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UNA **WESTMINSTER**

Climate Change Challenges the Commonwealth

Webinar: Thursday 25 March, 17:00-18:30 GMT

The Commonwealth can offer much to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November.

What should be its message: first, for its leaders' meeting in Rwanda in June; then, for COP26?

Speakers

Sir Ronald Sanders Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and to the Organisation of American States; Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London; Former High Commissioner in London and member and Rapporteur, Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (2010–2011).

Revd. Guy Hewitt Former High Commissioner of Barbados in London and its representative on the International Maritime Organisation; Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London; Governor, Board of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Others TBA

Welcome: Professor Philip Murphy, Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London.

As the organisers of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) set out its priorities, we can expect the launch of a wide range of initiatives, all seeking to raise public awareness of the challenges facing our planet.

Globally, the UN's new [Decade of Ocean Science](#) (2021-2030) sets out to reverse the decline in ocean health and create sustainable development programmes for coastal states; and locally, the UK-based [Climate Coalition](#) will highlight the impact of climate change on public health.

The Commonwealth, which has chosen [Delivering a Common Future](#) as its theme for the 2021 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), has a great opportunity to contribute to the outcome of COP26. With 54 member states, its extraordinary diversity enables it to speak without regional or economic bias. From the Langkawi Declaration, issued at the Kuala Lumpur CHOGM (1989) which first recognised the threat of climate change and sea level rise, the challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been a priority as so many of these are Commonwealth members.

So what experience can these bring to COP26 and share to wider benefit? What message should they take to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in June and how might its outcome link to the UN Conference in November? Our speakers will welcome dialogue from participants worldwide.

Registration is free but [you must register here](#).

This event is jointly hosted by the Westminster United Nations Association and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, with the support of the Commonwealth Foundation.