



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP - 2015/0102, 19 November 2015

# Preparations for the Paris Climate Change Conference

This Debate Pack has been compiled ahead of the Backbench Business Debate on *Preparations for the Paris Climate Change Conference* to be held in the Commons Chamber on Thursday 19 November 2015.

Debate packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for MPs on request to the Library.

The Library Briefing paper [Paris Climate Conference](#) sets out greater details.

David Hough  
Elena Ares

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*The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most, but not all, non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.*

# 1. Summary

## Paris Conference background

In December 2015 representatives of 196 countries will attempt to reach an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of limiting a global temperature increase to below 2°C. If this [Conference of the Parties \(COP 21\)](#) in Paris is successful it will be the first time, from 2020, that both developed and developing countries will commit to tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

World leaders visibly failed to reach a satisfactory agreement on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol at the Copenhagen COP in 2009. The lessons learned from this failure have resulted in a great deal of preparatory work in advance of the 2015 Paris COP. The last two conferences, in Lima and Warsaw, very much focused on necessary steps for ensuring agreement is reached in Paris and there have been several preparatory meetings. The result of this is a [51 page text](#) for the agreement which will have to be finalised and agreed to in Paris.

## Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

Countries have also published [Intended Nationally Determined Contributions](#) for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, or INDCs, ahead of the Paris conference. This is a bottom up approach, with the aim that aggregated contributions will add up to a 2°C limit on global temperature increases. However, the UNFCCC [analysis](#) of these has shown that the pledges as they stand, if implemented, would reduce expected warming of 4-5°C to around 2.7°C. In response there are calls from various negotiating groups, including the EU and the UK, for any agreement at Paris to include provisions for five yearly reviews of pledges. Developed countries also calling for clear rules and transparency on emission reporting to ensure targets are met.

## Climate Finance

Issues that are of particular concern to developing countries, and which have yet to be resolved, include how developed countries plan to meet their pledge of [\\$100 billion](#) climate finance (from public and private sources) a year by 2020. There is also the issue of compensation for [‘loss and damage’](#) to the poorest countries that have contributed little to climate change and where there is no option for adaptation.

## Other Developments

Away from the negotiations China and the US, the two greatest emitters, issued a [joint commitment](#) to reducing emissions in November 2015. There have also been increasing calls from across the board for a

meaningful agreement to be reached, including religious leaders. There is also [increased global investment](#) in renewables and away from coal. And for the first time the [International Energy Agency](#) provisional figures for 2014 showed there was global economic growth of 3% without any associated growth in emissions from energy use.

### **UK policy**

The UK has been seen as leader in the international negotiations up to date and the Government has [restated](#) its commitment to an agreement. However, the recent changes in renewables support policy, which have seen the UK drop down the league table of [attractiveness for renewables investment](#) have resulted in [concerns](#) both at home and abroad, about the UK's continued commitment to implementing the changes required to meet climate targets.

The Library Briefing paper [Paris Climate Conference](#) sets out greater details.

## 2. Press Articles

*Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.*

Financial Times

**UK announces phasing out of coal-fired power plants**

18 November 2015

Kiran Stacey and Jim Pickard

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cd3fdaba-8d48-11e5-8be4-3506bf20cc2b.html#axzz3rklGGnpc> [subscription required]

The Guardian

12 November 2015

**UK becomes only G7 country to increase fossil fuel subsidies**

Damian Carrington

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/12/uk-breaks-pledge-to-become-only-g7-country-increase-fossil-fuel-subsidies>

FT.com

November 11, 2015

**Paris climate deal will not be a legally binding treaty**

Demetri Sevastopulo and Pilita Clark

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/79daf872-8894-11e5-90de-f44762bf9896.html#axzz3rH6S3VzR> [Subscription required]

The Guardian

November 11, 2015

**India could push world into climate change danger zone, warn scientists; As Narendra Modi visits UK for talks, academics warn if nation grows at expected rate without emission controls, Earth will breach critical two degree rise**

Juliette Jowit

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/11/india-could-push-world-into-climate-change-danger-zone-warn-scientists>

Financial Times

November 9, 2015

**Rich nations assess plan to slash billions from coal investment**

Pilita Clark

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e9d773ac-86dd-11e5-9f8c-a8d619fa707c.html#axzz3rH6S3VzR> [subscription required]

