

Successful consultation with the global south

How to consult meaningfully and effectively with people living in the global south

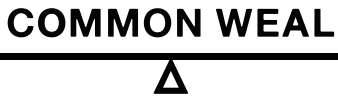


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Friends of the Earth Scotland is Scotland's leading environmental campaigning organisation. We are part of Friends of the Earth International, the world's largest grassroots environmental federation with more than 70 national member groups and millions of members and supporters around the world.



Common Weal is a people-powered "think and do tank" in Scotland. We seek to promote thinking, practice and campaigning on a wide range of social, economic and cultural areas including social and economic equality, participative democracy, environmental sustainability, wellbeing, quality of life, peace, justice and cooperation. We are not affiliated to any political party but work in partnership with a wide range of organisations.



SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. We believe that a green and just world is possible, if we put our faith into action. We work with people in the hardest circumstances, so they can overcome their daily struggles and the structures of injustice that make and keep them poor.



Chimwemwe Sakunda, National Coordinator of the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM). Photo: SCIAF



Mam Sambath, Director of Development and Partnership in Action (DPA), Cambodia. Photo: SCIAF



Being invited to participate in a consultation is a significant acknowledgment and empowering. It reflects the trust placed in the NGO, which is essential for fostering strong partnerships and enhancing performance.

It also signifies recognition of the NGO's work and contributions, reinforcing a sense of ownership and commitment. In many cases, our views have been valued, and we have had the opportunity to engage with stakeholders who genuinely listen...

However, some consultations appear to be conducted merely as a formality, with little transparency on how contributions are utilised. This lack of follow-through can be discouraging and ultimately affects willingness to participate in future consultations.

Chimwemwe Sakunda Ndhlovu, National Co-ordinator for Caritas Malawi

Good representation involves ensuring that the voices, perspectives, processes, and interests of Global South nations and population are not only heard but also actively considered and incorporated into decision-making processes.

Mam Sambath, Executive Director of Development and Partnership in Action (Cambodia)



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1. Summary

Consultation is used to ensure decisions are made involving the people they affect. In our interconnected world, decisions in the powerful and rich countries of the global north can have huge consequences for those in the global south. If those in the global south are not consulted on matters which affect them, proposed Scottish policies and proposals may have unanticipated and unchallenged implications. This is especially true of policies and proposals which have social and environmental impacts. Speaking to the people most directly affected can help to understand potential consequences and ensure that they do not have negative or counter-intuitive effects for us all.

This paper sets out how and why Scottish policy makers should consult with global south representatives in a meaningful and effective way. While there is political will to engage with global south representatives, a gap in knowledge has been identified around how to conduct such consultations in a way that is inclusive and impactful. Existing efforts often lack structured guidance, leading to consultations that may be tokenistic or fail to translate into substantive policy changes. This paper aims to bridge that gap by offering concrete recommendations on how to engage with global south representatives in a way that ensures their perspectives are heard, valued, and integrated into decision-making processes.

Global south nations are found mainly in Africa, Latin America and Asia. They are typically poorer and have lower levels of social-economic development than global north nations, found mainly in North America and Europe. Scotland is a global north nation, and its history of colonialism and capitalism has created a power dynamic which we still benefit from today.

Consultation has long been used in Scotland to gather and understand the views of interested parties on legislation, policies and proposals. There is an accepted approach to consultation which, when adhered to, means consultation processes are fair and appropriate. However, this way of consultation is not without its disadvantages, particularly relating to participation, which can have an impact on how the those in the global south are included in the process.

For consultations with global south representatives to be effective, the Scottish Government must go beyond symbolic participation. This requires carefully selecting the right participants, creating equitable engagement opportunities, and addressing structural barriers that prevent meaningful representation. The Scottish Government should prioritise representatives from community-based organisations, grassroots movements and local NGOs, particularly those working with marginalised groups. It should aim to foster long term partnerships, rather than one off participation.



Glasgow Climate Dialogues workshop, 2021. Photo: Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

The rights of Indigenous people mean that they must be consulted as decision makers, not stakeholders.

As guardians of nature, strong evidence from multiple scientific studies shows that improved consultation with Indigenous people leads to better outcomes for the environment.

Even when the right representatives are identified, structural barriers often prevent their full engagement; including poor timing, financial constraints, digital and infrastructural limitations and language barriers. It is the role of the consulting authorities to create safe spaces for the consultation to happen in. The concepts of climate justice and global just transition can be used to combat the privileges of colonialism and capitalism that we, as members of the global north, inevitably bring to interactions with those from the global south.

