



COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION UK 

Commonwealth Parliamentary Forums on Climate Change

Official Report
March 2021



The Forums at a Glance

In March 2021, CPA UK partnered with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), to host two virtual Commonwealth Parliamentary Forums on Climate Change. To factor for varying time zones across the Commonwealth, CPA UK delivered a tailored Asia-Pacific Regional Forum in conjunction with a pan-Commonwealth Forum. Cumulatively, the Forums were attended by 270 delegates from 38 countries who heard from over 50 speakers. With the UK hosting the 26th UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP26) in November 2021, the Forums aimed to:

- Engage a pan-Commonwealth parliamentary audience in discussions on the role of parliamentarians in holding governments to account, setting ambitious climate commitments and complying with international agreements.
- Showcase positive climate action stories across the Commonwealth and allow for parliamentarians to share their key learning obstacles.
- Provide participating parliamentarians with a unique opportunity to increase their knowledge about effective oversight and scrutiny of climate policies.
- Provide panellists and delegates with the opportunity to network internationally, exchange ideas with a wide range of experts in the field and key regional COP26 stakeholders.
- Build a community of practice and develop a Commonwealth climate action plan by electing a working group to coordinate efforts and maximise impact in the lead up to the COP26 summit.

- Towards Climate Security -

To begin the Forums, Nigel Topping, *UN High Level Climate Champion*, introduced delegates to the priorities of the UK Presidency. Commonwealth parliamentarians then shared good practice as well as the challenges faced in achieving these objectives within their remit.

Over the course of the Forums, delegates were introduced to the objectives of COP26. Commonwealth parliamentarians shared good practice as well as the challenges faced in achieving these objectives within their remit.

UK Presidency of COP26: Four Objectives

1. Zero carbon economy
2. Increase in focus on adaptation and resilience measures
3. Hundred billion dollars a year to emerging and developing economies
4. Drive collaboration



Zero Carbon Economy

Throughout the Forums, speakers recognised the vast responsibility facing advanced economies to cut their emissions. Alex Sobel MP, *Chair of the UK Net Zero All Party Parliamentary Group*, observed that there has been a reduction of carbon emitting activity due to COVID-19 lockdowns. At its peak, global lockdown caused a drop in emissions by 24%. However, during this period air freight and commercial shipping increased, with 76% of emissions continuing. This clearly highlights the need to transition away from fossil fuels instead of focusing on individual activity.

As part of the COP26 Presidency, the UK has launched the Race to Zero, which encourages both the public and private sectors to fulfil the country's commitment to achieving a Net Zero economy before 2050. Mr. Sobel set out a ten-point plan, developed by the Net Zero APPG, for how the UK government can achieve its goal, which can be utilised in other contexts. Rebecca Sheeran, *Executive Leader of the National Audit Office (NAO)*, gave an insight from the NAO's report on [Achieving Net Zero](#) regarding the five key challenges that governments face in using public spending to achieve their climate commitments: COP26 is about national governments agreeing targets. However, Sarah Boyack MSP, *Scottish Labour's Campaign Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform*, articulated to delegates how important local authorities are in planning and

UK Net Zero APPG Ten Point Plan

As presented by Alex Sobel MP

1. Develop a clear and systemic net zero roadmap.
2. Build an expansive and ambitious COVID-19 green recovery package.
3. Make access to the COVID Corporate Finance Facility conditional upon enhanced climate commitments.
4. Enhance electricity demands response tools and incentives.
5. Develop an ambitious green hydrogen strategy.
6. Bring forward a ban on sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles to 2032.
7. Launch a cross departmental review of building standards.
8. Establish a 'Carbon Takeback Obligation' for fossil fuel extractors and importers.
9. Create incentives for nature-based emissions reduction and enhanced CO2 uptake activities.
10. Invest in major communications and awareness campaign to build popular support for net zero.

