



*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 9/3/18

Launch of the Commonwealth Academies of Science Consensus Statement on Climate Change

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.01AM, 12 March

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) has joined science leaders from around the globe to call on the Commonwealth Heads of Government to use the best available science to guide action on climate change.

The call is part of a Consensus Statement on Climate Change, launched today by 22 national academies and societies of science from around the Commonwealth, ahead of next month's Commonwealth summit in the United Kingdom.

The consensus statement, which represents the consensus views of tens of thousands of scientists, marks the first time Commonwealth nations have come together to urge their Governments to take further action to achieve net-zero greenhouse gases emissions during the second half of the 21st Century.

Sustainability is one of the key themes to be discussed by Commonwealth leaders at the 2018 Commonwealth summit, with a particular focus on the resilience of developing and vulnerable countries to climate change.

President of the RSE, Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, said that the greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments agreed to by 160 parties in the 2015 Paris Agreement are only the first step in a long journey.

Commenting on the agreement, Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell said,

“It is paramount that, as a national academies and leaders in research, we are joint in our efforts to combat the effects of climate change around the globe. Whilst the current commitments in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are a vital step for climate action; the RSE acknowledges that further action must be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

These actions must be informed by the best available scientific evidence, monitoring and evaluation. The Royal Society of Edinburgh stands ready to assist the Scottish and UK Governments, and indeed broader Commonwealth efforts, by providing sound scientific advice on issues relating to climate change.”

The Commonwealth Science Academies Consensus Statement on Climate Change, including the list of signatories by country and a video on the consensus statement can be found on our website here (live from the 12th March) : www.therse.org.uk/news

Follow and share with the hashtag **#ClimateAction** on social media.

ENDS.

For further information or comment, please contact the RSE's PR and Marketing Officer, Sarah Virgo at 0131 240 2792 or svirgo@rse.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

About the RSE

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is a leading educational charity which operates on an independent and non-party-political basis to provide public benefit throughout Scotland. Established by Royal Charter in 1783 by key proponents of the Scottish Enlightenment, the RSE now has around 1600 Fellows from a wide range of disciplines. The work of the RSE includes awarding research funding, leading on major inquiries, informing public policy and delivering events across Scotland to inspire knowledge and learning.

The RSE's Fellowship comprises Honorary Fellows (members of the Royal House or persons eminently distinguished in any subject within our disciplinary domains), Corresponding Fellows (those who have attained high international standing in any subject within our disciplinary domains, and are not normally resident in the UK) and Fellows.