Conducting meaningful consultations with stakeholders from the global south does not necessarily require large budgets, but it does demand strategic planning, clarity of purpose, and efficient use of available resources.

The Scottish Government and supporting organisations must ensure that consultations are targeted, inclusive, and action-oriented while minimising financial and logistical burdens.

The Scottish Government can ensure consultation with global south participants is meaningful, even with limited resources, by:

- **Working with Scottish based organisations who have fostered international partnerships,**
- **Targeting engagement strategically, instead of using broad invitations,**
- **Leveraging local networks and partnerships,**
- **Using hybrid consultation methods,**
- **Reducing barriers to consultation for individuals from the global south,**
- **Creating safe spaces for people to speak and interact, recognising the power dynamic between global north and global south participants,**
- **Clearly demonstrating how engagement has led to action.**

2. The consultation process

The UK generally, but Scotland specifically, has a strong track record of issuing public consultations during the development of legislation and policy. This can occur at several, or indeed multiple, points throughout a legislative process, such as an early Call for Views when legislation is being considered, direct consultation on draft legislation, scrutiny by Parliamentary bodies and amendments once legislation is passed.

Public consultations are open to everyone but often responses come from directly interested parties, especially local authorities, NGOs and business lobby groups, rather than individuals. Additionally, it is rare for consultations to seek the views of international audiences, even when there is a clear connection to the consultation subject.

In practice, there are many consultations issued by the Scottish Government (around 100 per year) and many are relatively long, complex or technical. One of the most well responded to public consultation in Scotland's devolution era was the 2016 debate on fracking which received several thousand responses from members of the public and directly led to the Scottish Government changing its position and making permanent its temporary moratorium on fracking that has lasted to the present.

2.1 Consultation standards

Governments in the UK are guided by 11 principles that should be adhered to when issuing consultations as well as four legal minimum standards, known as The Gunning Principles. These four standards are:

- Consultations should be held before a final decision is made: consultations should be used to discover public opinion rather than merely to ratify or justify government decisions,
- People should be sufficiently informed: most Scottish consultations as published alongside an explanatory report to this effect,
- There is adequate time to respond to consultations: twelve weeks is considered normal though extensions can often be granted, and
- Government should give "conscientious consideration" of the results and not simply ignore results that are inconvenient to their prior intentions.

In general, these principles and standards are used as a basis for UK consultation processes, although the extent to which individual consultation processes adhere to them varies.

When they are used, these principles are a starting point for ensuring consultations are fair and appropriate.

2.2 Common problems with consultation

Even when the standards and principles above are used, there are disadvantages which can have negative consequences, especially for those in the global south.

"Do you agree that...?"

Contrary to the principle that consultations should occur before a final decision is made, sometimes the framing of a consultation shows evidence that there is already a firm idea of what the government in question would like to do. Questions that begin with the frame "Do you agree that...?" are often seeking ratification of a preferred opinion. A neutral framing of questions is more likely to receive a more representative range of views.

"Q52, Subsection (c)"

Legislation can be broad and complex and consulting on such topics can be difficult for global south representatives to be sufficiently informed of the details of a subject. A consultation which demands technical knowledge, is written in political jargon and is overly long creates a barrier. It can also be daunting to respond to such a consultation.

Whilst some consultations must include a certain level of detail, to ensure that proposed changes are clear, such barriers can be overcome by ensuring that consultations are as short and simple as possible. It should be clear that not every question has to be answered and that there is space given to offer a high level supporting or dissenting opinion that is counted equally alongside more technical responses. In some cases, it may be justifiable to publish several consultations on the same issue to allow for disparities in technical knowledge.

To ensure that the views of global south representatives are properly embedded in a complex or technical consultation, it may be useful to consult with global south representatives separately, in a more interactive format, to other stakeholders. Ideally this should be done before the main consultation to that the changes made based on the pre-consultation with the global south can be considered by other stakeholders in the main consultation.

"We are consulting, again"

Sometimes multiple consultations are issued on similar topics or several times throughout the journey of a piece of legislation. There can be good reasons for this, such as important and substantive amendments being made or if a consultation issued by the Government is repeated by the scrutiny Committee. However, too many similar consultations risks, not just fatigue, but lack of faith in the process that stakeholder views are being respected and listened to.



Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, meets Hon. Nancy Tembo from the Malawian Government at the Glasgow Climate Dialogues, COP26. Photo: Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.