Insights from UK National Audit Office on Achieving Net Zero

As presented by Rebecca Sheeran, Executive Director

- Ambitions of governments need to be very clear, with costing of environmental aims calculated.
- Give sufficient attention to climate across all departments and their budgets.
- Focus on managing links between various aspects of net zero.
- Have ways to measure progress towards net zero. The UK currently reports annually on greenhouse gases, but needs more data to help identify where delivery risks lie.
- Engage members of the public to take their own action.

implementing transitions. Ms Boyack MSP stated that high level action is achieved by shifting “day to day investment”. This includes small scale transitions to hydro, wind, wave, and solar power, as well as low carbon heating and reengineering communities around walking and cycling. These transitions will only be just if they are affordable, for example, through making buildings affordable to heat, creating heat networks and supporting community energy co-operatives on a government level.

Adaptation and Resilience

Many states within the Commonwealth are already feeling the impacts of climate change, with vulnerable small islands and developing nations being most adversely affected. Dr Kedrick Pickering, *Former Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands*, passionately recalled the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma on the British Virgin Islands, with 80% of all homes and 90% of all boats being damaged or destroyed. Hon. Simon Stiell MP, *Grenada’s Minister for Climate Resilience, The Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management*, reiterated the need for resilience to be built into the goals of COP26. He spoke about his first-hand experience of Hurricane Ivan in 2004, which caused damage valued to be in excess of 200% GDP. The lack of adaptation and resilience planning for these extreme weather events meant that in 2005, Hurricane Emily compounded the destruction and losses of the previous hurricane.

Mr Topping spoke about the UK launch of the Race to Resilience as part of COP26. This aims to improve the resilience of the 4 billion lives in communities most at risk to climate change impacts, such as coastal areas, cities, and small holder farms. Delegates also heard from Dr Pickering about the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which encourages elected officials in the Caribbean to support programmes of resilience. Hon. Stiell shared Grenada’s approach to adaptation. Grenada has developed a national adaptation plan, a ministry of climate resilience, a Green Climate Fund, which funds the climate proofing of sectors, and has introduced climate smart agricultural practices.

Finance for Developing Economies

Mr Topping described the third key goal of the UK Presidency of COP26, as to secure \$100 billion USD a year for emerging and developing economies to transition to sustainable economies. However, he emphasised that this is not enough, calling for 130 trillion USD to replace all fossil fuel infrastructure by 2050. Clare Hamilton, *Peers for the Planet*, emphasised the need for more green financing. Ms Hamilton argued that COVID-19

presents a chance to build economies back better, but just 18% of recovery spending post COVID-19 has gone into green investment.

Stephen Hammer, *Advisor in Global Partnership and Strategy, World Bank*, spoke about the finance that is available to developing economies, such as recent grant funding from the World Bank, which has supported governments in Antigua, Barbuda, Zambia and Mozambique.

In the domestic sphere, Dr Atiur Rahman, *Development Economist and former Governor of the Bank of Bangladesh*, talked about the proactive role that central banks can play in stimulating green finance. Dr Rahman shared the following examples of green financing from the Bank of Bangladesh, which are inclusive and both socially and environmentally responsible:

- 50 million USD for the financing of green energy into GPD biogas technology.
- A long term 500 million USD transformation fund has been created to support the textile and leather industries.
- State owned companies encouraged to procure more than 4 million for solar home systems, biogas, solar irrigation along with conventional energy.
- Public recognition to the financial institutions providing sustainable finance and partnership incentives; central banks can work together on this to provide incentives.

Unnikrishnan Divakaran Nair, *Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat*, encouraged delegates to make use of the Climate Finance Access Hub, which has supported more than 14 member countries to access around 42 million USD of climate finance.

Driving Collaboration

As a Commonwealth community, speakers and delegates reflected throughout on how they can best work together to achieve collective climate goals. Delegates were encouraged by Mr Topping to model solidarity across the diversity and geography of countries, and Hon. Stiell called for the Commonwealth to “speak with one voice”.

