

**Commonwealth Secretary-General the Rt Hon Patricia
Scotland's Intervention at the 9th Ministerial Meeting of
The Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action**

Washington DC

14 April 2023

Honourable Ministers

Friends and Colleagues

It is a pleasure for me to join you for the first time as an Institutional partner.

Across the Commonwealth Family, we see the scale and impact of the economic, security and environmental challenges which governments have to face. We see the devastation in Pakistan, in Malawi and in so many parts of our world.

It takes courage to face up to a challenge such as climate change. But it is a shared responsibility which we cannot avoid.

Our actions must be equal to the existential nature of the threat.

So we must seek not only stability, but change.

Change in the global financial architecture, to help countries in need of support access it quickly, on beneficial terms, based not on outdated metrics, but on their real vulnerability.

Our Commonwealth Universal Vulnerability Index, which complements the proposed UN-MVI, provides evidence for the need to incorporate the vulnerabilities of countries for providing access to development and Climate finance.

Change in the way we manage debt, to help the countries which are more exposed to climate change to avoid distress and the risk of default.

And change in our horizons, heralding the kind of far-sighted, visionary and collaborative leadership which mainstreams climate change in economic policy, and which turns climate action into economic opportunity.

Climate change is not about tonnes of carbon, or decimal points - it is about people, and unlocking the finance which can save them and enable them to thrive

So, as Finance Ministers, your influence is almost unparalleled.

I applaud your efforts to push for change and progress. I urge you to go further. And as you do, you will have a willing partner in me and the whole Commonwealth.

Thank you.