An example of poor consultation: Green Freeport Land and Building Transaction Tax relief

In 2023 the Scottish Government ran a consultation on granting Land and Building Transaction Tax relief to Scottish Green Freeports. This consultation presented the already written legislation and effectively asked, “Do you think this legislation will give effect to the tax relief?”.

This risked violating the Gunning principle of consulting before a decision is made, as well as the principle of adequately informing respondents (as most people are not generally experts in writing or reviewing technical legislation).

The response to the consultation also likely breached the principle of conscientious consideration, given that several prominent respondents were excluded from the final analysis. This was because their responses focused on the principle of the tax relief rather than the narrow question of whether the pre-written legislation was fit for the already defined purpose.

A better designed consultation would have used a more neutral framing and included a more representative range of views in its analysis.



Offshore wind turbine foundations for use at Seagreen wind farm off the NorthEast Coast of Scotland. Photo: Wikipedia, 2022



SCIAF programme workshop on inclusive education, South Sudan. Photo: SCIAF

3. Why should Scotland consult the global south?

It is important that Scottish policy makers consult with people living in the global south when Scottish policy is likely to affect them. For example, when Scotland acts to tackle globally important issues such as the climate crisis, consultation with people in the global south, who are directly affected by disasters linked to climate breakdown, can create a more complete picture of the damage created by Scotland's climate impact and the benefits of acting on it. Similarly, if the Scottish Government was considering how to create **standards on human rights and environmental impacts of supply chains (often known as due diligence)** it could better understand the benefits of such guidance, and how to make it more effective, by consulting with the people involved in international supply chains.

If those in the global south are not consulted on matters which affect them, proposed policies and plans will be missing an important critique. Implications for people in the global south could remain unknown and unaccounted

for. Scottish policymakers risk supporting solutions which are not fit for purpose and undermine the very thing we seek to create – a better future for everyone.

However, by consulting with global south representatives where Scottish policies intersect with their interests, Scotland may demonstrate responsible international relations and uphold the [National Performance Framework's principle](#) that Scotland should be “open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally”.



Friends of the Earth International meeting, Guatemala 2010. Photo: Friends of the Earth International

Waste exports and the Circular Economy Act

It is well documented that waste exported from the global north often ends up in global south countries without the means to manage it safely or sustainably, which exacerbates global crises like climate breakdown and pollution.

The 2024 **Circular Economy (Scotland) Act** includes a requirement to manage waste in Scotland “if it is appropriate to do so”. Whilst it may be difficult to manage waste sustainably in Scotland, it may be impossible if it ends up in the global south. To judge whether it really is appropriate to manage waste in Scotland, policy makers must understand the impacts of the alternatives too.

If only the Scottish context is considered, without understanding the consequences for global south countries, policy makers may choose policies which result in more waste being exported to the global south, leading to worse outcomes for everyone on a global scale. Policy outcomes which worsen climate breakdown affect everyone, whether they live in Scotland or elsewhere.

Those in affected global south countries can give an accurate and up to date understanding of their ability to manage a waste stream sustainably. Therefore, consulting with relevant global south countries is vital on this issue, as it is with so many of the international initiatives Scotland engages with.



A girl scavenges plastic rubbish along polluted streets in Manila, the Philippines in 2023.
Photo: Greenpeace

4. Principles of good consultation with the global south

“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together”

Aboriginal activist group / Lilla Watson (Watson, J 2007)

For government consultations to be truly inclusive and effective, the Scottish Government must go beyond symbolic participation and ensure that voices from the global south have real influence in shaping policies, funding mechanisms, and implementation strategies. This requires carefully selecting the right participants, creating equitable engagement opportunities, and addressing structural barriers that prevent meaningful representation.

4.1 Getting the Right People in the Room: Beyond Tokenistic Participation

Selecting participants should not be a box-ticking exercise based on nationality. Instead, governments must engage representatives of the global south who have the credibility, expertise, and mandate to speak on behalf of their constituencies. This approach prevents consultations from being dominated by elite voices or large international NGOs.

The Scottish Government should **prioritise representatives from community-based organisations and grassroots movements and local NGOs**, particularly those working

with marginalised groups. It is key to avoid over-reliance on International NGOs, which, while influential, have sometimes misrepresented or filtered global south perspectives in ways that disempower local actors.