Mr Topping encouraged those most heavily impacted by climate change, notably Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to work together to establish their moral authority. For example, at Paris 2015, Caribbean Islanders used the phrase “1.5 to stay alive”, referencing the existential dangers that global warming has on SIDS. Speakers from SIDS advocated for these countries having a more established seat at the table. Hon. Stiell stated that,

although SIDS make up about 25% of the total number of parties within COP, “too often SIDS have to struggle to be heard and to have their issues given due consideration beyond mere lip service”. Dr Pickering, however, noted that this has been changing, with the UK inviting UKOTs to be part of their official delegation at COP in 2018. Attention was drawn to resources available for SIDS to learn from one another, such as through the Association of Small Island Developing States or the Alliance of Small Islands. Emily Davies from CPA HQ also signposted delegates from SIDS to CPA HQ’s climate change in small states toolkit. Larger economies, such as the UK, were urged by Ms Boyack MSP to share technological resources on renewable energy, such as wind and solar power. Dr Rahman described how research and knowledge generation from the Bangladesh Climate Trust Fund will be shared at COP.

As part of a Roundtable with Youth Delegates, chaired by Baroness Blower, parliamentarians were also challenged to work with young people on these issues. Anoka Primrose Abeyrathne, *Co-Founder of Growin’ Money and Policy and Advocacy Lead - Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network, Asia Pacific Representative* and Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, *Commonwealth Youth Parliamentarian*, advised parliamentarians to move away from communication frameworks with a rigid structure and harness the power of social media, such as WhatsApp. Fontoh Desmond Abinwi, *Commonwealth Youth Climate Network, National Coordinator of Cameroon*, summarised this point by stating, “we live in a digitalised world, and social media is an inclusive, participatory platform that can engage young people in a way that other platforms can’t”. Politicians were also urged to support more projects from the grassroots, often with young people at the helm. Leneka Rhoden, *Commonwealth Youth Climate Network, Pan Commonwealth- Co-ordinator*, highlighted the mutual benefits for young people and politicians having direct ways to contact and advise one another, stating “parliamentarians need young people as much as the other way around”. Finally, parliaments can empower young people to act by establishing institutions such as the Seychelles National Youth Assembly, of which Angelique Pouponneau, *CEO, SeyCCAT Executive Team*, was a member.

- Acting on Climate Change: The Role of Parliamentarians -

The Forums focused on practical ways in which delegates can encourage action through their parliamentary systems.

Climate Lens Across All Policy

The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Hayman GBE, *Co-Chair of Peers for the Planet*, highlighted that “climate change is the crisis of our age, and we will be judged by future generations on how

we respond to it". This notion was the impetus behind the creation of Peers for the Planet. This parliamentary grouping brings together peers in the House of Lords to advocate for a climate lens to legislation by participating in debates, raising questions and delivering briefings. Peers for the Planet have successfully aligned the actions of the UK Pensions Bill with the Paris Agreement and highlighted the climate risks associated with financial investments in the Financial Services Act. Mohamed Nashiz MP, *Chair of the Maldives Public Accounts Committee*, also emphasised that "climate policy is a central and cross-cutting theme for all areas, all sectors should therefore factor in climate resilience". Speaker of the Fiji Parliament, Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, explained that integrating climate considerations within wider government ministries has not been easy", but through trial, monitoring and adjusting, Fiji has combined the climate and the economic ministries" to produce positive results. Hon. Dr Gideon Ochanda Ogolla MP, *Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on Sustainable Development Goals & Business* from the National Assembly of Kenya, emphasised the importance of linking the priorities of healthcare, housing, poverty and industrialisation, to climate change. This holistic relationship must be then de-escalated from the national level to the local level and understood in the community. An example of this was given by Dr Ogolla, who explained that his caucus works with civil societies and has brought issues of environmental green bond taxes and carbon credits to the attention of the government. As a result, green initiatives within the Kenyan business community are now taxed less to support a clean environment.

Environmental Allies for Parliamentarians and Policy Makers

Panelists at both Forums provided practical ways in which parliamentarians can keep their governments accountable. The Lord Teverson from the UK House of Lords emphasised that, although climate policy provides clear positive action, parliamentarians often find policy "easy to agree on, not so easy to make sure you're fulfilling it". Using the example of achieving net zero, Lord Teverson suggested three practical approaches for parliamentarians:



1. Regular questioning of ministers to focus on smaller implementation goals

2. Support the funding of private and parliamentary oversight bodies

3. Encourage citizens to champion these issues and write to their representatives

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS, *Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Energy, and Rural Affairs, Welsh Senedd*, reiterated the importance of parliamentary questions, arguing that "the standard of scrutiny could be further improved should there be parliamentary sessions dedicated to more specific areas of ministerial responsibility".