Financial Times

November 10, 2015

**Met Office warns of 'uncharted territory' as temperatures rise**

Pilita Clark

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d7c4450e-8706-11e5-9f8c-a8d619fa707c.html#axzz3rH6S3VzR> [Subscription required]

The Guardian

November 10, 2015

**Renewable energy made up half of world's new power plants in 2014: IEA; International Energy Agency says figures are a "clear sign" of a transition from coal to clean energy**

Damian Carrington

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/10/renewable-energy-made-up-half-of-worlds-new-power-plants-in-2014-iea>

The Guardian

November 10, 2015

**'A one-off in human history': Stern's warning on climate change battle; Speaking before Paris summit, expert says Europe must take urgent steps such as ending fossil fuel subsidies and encouraging electric cars**

Juliette Jowit

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/08/sterns-warning-on-climate-change-battle>

The Guardian

November 9, 2015 Monday 12:10 AM GMT

**Rising temperatures could drive 100m into extreme poverty, World Bank warns; Efforts to curb climate change must be twinned with programmes to cut poverty, warns a study of the threat posed by global warming to food security**

Mark Anderson

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/nov/08/world-bank-climate-change-poverty-shock-waves>

The Telegraph

**Why the Paris climate treaty will be the flop of the year**

31 October 2015

Christopher Booker

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/paris-climate-change-conference/11968064/Why-the-Paris-climate-treaty-will-be-the-flop-of-the-year.html>

The Guardian

**World leaders to attend Paris climate summit**

28 October 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/28/world-leaders-to-attend-paris-climate-summit>

FT.com

October 23, 2015

**Britain's U-turn on renewables baffles delegates at UN talks**

Pilita Clark

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a6cd532c-796a-11e5-933d-efcdc3c11c89.html#axzz3rH6S3VzR> [Subscription required]

The Guardian

October 5, 2015

**UN publishes draft of slimmed-down Paris climate change deal**

Fiona Harvey

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/05/un-publishes-draft-of-slimmed-down-paris-climate-change-deal>

### 3. Press releases

#### **Department of Energy and Climate Change**

#### **New direction for UK energy policy**

18 November 2015

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd has set out her vision for an energy system that puts consumers first, delivers more competition, reduces the burden on bill-payers and ensures enough electricity generation to power the nation.

Speaking at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London today the Energy Secretary revealed her policy priorities and her strategy for putting them into action.

Amber Rudd set out the challenges facing the country's energy system, saying:

"We now have an electricity system where no form of power generation, not even gas-fired power stations, can be built without government intervention. And a legacy of ageing, often unreliable plant.

"Perversely, even with the huge growth in renewables, our dependence on coal - the dirtiest fossil fuel - hasn't been reduced. Indeed a higher proportion of our electricity came from coal in 2014 than in 1999.

"So despite intervention we still haven't found the right balance."

The Energy Secretary signalled her intention to develop a cleaner, more secure energy network by consulting on closing coal fired power stations by 2025 She continued:

"One of the greatest and most cost-effective contributions we can make to emission reductions in electricity is by replacing coal fired power stations with gas.

"I am pleased to announce that we will be launching a consultation in the spring on when to close all unabated coal-fired power stations.

"Our consultation will set out proposals to close coal by 2025 - and restrict its use from 2023. If we take this step, we will be one of the first developed countries to deliver on a commitment to take coal off the system.

"But let me be clear, we'll only proceed if we're confident that the shift to new gas can be achieved within these timescales.

She also explained that nuclear power had a central role in the UK's energy future:

"Opponents of nuclear misread the science. It is safe and reliable. The challenge, as with other low carbon technologies, is to deliver nuclear power which is low cost as well. Green energy must be cheap energy.

"We are dealing with a legacy of under-investment and with Hinkley Point C planning to start generating in the mid-2020s, this is already changing.

“It is imperative we do not make the mistakes of the past and just build one nuclear power station. There are plans for a new fleet of nuclear power stations, including at Wylfa and Moorside. It also means exploring new opportunities like Small Modular Reactors, which hold the promise of low cost, low carbon energy.”

Amber Rudd went on to commit Government support for offshore wind on the condition that it comes down in cost:

“We should also support the growth of our world leading offshore wind industry.