Instead, steps should be taken to ensure sector-specific expertise, selecting participants based on their ability to contribute meaningfully to discussions on policy, development, and funding structures. This can sometimes be done with Scottish based organisations with expertise in the consultation topic who have fostered international partnerships. When possible, the Scottish Government should aim to foster long-term engagement, prioritising continuity rather than one-off participation that fails to build institutional knowledge and trust.



Volunteers at a World Ocean Day event in Cameroon, 2019.
Photo: Greenpeace

It is relevant to note that the terms 'global north' and 'global south' can be problematic. The term 'south' is sometimes understood to mean 'less' or 'other'. We use these terms here but acknowledge that they are imperfect. There are also differences between consultation with international audiences and those specifically from the global south.

International stakeholders who are members of the global south will face barriers to participating in consultations which other international stakeholders may not. Financial, social and cultural barriers may be less intense with international stakeholders from the global north. The Scottish Government should be mindful of this and design the consultation approach, accordingly, treating different international stakeholders as their needs require.



Textile waste washes into the sea in Jamestown, Ghana, 2023. Photo: Greenpeace

Indigenous people and consultation

When consulting with an international audience, Scottish policy makers must pay particular attention to the views of Indigenous people. The UN estimates that there are more than 370 million Indigenous people spread across 70 countries worldwide. Practicing unique traditions, they retain social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. They are the descendants of those who inhabited a country or a geographical region at the time when people of different cultures or ethnic origins arrived. The new arrivals later became dominant through conquest, occupation, settlement or other means.

Indigenous people, many of whom live in the global south, are protected by **the right to self-determination** and to **free, prior and informed consent** through the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Any decisions by Scottish authorities which affect indigenous people, their land and resources globally require them to be consulted as *decision makers*, not stakeholders. This means treating Indigenous people as you would another government who has ultimate responsibility for a choice that affects them. The UN provides detailed advice on how to consult Indigenous people fairly.

Indigenous people are guardians of nature. There is strong evidence from multiple scientific studies that improved consultation with Indigenous people leads to better outcomes for the environment.



River Guardians exhibition, COP26. Photo: SCIAF



River Guardians from the Atrato River, Colombia attend a panel discussion with academics from Glasgow University, 2021. Photo: SCAIF

4.2 Overcoming Barriers to Meaningful Participation

Even when the right representatives are identified, structural barriers often prevent their full engagement. The Scottish Government must address these challenges to ensure equitable participation:

- **Poor timing and last-minute invitations:** if consultations arranged at short notice, the shorter time period for response is particularly difficult for global south representatives to prepare adequately. This practice tends to favour well-resourced elite voices while excluding those with greater logistical barriers. Consider asking representatives if they need any support to adequately prepare to engage in the consultation process.
- **Financial constraints:** many community groups, grassroots organisations and NGOs in the global south operate with minimal administrative and core funding, making it challenging to allocate time and resources for engagement. Participation should be financially supported, covering travel, connectivity costs, and administrative overhead.
- **Digital and infrastructural limitations:** while online consultations can improve accessibility, over-reliance on digital platforms excludes those with poor internet access, particularly in conflict zones or rural areas. A hybrid approach that combines virtual discussions with in-person meetings is essential. Such an approach is easier if a partner with local contacts can lead the in-person part of the meeting.
- **Language barriers:** providing translation services ensures that consultations are not linguistically exclusive, particularly when conducted in dominant global north languages. Policy jargon can also be a barrier to communication. When consulting with global south representatives, the Scottish Government should not expect people to read long, technical policy documents.

It is best practice to offer compensation for people's time. Any financial compensation plans should be clearly laid out to all potential global south representatives before the consultation process starts.

4.3 Creating Equitable and Safe Spaces for Engagement

Representation is not just about who is in the room, but also about how power is distributed within the consultation process. Even when stakeholders from the global south are present, power imbalances often prevent them from contributing fully.

To create an environment where their voices are valued, we need to ensure transparency about decision-making, making sure to communicate with participants about how their input will be used, and what accountability mechanisms exist. It is also best practice to set rules of engagement by establishing frameworks that allow for open, honest discussions where participants from the global south can express concerns without fear of repercussions. Finally, consultation should ideally be approached as an ongoing, structured engagement process, rather than ad-hoc interactions.

4.4 Social justice and consultation

Scotland still benefits greatly from its colonial past, and we must be mindful of the immense impacts this has on global south countries and those representing them. Social injustices are often much greater in the global south. Marginalised groups, such as women, people of colour, LGBT+ people and people with disabilities, may be more difficult to consult with, and any potentially negative impacts of policy changes are felt more by such groups.