Darren Jones MP, *Chair of the UK Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee*, highlighted that committee chairs across the House of Commons have worked together to set up monthly COP Q&A sessions with the UK COP 26 President-Designate Rt Hon. Alok Sharma MP. These sessions use evidence from stakeholders to make recommendations and clarify domestic delivery. As the complicated transition to net zero is scrutinised, select committees in the UK work with both the private sector and regulatory bodies to translate evidential findings into business plans. Private Members' Bills are an additional instrument available for parliamentarians. In a Private Members' Bill, Baroness Sheehan, *The Science and Technology Committee* from the House of Lords UK, demonstrated contradictions between the UK



climate commitments and the extraction of fossil fuels embedded into UK legislation. As a result, the UK Government has said it will stop supporting fossil fuel projects abroad.

Clerk of *The Environmental Audit Committee* (EAC), Mr Martyn Atkins, reiterated the importance of environmental policy scrutiny and signposted the work of the EAC as a tool for delegates to consider. Mr. Atkins used the example of energy efficiency to inform delegates that “the EAC aims to address the *how*, for example regarding energy efficiency, *how* are supply chains developed, *how* are householders are to be incentivised, *how* are the sectors to be upskilled”. The EAC audits government departments against targets set by their ministers and has the express remit to consider how government department policies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development.

Using Fact to Influence Agendas

Professor Corinne Le Quéré, a Royal Society research professor of climate change, Chair of the French *Haut conseil pour le climat* and member of the UK *Climate Change Committee*, explained that Independent Climate Committees can support parliamentarians by providing robust evidence, focussing issues and aiding with public acceptance. Former MP, Dr Kennedy Graham from the New Zealand *Institute for Governance and Policy Studies*, highlighted that independent climate change committees have been established in eight countries and several other nations have broader environmental or sustainable development goal committees, which include climate change in their remit. Chairman of the UK *Climate Change Committee* Lord Deben explained that this provides parliamentarians with advice and enables the governments to say, “this is not a party-political decision, it is based on the best science”. In the UK, climate change legislation is a statutory necessity, meaning the government can be sued in the courts for failing to meet the obligations set out by the *Climate Change Committee*. This was echoed by Mr Nashiz as he reminded delegates that, “accountability for legal frameworks within green policies is critical to allow for legal action to be pursued in the case of non-compliance with climate action plans”.

As Dr Kennedy Graham explained, not all policies are created equal. He argued that “success in global climate policy depends on national policy cohesion”. This in turn depends on broad cross-party consensus, a common denominator of ideology, and evidence-based policy. Delegates raised the challenges of bringing parties together, as there are some sections of society who do not recognise the facts of climate change. Lord Deben suggested that delegates could highlight the various financial institutions, private sector businesses and conservative global leaders that are making strides in climate change matters and remind parliamentarians that “parliament must set the terms by which it operates, but it is the market that will deliver the goods on climate change”. All nations,

with their common but differentiated responsibilities and circumstances, can utilise evidence to identify effective climate solutions.

Parliamentarians can access many evidential findings through parliamentary libraries and research units, such as the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). POST produces research briefings, assesses trends, and works with select committees and libraries to help scope enquiries. Their impartial findings, 'Post notes,' are made publicly available on their website and are designed to be accessible worldwide. Senior Policy Advisor at POST, Mr Jack Miller, encouraged parliamentarians to learn from other countries as to how research findings can translate into societal benefits. The Australian Engagement and Impact assessment framework is one example; the Australian Research Council used this framework to publish its inaugural national assessment report in 2019. If MPs feel an organisation like POST would be helpful in their legislature, it is in their power to establish one. Mr Miller encouraged delegates to speak to their universities and research institutions.