“Today I can announce that – if, and only if, the Government’s conditions on cost reduction are met – we will make funding available for three auctions in this Parliament. We intend to hold the first of these auctions by the end of 2016.

“On current plans we expect to see 10GW of offshore wind installed by 2020”.

“The industry tells us they can meet that challenge, and we will hold them to it. If they don’t there will be no subsidy. No more blank cheques.”

The Government is also committed to taking action on climate change and to meeting the UK’s 2050 target, looking ahead to the conference in Paris in December where an international deal is expected to be agreed.

*The Energy and Climate Change Secretary explained:*

“Action on climate change is linked to the action we’re taking now to reduce the deficit. It is about resilience now and in the future. But climate change is a global problem, not a local one. Action by one state will not solve the problem. It’s what we do together that counts. And that is why achieving a global deal in Paris next month is so important.

“But climate change will not be solved by a group of over-tired politicians and negotiators in a Conference centre. It will take action by businesses, civil society, cities, regions and countries.

“Paris must deliver that and help unleash the levels of private investment needed. Our most important task is providing a compelling example to the rest of the world of how to cut carbon while controlling costs.”

*Notes*

A consultation will be published in the spring on when to close all unabated coal-fired power stations. The consultation will set out proposals to close coal by 2025 and restrict its use from 2023.

The full text of the Secretary of State’s speech is available on the [DECC website](#)



**Department of Energy and Climate Change**  
**Government announces plans to close coal power stations by 2025**

18 November 2015

The Government has announced plans to close all coal-fired power stations by 2025 and restrict their use by 2023.

Announcing the decision ahead of a major speech this morning which will set out a new direction for energy policy which has energy security at the heart of it and delivers for families and businesses, Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“Energy security comes first and I am determined to ensure that the UK has secure, affordable, and clean energy supplies that hardworking families and businesses can rely on now and in the future.

“We are tackling a legacy of underinvestment and ageing power stations which we need to replace with alternatives that are reliable, good value for money, and help to reduce our emissions.

“It cannot be satisfactory for an advanced economy like the UK to be relying on polluting, carbon intensive 50-year-old coal-fired power stations.

“Let me be clear: this is not the future.

“We need to build a new energy infrastructure, fit for the 21st century.

“Our determination to cut carbon emissions as cost effectively as possible is crystal clear and this step will make us one of the first developed countries to commit to taking coal off our system”.

*Notes to Editors*

The Government will consult early next year on when to close all coal-fired power stations. The consultation will set out proposals to close unabated coal-fired power stations by 2025 - and restrict use from 2023.

**Department of Energy and Climate Change**  
**UK-India partnership on energy and climate change agreed**

13 Nov 2015

As part of the visit by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UK, the UK and India reaffirmed the importance of addressing climate change and promoting secure, affordable and sustainable supplies of energy.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“The UK and India’s partnership on energy is going from strength to strength. We share world-class expertise in research and innovation. The UK’s experience in green finance and technology in particular makes us well – placed to work together to promote secure, affordable and sustainable supplies of energy and address climate change.

“The upcoming talks in Paris will be a crucial moment in the fight against climate change and I am pleased to be able to work closely with India to ensure that the deal we secure helps to keep the below 2 degree limit on global warming within reach.”

Our two Prime Ministers welcomed a comprehensive package of collaboration on energy and climate change that will support economic growth, energy security and energy access.

The package encompasses £3.2 billion of commercial agreements, joint research programmes and initiatives to share technical, scientific, and financial and policy expertise. This will encourage the research, development and eventual deployment of clean technology, renewables, gas and nuclear. As part of the package, we’re announcing the UK Climate Investments joint venture with the Green Investment Bank. This will invest up to £200million in renewable energy and energy efficiency in India and Africa.

The two countries also agreed on the need for an ambitious and comprehensive global agreement to tackle climate change in Paris and that the agreement should signal to investors and innovators the long term commitment of governments to clean and more sustainable economies.

The Prime Ministers also welcomed the completion of negotiations for a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding related to closer civil nuclear collaboration between the UK and India. This signals a growing relationship in this sector.