The ongoing effects of colonialism means that there will be a power dynamic in all interactions with global south participants that global north actors must strive to overcome with awareness and humility.

The framing of climate justice, which recognises the multiple inequalities and injustices which already exist in the world, can be useful context for people from global north in meeting with global south representatives.

The concept of just transition, which is beginning to be included in domestic Scottish policy making, can be useful when considering how to consult in a fairer way with the global south. A just transition puts workers and communities at the centre of the decision-making process by giving them a voice and listening to their needs. A global just transition does the same, on a wider scale, by centring on the people most affected by colonial and capitalist systems of injustice.

In creating the space for consultation, the Scottish Government, and any other global north organisers and participants, must recognise and counteract power asymmetries. The aim should be to facilitate discussions in a way that prevents global north voices from dominating, ensuring that the perspectives of people from the global south have equal opportunity to shape the conversation.



Joy Reyes from Friends of the Earth Philippines speaks at a climate justice rally in Edinburgh, 2024. Photo: Friends of the Earth Scotland

5. How to consult effectively with limited resources?

Conducting meaningful consultations with stakeholders from the global south does not necessarily require large budgets, but it does demand strategic planning, clarity of purpose, and efficient use of available resources. This is not easy when resources are limited, as they often will be. The Scottish Government and any organisations supporting the consultation process must ensure that consultations are targeted, inclusive, and action-oriented while minimising financial and logistical burdens.

The Scottish Government's Participation Handbook states that "making sure participatory work is genuinely inclusive can be complex. It requires forethought, careful planning, and a clear vision of the longer term – including of outputs, impact, and how all this will be communicated to all involved." Transparency and honesty about the process boundaries are also required.

5.1 Clarifying the Purpose of Consultation

Before initiating a consultation, it is essential to define its purpose clearly. Engaging stakeholders from the global south should not be a generic exercise but should be grounded in a specific understanding of why their perspectives are necessary.

Governments must ask:

- What specific insights are we seeking?
- Why are global south perspectives on this issue, shaped by different economic, social, and historical contexts, relevant?
- How will the consultation inform decision-making, shape policies, influence funding allocations, or inform implementation strategies?

Being transparent about these questions helps manage expectations, both for those organising the consultation and for those being consulted.

It is also important to remember that the global south is not homogeneous. An important way of ensuring useful representation can be to target those countries or people within the global south most relevant to the consultation even if these are not Scottish Government partner countries.



Climate Justice Camp, the largest in-person platform of its kind for young leaders in the Global South, in Tanzania, 2024. Photo: Greenpeace



Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon meets Global South representatives in Glasgow, 2021. Photo: Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

5.2 Maximising impact with limited resources

With financial and logistical constraints it is essential to prioritise efficiency while still ensuring that consultations are inclusive and meaningful. Some key strategies include:

1. Leveraging Local Networks and Partnerships

Partnering with local organisations, regional networks, and umbrella groups can expand the consultation's reach without requiring extensive travel or additional administrative burdens. These groups can act as conduits for gathering input from multiple stakeholders, e.g. through hosting local discussions, and feed key insights into consultations. By delegating parts of the process to trusted local partners, consultations can be both cost-effective and better informed by local realities.

2. Targeted Engagement Instead of Broad Invitations

Rather than trying to engage a vast number of stakeholders, let trusted partners help you decide on a representative cross-section of organisations, sectors, and regions. This ensures that the discussion remains focused and productive, rather than diluted by too many competing perspectives. A stakeholder mapping exercise can help identify who should be at the table, ensuring a diverse but manageable group of participants. This process should be transparent.

When asked how to consult with communities, experienced NGOs have suggested 'starting where the energy is'. This may involve picking some groups and making an offer to build a meaningful relationship, then seeing how this develops. It may also be useful to start where there are known conflicts. For example, the impacts of mining for transition minerals on local communities is a well-documented example of resource injustice. It makes sense for the Scottish Government to reach out to such communities when considering the impacts of their energy transition plans.

3. Hybrid Consultation Methods

While in-person consultations can be valuable, they are also expensive and logistically demanding. A hybrid approach can balance inclusivity with cost-effectiveness. Virtual focus groups can allow for broader participation without requiring travel – and online surveys, written submissions, audio or video messages can be used to provide flexibility for those who cannot join live sessions.

In person consultations may be more practical where global south speakers already have plans to be in the UK as part of a wider speaking tour or prior engagements.