Space at the Table

Hon. Ogolla explained that, when driving further momentum for domestic environmental change in Kenya, parliamentary groupings face a key challenge; climate action is not yet a citizen or government priority. He emphasised that, if climate action is to advance as a primary consideration in developing nations, parliamentarians must inform their communities, share findings and push for direct discussions with citizens. Many other Commonwealth nations have seen varying levels of climate change conviction amongst their citizens. Hon. Andleeb Abbas, member of the *Climate Change Committee* in Pakistan shared the same difficulties, saying that “our (previous) government saw climate change legislation as a luxury” and that “people don’t vote for trees”. She explained that, despite the low priority of the environment, passion and dedication can inspire big positive changes. Progress has been made in Pakistan through cross-party collaboration, public education and the provision of 100,000 green jobs for women and the underprivileged. The Prime Minister of Pakistan successfully launched the “Billion-Tree Tsunami” to combat deforestation in the nation. Hon. Abbas expressed that “compassion with passion was central to our success”.

Strong and consistent communication on climate change is crucial if citizens are to accept the urgent need for action. Mr Miller from POST reminded delegates to advocate for climate action by pointing out win-win opportunities, saying "this will enable people to see these changes as something meant to help them, not as something unpleasant that will have to be inflicted". Environmental democracy adviser at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Rafael Jiménez-Aybar reminded delegates of the UN framework that

recognises the importance of engaging citizens in climate change; Article 6 of the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). Community engagement can create a virtuous circle where empowered citizens empower governments back, creating the sustained participation of leaders for climate action. The UK Climate Change Assembly is an example of knowledge sharing with the public and allowing space for voices to be heard. Sarah Allan, Project Lead for the *UK Climate Citizens' Assembly* shared the structure and key learning from the Assembly.

Addressing the needs and concerns of minority communities within these forms of citizen outreach is crucial. Canadian Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Hon. Catherine McKenna PC MP, highlighted the disproportional impact that climate change is having on native communities and other marginalised groups, since their distinct visions, concerns and ways of life can be ignored by policy makers. She highlighted that these communities need to be represented at the policy making table and legislation should be designed in collaboration with them.

- Climate Justice Approach -

Throughout the Forums, it was widely recognised that climate injustice is faced globally, nationally, and locally. Professor Tahseen Jafry, *Director of the Centre for Climate Justice*, honed in on the stark environmental inequality that exists internationally. She asserted that countries with the highest emissions have benefitted economically from industrialisation. Whilst nations in the global south, who have contributed the least to emissions, are already facing the brutal impacts of climate change. Vulnerability, insecurity, destabilisation and increased social and economic inequality caused by climate change, is already triggering mass displacement from vulnerable areas. Professor Jafry shared with delegates the devastating projection from the Institute for Economics & Peace [Ecological Threat Register 2020 report](#), that by the end of 2050, 1.2 billion people are predicted to have been displaced due to weather events. Delegates were reminded that climate justice is also about peace and security, as the impacts of climate change lay the foundations for other social problems, such as conflict over resources, gendered violence and trafficking, wars and loss of identity. Professor Jim Skea, *Co-Chair of Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, considered how inequality within countries has also exacerbated the impacts of climate change. In Scotland, low-income households have been disproportionately impacted by the price increase of electricity in the transition to green energy. Throughout the discussion, Ms Sophie Howe, *Future Generations Commissioner for Wales*, reinforced how climate change causes intergenerational inequality.

Impacts of the climate and ecological emergency are currently number 1, 2, and 3 on the global risk register, yet they are not being treated with the urgency that they deserve.

Climate justice, a framework founded by people of colour in the US, advocates for finding solutions to climate change rooted in human rights, justice and equality. Ms Howe stated that climate justice finds “solutions which give multiple wins”. Professor Jafry supported this, arguing that climate justice is a framework which “leaves no one behind”. Professor Jafry laid out four pillars, through which this intersectional approach to climate justice could be achieved: procedural, distributive, intergenerational, and restorative justice. Professor Skea also provided a framework for thinking about a just transition, putting importance on clear and long-term planning, engagement of citizens who will be most affected, and equity, fairness and justice in all policies. Parliamentarians from the audience asked panelists how to incorporate young activists in policy making. Ms Howe, as Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, described how the *Well Being and Future Generations Act* of 2015 meant that public institutions were forced into thinking about the long-term impact of decisions. Following this Act, Wales has lowered the voting age to 16, created a national youth parliament, and set up a reverse mentoring scheme with young people and leaders in Welsh public services.

