts made up the majority of speakers and facilitators, with some Global North experts invited to participate. For each session, a list of invitees was compiled, and invitations were also circulated through a limited number of networks with an emphasis on securing Global South participation.

The Glasgow Climate Dialogues: conclusions

The [final communiqué](#) summarised the outputs of each of the four Dialogues, which were specifically designed to amplify the priorities of experts from the global South. The communiqué contains important messages, around each of the four themes, for those negotiating at COP26, but also for those responsible for climate policy beyond COP26. These include: -

1. Access, Participation and Voice

“The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) must learn from the impact of COVID on negotiations on Global South participation and create an action plan to address issues of access and participation. This action plan should aim to create a level playing field among Parties, and financial support to ensure Global South participation should be boosted. The UNFCCC should engage in broad consultation to develop this action plan, and ensure its implementation is funded by developed country parties.”

2. Adaptation

“Developed countries must meet their US\$100bn annual climate finance promise with the target of a 50:50 split between mitigation and adaptation finance achieved and funding provided as concessional grants, not loans. Recognising this is insufficient, COP26 should significantly increase climate finance and agree a stretching new global public finance goal for adaptation for post-2025. Improved accounting mechanisms are required to enhance scrutiny of the quantity and quality of climate finance with more funding



committed via UNFCCC mandated channels and climate finance both new and additional to Official Development Assistance (ODA)."

3. Loss and Damage

"Loss and damage due to anthropogenic climate change is an unjust legacy for young people and next generations. Parties to the UNFCCC starting at COP26 should listen better to those who are experiencing loss and damage – particularly the young, women, the marginalised – to be able to find ways to address this climate reality. Ways to document and record these experiences should be reported and assessed as part of the Global Stocktake."

4. Just Transition

"Recognising the different circumstances of Global North and South, a just transition to meet the Paris Agreement goals must be based on the UNFCCC principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and the right to development, requiring countries do their fair share of emissions reductions and repay their climate debt, transforming economies away from the historical and ongoing plunder of Global South resources by the Global North."

The Glasgow Climate Dialogues at COP26

Both SCCS and the Scottish Government have used their engagements at COP26 to draw attention to the priorities identified by participants from across the Global South during the Dialogues, as set out in the communiqué. These included:

- An event in the Scottish Government's Climate Ambition Zone on 1st November;
- An event in the UK Pavilion in the Blue Zone on 2nd November; and
- A UNFCCC side [event](#), co-hosted by the Scottish Government, SCCS and the Government of Malawi in the Blue Zone on 8th November, at which the First Minister delivered very positive opening remarks.

A roundtable was also held between the First Minister and representatives from the global south and SCCS on 10th November.

On 1st November, the Scottish Government's [announced](#) the commitment of £1m to "address loss and damage" – acting upon a call made during the Glasgow Climate Dialogue. SCCS warmly [welcomed](#) this announcement, which makes Scotland the first rich, developed nation to explicitly commit money to support communities facing irreversible climate impacts.

Sonam Wangdi, Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group, from Bhutan, told the global press pack that they're "very happy" to see this move, which he says "paves the way" for others to follow. The global Climate Action Network – a coalition representing over 1,500 non-governmental organisations in over 130 countries, awarded Scotland a "Ray of the Day", an award given to those demonstrating climate leadership.

SCCS recognises the sum committed by the Scottish Government's is very small in a global sense, but believe this announcement is a very welcome statement of intent. The Funding will be allocated from the Climate Justice Fund, which is rising from £3m per year to £6m in the coming year after a five-year freeze. Full details of how these funding streams will be structured has still to emerge, and the detail is important. The Scottish Government must ensure it designs the Climate Justice Fund in a way that enhances climate vulnerable countries' demands for other rich countries to deliver new and additional resources.

SCCS also believes the Government should go further. The key blockage to progress globally is where the money will come from: after all, rich developed countries are already betraying their promise to low-income countries by failing to mobilise the \$100 billion per year they promised in climate finance. Genuinely new sources of money for loss and damage are therefore needed and the Scottish Government should again lead the way by raising the money for its growing Climate Justice Fund by taxing the high-emitters, and those on high-incomes and wealth whose excessive consumption fuel the climate crisis.



Conclusion

In the light of the widely agreed climate emergency, COP26 represents a vital opportunity for world leaders to agree to the necessary action. In Scotland, the Scottish Government has adopted a welcome position – with clear and ambitious targets for emissions' reductions, welcome language related to a just transition as well as action to promote climate justice. It is to be hoped that developments, this week, at COP26 lead to outcomes that will progress this agenda. Whatever conclusions result, however, the Scottish Government should maintain its efforts to reduce emissions and to promote climate justice, recognising that it is essential for rich, developed nations to cut their emissions. After three missed annual emission reduction targets in a row, it is essential that the Scottish Government increases its efforts to ensure it does not miss future targets.

The [Glasgow Climate Dialogues](#), co-hosted by SCCS and the Scottish Government, provided an invaluable opportunity for voices from the global south to be heard, and for their conclusions to be raised at COP26. Both SCCS and the Scottish Government have used their engagements at COP26 to draw attention to these concerns, as set out in the communiqué. These conclusions provide an invaluable guide to the issues that the Scottish Government might focus on, in its climate justice work, beyond COP26.

In the light of this, this debate might be used to raise some of the following issues.

1. General

The Glasgow Climate Dialogues have been widely praised at COP26. Thus:

- What plans does the Scottish Government have to continue the discussions and networking established by the Glasgow Climate Dialogues beyond COP26? In particular, might it use its role as co-Chair of the Under2 coalition of sub-states, cities, and regions to promote a similar dialogue among all the Under2 members?
- What plans does the Scottish Government have to use the conclusions of the Glasgow Climate Dialogues in developing its post-COP26 climate justice work?