When deciding on consultation methods, make sure to consider other ways to reduce barriers to participation (see section 4.2).

4. Ensuring That Consultations Lead to Action

It is important that consultations produce tangible outcomes. Too often, stakeholders in the global south engage in consultations only to see their input ignored or sidelined. This can reduce trust and limit future engagement.

To ensure that resources are not wasted on performative exercises there needs to be clear expectations of follow-up and accountability. Participants should know how their input will be used and have opportunities to track its impact. Consultations should prioritise action-oriented discussions and focus on practical solutions and co-designed strategies. Ideally, the findings should be summarised and made accessible to all participants, ensuring that insights are not lost in bureaucratic processes.

Workshop in Cambodia with Mam Sambeth from Development and Partnership in Action, Cambodia. Photo: SCIAF



6. Conclusions and recommendations

The Scottish Government must consult with people in the global south on Scottish policies which are likely to affect them. Failure to do so may result in unintended consequences which lead to counterproductive outcomes. Scottish policymakers risk supporting solutions which are not fit for purpose and undermine the very thing we seek to create – a better future for everyone.

Consulting with global south representatives requires a commitment to engaging with people who truly represent the views of people affected by Scottish policies. Selecting participants should be based on the credibility, expertise, and mandate of representatives to speak on behalf of their constituencies. This approach prevents consultations from being dominated by elite voices or large international NGOs. However, this does not have to be a resource intensive process, if designed carefully, considering who to engage with and how best to do so.

Recommendations to the Scottish Government on how to consult effectively and meaningfully with people in the global south

Before a consultation begins, the Scottish Government must:

- Commit to taking meaningful action based on the results of consultations, led by the principles laid out in their National Performance Framework.
- Ask whether the proposed changes could have impacts on people in the global south, and where they do, consult these people.
- Clarify the purpose of a consultation, including why understanding global south perspectives is necessary and which countries and people from the global south are most relevant to consult.
- Consult Indigenous people as decision makers, not stakeholders. This means treating Indigenous people as you would another government who has ultimate responsibility for a choice that affects them.
- Consider what consultation format is most suitable for global south representatives and, if this is different from the main consultation process, how and when to combine the findings from consultation with global south representatives.
- Commit adequate resources to removing financial, resource and language barriers to global south engagement.

Recommendations to the Scottish Government

To ensure appropriate representatives from the global south are consulted, the Scottish Government must:

- Prioritise representatives from community-based organisations, and grassroots movements, particularly those working with marginalised groups and local NGOs over international NGOs.
- Target engagement where there are known groups to interact with or where suspected conflicts around policy developments exist.
- Explore whether Scottish based NGOs can support global south participation through their international networks.
- Where limited resources are available, use local networks and partnerships to find appropriate representatives, target engagement where it is most relevant, adapt consultation methods to save time and resources and be clear about follow up plans and accountability.

To ensure participants from the global south are fairly included in a consultation process, the Scottish Government must:

- Reduce barriers to participation through inclusive consultation design (e.g. allowing adequate time and support for global south representatives to engage, hybrid meetings, translation services and removing policy jargon from consultation documents)
- Be mindful of the power dynamics of interactions between people from the global north and south and create safe spaces for people to speak and interact. It is useful to acknowledge our historical responsibility for systemic problems experienced by people in the global south, and dominant global north narratives, in creating a more equal consultation space.

After the consultation process, the Scottish Government must:

- Maintain contact with global south participants and communicate the findings of the consultation and the final legislative or policy changes.
- Ensure that the consultation leads to action.

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...meaningful consultations support the NGO’s growth by providing opportunities for engagement and learning. When organizations feel valued and appreciated, they are more likely to participate in future consultations, leading to more effective and inclusive decision-making (...)
Ensuring meaningful engagement, clear feedback mechanisms, and transparency in decision-making is essential for maintaining trust and encouraging active participation.

Chimwemwe Sakunda Ndhlovu, National Co-ordinator for Caritas Malawi

For a Global South NGO, being asked to participate in a consultation may bring a sense of validation and recognition of their expertise and contributions to the global dialogue. Additionally, it could provide an opportunity for their perspectives and experiences to be heard and valued on an international platform. Participation in consultations may also create a sense of responsibility and pride in representing their region and advocating for issues that are pertinent to them. However, it could also bring about feelings of pressure or concern about not having input fully considered in decision-making processes.

Mam Sambath, Executive Director of Development and Partnership in Action (Cambodia)

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