Examples of policies which apply a climate justice framework:

- *Creation of well paid, secure jobs in the renewable industries*
- *Reskilling and upskilling workers in fossil fuel industries*
- *Providing education at all stages on sustainable ways of living*
- *Investing in public and active transports rather than electric vehicles*
- *Giving marginalised voices a space in policy making decisions*
- *Access to finance for those most impacted by climate change*

Although climate justice provides an overarching policy paradigm, Professor Skea emphasised the importance that any just transition must be country and region specific. Taking the example of land reform, a just transition has meant distributing ownership and the transfer of land from agricultural use into tree planting. In a developing country context, however, with a high reliance on agriculture, a just transition can combine agricultural needs with development needs, by diversifying land and providing economic incentives to sustainable farming.

Finally, considering climate justice on an international scale, Professor Skea directed delegates to the Just Transition Declaration, which was created at COP24. Panelists agreed that countries with the highest emissions must take a leadership role in reducing them. Darren Jones MP urged wealthier economies to allocate the 100 billion USD of promised

climate aid to help more vulnerable countries to reach their climate targets. Finance must be distributed equitably to also support adaptation and resilience in communities already being impacted. Ms Howe encouraged delegates to push for global governance systems which think of the holistic impacts of policy and act in the interests of future generations.

Building a Network of Key Representatives

Fiona Clouder, COP26 Regional Ambassador to Latin America & Caribbean, and Sir Nicholas Peter Kay KCMG COP26 Regional Ambassador to Sub Saharan Africa, joined delegates on regional roundtables to provide information on available networks in the lead up to COP26. The Regional Ambassadors explained that their role is to talk to diverse groups of people, including governments, wider society, and parliamentarians, to prepare them for COP26. The Regional Ambassadors then emphasised the critical role of parliamentarians at COP26.

Ms Clouder stated, “your influence, expertise and insight are invaluable. You are the people above all others that can mobilise action”.

Both roundtable discussions considered the role of accessible finance in contributing to the success of COP26. Sir Nicholas stated that one of his main priorities going into COP26 was that the world provides more finance to Africa. He stated that, from 2016, out of \$460 billion USD spent on climate related work, only \$12 billion USD went to Africa, despite it being the continent most affected by increased temperatures, flooding, weather events and locusts. Ms Clouder reiterated that there are insufficient funds available to Commonwealth countries and pledged to work to get donor countries to act on their commitments, as well as lobbying multilateral organisations and development banks. Both Ms Clouder and Sir Nicholas signposted the available resources, such as the Green Climate Fund, but argued that this finance needs to be made more accessible. Countries find it difficult to get their project approved through this fund, and Sir Nicholas called for more technical assistance and streamlining of the process. Ms Clouder looked at the ways in which current funds could be mobilized, including funds for nature,

Sir Nicholas gave parliamentarians 8 key action points that they can commit to moving into COP26:

- 1 Inform yourselves by listening to others
- 2 Model the behaviours you wish to see
- 3 Raise awareness and educate the public
- 4 Hold governments to account
- 5 Leverage international organisations
- 6 Support regional climate change initiatives
- 7 Engage with negotiators ahead of COP26
- 8 Make high demands in the spirit of compromise at COP26

incorporating environmental risk into private sector investment portfolios, and a green recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Matching Ambition with Delivery

Designing a collective and coordinated response for the roadmap to COP26, delegates identified the significance of building partnerships with five categories of key climate influencers:

1. Regional Influencers (e.g. ministers, national and subnational parliamentarians, private business owners)
2. COP26 influencers (e.g. regional and national COP26 representatives)
3. Youth Climate Activists (e.g. youth parliamentarians, volunteers, schools and universities)
4. Citizens
5. Established Climate Action Groups (e.g. 250 Pathways Platform, Carbon Neutrality Coalition, The Mission Possible Partnership, Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance).