2. Access, Participation and Voice

Access and participation have been criticised at COP26; for civil society generally but especially for those from the global south. Thus:

- Will the Scottish Government press the UK Government (who hold the COP Presidency until the start of COP27) and the UNFCCC secretariat to learn the lessons of COP26 and develop a plan to improve access and participation for COP27 in Egypt?

3. Loss and Damage

While not officially on the agenda, Loss and Damage has been extensively debated at and around COP26. The First Minister's [announcement](#) on 1st November, albeit modest, was widely noted and welcomed. It has, therefore, catalysed the debate. Nevertheless, major states need, now, to follow Scotland's lead. Thus:

- What plans does the Scottish Government have to press the UK Government, its Under2 coalition partners and other international actors to address this issue of great importance to the global south?
- When will the Scottish Government confirm the details of its Climate Justice Resilience Fund, and will it ensure that its global south partners are genuinely involved in helping determine its priorities?



Climate change: National and international context

The primary context is, of course, the ongoing climate crisis. The planet is already over 1°C warmer and on track for a devastating 3°C or more - there is no more time to waste. Climate change is affecting the world's poorest people now and fuelling a linked nature crisis. In August 2021, hundreds of [scientists from the IPCC issued the starkest warning yet](#) about human impact on the planet amid unprecedented changes, including more intense heatwaves and more extreme weather events, with some changes now inevitable and irreversible. The UN Secretary General branded the findings a “[code red for humanity](#)”. The science is now overwhelming: our planet is on fire and without concerted action we're headed towards climate catastrophe; with the poorest communities and future generations suffering the most.

It is, however, not too late to limit global temperature rise to the critical 1.5°C threshold, as agreed at Paris, but the decisions we take over the next few years are crucial. For Scotland, **the key decisions will be the steps that the UK and Scottish Governments take in the run-up to and following COP26 in Glasgow.** To inform these, SCCS' briefing on “[Delivering climate justice at COP26 in Glasgow](#)” sets out the steps we believe need to be taken by the UK and Scottish Governments to seize this opportunity to shape global action. This suggests:

“The Scottish Government must implement the transformational policy and spending actions needed to deliver Scotland's legal emission targets, without international offsets, and ensure a just transition. It should also use its relatively strong record, and Glasgow's status as COP26 host city, to push other historical polluters towards actions consistent with limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C, including using its prominent role within the Under2 Coalition to show international leadership.”

While Scotland's emissions have halved since 1990, and they continue to fall, Scotland's credibility is now in significant jeopardy due to it missing annual targets. In June, [the Cabinet Secretary confirmed](#) that the annual target for 2019 was missed; this was the third of three successive annual targets missed. To achieve Scotland's 75% emissions reduction target by 2030, and net zero by 2045, it is clear that Scotland must accelerate climate action while delivering a just transition for those impacted. This will need an ambitious, long-term strategy to meet these targets, without using international offsets and with an emphasis on emission reduction at source. This is critical both to meet targets at home, but also to provide credibility to the Scottish Government's advocacy to others.

Alongside rapidly reducing domestic emissions, to deliver climate justice Scotland can lead by example. The issues and opportunities in relation to Climate Justice were illustrated by the discussion at the [Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on Thursday 30 September](#), as well as in written evidence submitted to that Committee.

SCCS welcomes the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund, and its announcement that [it will be increased to £6 million per year](#) across this Parliament. However, SCCS considers that [the Climate Justice Fund should increase](#) annually in real terms and, of course, get to the people who need it most. This should be done by taxing high emitters and aligning it to best practice in adaptation globally. The Scottish Government should also call for other rich countries to increase their own climate finance informed by a Fair Shares analysis, and champion for this to be additional to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Such “[para-diplomacy](#)” is consistent with Scotland's devolved responsibilities and is illustrated by the Scottish Government's role as European co-chair of the Under2 coalition.

The Scottish Government should encourage all countries to deliver on the \$100bn pledge this year, rather than 2023 as currently planned, recognising this promise should have been delivered in 2020. It should also press for action to strengthen the decision-making power of, and direct implementation by, affected people and communities through improved access to high-quality adaptation finance. Within the limits of devolved competencies, the Scottish Government is showing strong leadership by increasing the Climate Justice Fund and by ensuring this remains additional to wider international development funding. It should build on this by championing the global need for a new finance mechanism on [loss and damage](#) - the First Minister's [announcement](#) on 1st November was a very welcome first step on this issue.



ANNEX 2

Motion S6M-01490 in the name of Fiona Hyslop MSP:
“Publication of the Communiqué Setting Out the Conclusions of the Glasgow Climate Dialogues”

That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the communiqué setting out the conclusions of the Glasgow Climate Dialogues, hosted by the Scottish Government and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland; understands that these dialogues were a series of online discussions, which took place between 6 and 9 September 2021, providing a forum for civil society and government departments from impacted countries in the Global South to discuss and share their positions on some of the key priorities for action at and beyond COP26, while developing a shared understanding of these key issues and identifying where collective action can advance United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) goals and objectives; notes that the communiqué includes recommendations related to ensuring equitable access, participation and voice at the talks, the need for developed countries to significantly increase the financial support available to help impacted communities adapt to spiralling climate impacts, the need to address the losses and damages created by climate impacts that go beyond the limits of adaptation, and the need to ensure a global Just Transition based on the UNFCCC principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and the right to development; commends the Scottish Government and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland for facilitating these dialogues, and notes the calls for ministers to respond positively, including by placing these priorities at the heart of the Scottish Government’s own activities for COP26 and encouraging support for them from other UNFCCC participants.