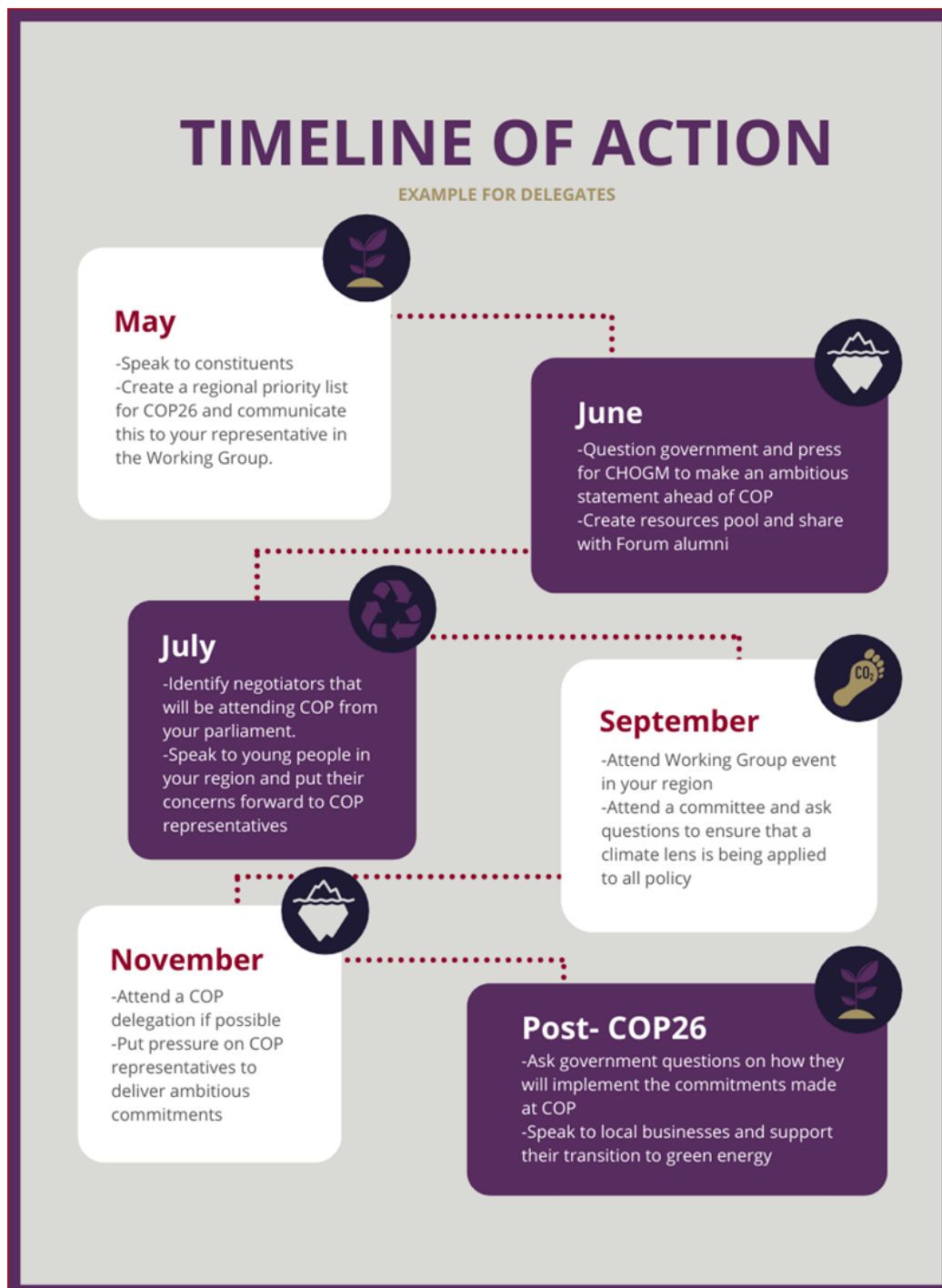
Once established, delegates are encouraged to meet and learn from their key influencers in the leadup to COP26. This will enhance the global reach and enable delegates to focus attention on the five key themes that were identified at the Forums: emergency, adaptation, justice, unite and action.

“Acknowledgment that this is a global **emergency** –
we must implement creative and holistic **adaptation**
for global climate **justice**.

It is time for the Commonwealth to **unite** to forge **action**”.

CEO of BeSpoke Skills, Ms Faragher facilitated activities to build a key message, informed by these themes, for Commonwealth parliamentarians to take forward on the road to COP26 and beyond. Delegates expanded upon the potential barriers to success that could be faced when implementing action on climate change. These included: lack of finance, ministries working in silos, failing to consider all voices in the Commonwealth community and being paralysed by the complexity of issues faced. Representation at the decision-making table was central to the Forums discussions. Participants considered ways in which the Commonwealth can centre minority and marginalised voices in their ambitions for COP26. Through productive discussions, delegates found the central message for positive climate action within the Commonwealth is **collaboration, shared responsibility and shared information**. Ms Faragher emphasised the importance of generating an emotive and catchy Commonwealth- wide hashtag to support citizen engagement and utilise the power of social media. Many suggestions were brainstormed and the most popular idea

was to incorporate *Common* from *Commonwealth* e.g., #CommonGlobe #CommonSustainability #CommonAction. This united action was supported by the development of a 'Timeline of Action for the lead up to COP26.' Below is the collaborative example from the Forum however, participants are encouraged to develop their own with specific targets, pledges and goals embedded.



Conclusion and Next Steps

Building upon the learning from the Forums, two working groups have been elected to represent and advocate for collective Commonwealth priorities in the lead up to COP26: a Pacific Focused Working Group and a pan-Commonwealth working Group. Members of the Working Groups will listen to their region and represent these interests, as well as reporting back on learning from the Working Group activities to their region

Regional Representative for pan-Commonwealth Working Group

Representatives:

- **AFRICA:** Dr Laetitia Nyinawamwiza, Senate of Rwanda
- **AMERICAS and CARIBBEAN:** Yasmin Ratansi MP, House of Commons of Canada
- **ASIA:** Tanvir Shakil Joy MP, National Parliament of Bangladesh
- **EUROPE:** Deputy Robert Ward, States Assembly, Jersey
- **PACIFIC:** Hon. Ralph Reganvanu MP, Leader of the Opposition of Vanuatu; Hon. Pinto Katia MP, Chairman of the Opposition of Kiribati
- **YOUTH:** Miss Victoria Akintaju, Nigeria, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network; Ms Kervelle Baird, Trinidad and Tobago, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network.

Co- Chairs of Pacific Focused Working Group:

- Kiribati: Hon Pinto Katia MP, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Cooperative
- Vanuatu: Hon Ralph Reganvanu MP, Leader of Opposition

The group will draw on the action points raised at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Forums on Climate Change and seek to deliver tangible outcomes from these discussions. Following the enthusiasm of Forum delegates CPA UK has created a list of key learning and action points for parliamentarians in the list below:

Towards Climate Security	The Role of Parliamentarians	Climate Justice Approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with local representatives to make implementation of climate policy affordable for citizens• Develop a national plan for resilience in climate vulnerable countries• Pressure governments, central banks, and international institutions to provide green finance• Share resources on technology and knowledge• Create fluid structures to communication with young people e.g. social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for a climate lens to be integrated to all policy.• Target local constituents to increase understanding and inspire continued action• Learn share with other jurisdictions by attending events• Regular questioning of ministers to focus on smaller goals• Encourage private business to sign up for decarbonisation• Utilise research facilities for further knowledge• Advocate for minority and other vulnerable groups to be included in policy decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create an individual timeline for implementing action points.• Consider the long term impact of all policy• If possible, attend a COP delegation• Switch to a more sustainable livelihood as citizens, e.g. by adopting carbon neutral parliaments.• Press for CHOGM to issue an ambitious statement on climate change ahead of COP• Support regional initiatives• Engage with negotiators ahead of COP