*Notes to editors*

The joint statement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-india-joint-statement-on-energy-and-climate-change>

## **International Energy Agency (IEA)**

### ***World Energy Outlook 2015* sees clear signs that the energy transition is underway**

10 November 2015

#### **[Extract]**

The *World Energy Outlook 2015* sees clear signs that the energy transition is underway, but IEA warns strong direction is needed from the Paris climate summit

The report [...] underlines that the single largest energy demand growth story of recent decades is near its end: China's coal use reaches a plateau at close to today's levels, as its economy rebalances and overall energy demand growth slows, before declining. India – the subject of an in-depth focus in *WEO-2015* – moves to centre stage in global energy, with high levels of economic growth, a large (and growing)

population and low (but increasing) levels of energy use per capita all pushing energy demand to two-and-a-half-times current levels.

Overall, world energy demand grows by nearly one-third between 2013 and 2040 in the central scenario of *WEO-2015*, with the net growth driven entirely by developing countries. The links between global economic growth, energy demand and energy-related emissions weaken: some markets (such as China) undergo structural change in their economies and others reach a saturation point in demand for energy services. All adopt more energy efficient technologies, although a prolonged period of lower oil prices could undercut this crucial pillar of the energy transition; diminished incentives and longer payback periods mean that 15% of the energy savings are lost in a low oil price scenario. Lower prices alone would not have a large impact on the deployment of renewables, but only if policymakers remain steadfast in providing the necessary market rules, policies and subsidies.

In advance of the critical COP21 climate summit in Paris, there are clear signs that an energy transition is underway: renewables contributed almost half of the world's new power generation capacity in 2014 and have already become the second-largest source of electricity (after coal). The coverage of mandatory energy efficiency regulation has expanded to more than one-quarter of global energy consumption. The climate pledges submitted in advance of COP21 are rich in commitments on renewables and energy efficiency, and this is reflected in the *WEO-2015* finding that renewables are set to become the leading source of new energy supply from now to 2040. Their deployment grows worldwide, with a strong concentration in the power sector where renewables overtake coal as the largest source of electricity generation by the early-2030s. Renewables-based generation reaches 50% in the EU by 2040, around 30% in China and Japan, and above 25% in the United States and India.

The net result of the changes seen in the *WEO-2015* central scenario is that the growth in energy-related emissions slows dramatically, but the emissions trajectory implies a long-term temperature increase of 2.7 °C by 2100. A major course correction is still required to achieve the world's agreed climate goal. "As the largest source of global greenhouse-gas emissions, the energy sector must be at the heart of global action to tackle climate change," said Dr. Birol. "World leaders meeting in Paris must set a clear direction for the accelerated transformation of the global energy sector. The IEA stands ready to support the implementation of an agreement reached in Paris with all of the instruments at our disposal, to track progress, promote better policies and support the technology innovation that can fulfil the world's hopes for a safe and sustainable energy future."

**Department of Energy and Climate Change**  
**UK and China sign the Clean Energy Partnership**

26 Oct 2015

The UK and China have signed an agreement to work together to transition to the low carbon economy.

The Clean Energy Partnership establishes co-operation in research and industry while transitioning to a low carbon global economy. This will strengthen the UK's position as the partner of choice for China in low carbon energy and will help to pave the way for effective energy relations between the two countries.

Both the UK and China are determined to find the right solutions to deliver clean, secure, and affordable energy for all. The agreement will support our efforts to tackle climate change and provide energy security for decades to come, helping to reduce energy bills for hardworking businesses and families as well as growing the low carbon economy.

The UK companies in the low carbon sector will gain more opportunities to access the largest energy market in the world; enabling them to share expertise in technology and innovation to secure new business. It is expected to encourage more investment in clean technologies, which in turn could help to reduce their costs in both countries.

Earlier this week, a number of other collaboration agreements were announced at the UK-China Fourth Annual Energy Dialogue. These include the first ever Chinese investment in the UK offshore wind market with China Three Gorges (CTG) agreeing to invest in Moray Offshore Renewables Ltd.; as well as the UK China joint civil nuclear research and development centre to be opened in the UK; industry and academic collaboration for marine energy research; and partnering of our two countries' offshore wind industry groups to establish joint Offshore Wind Industry Advisory Groups.

Also, complementing our work on clean energy, the China National Expert Committee on Climate Change and the UK's Committee on Climate Change have agreed to establish a new process of joint work on climate change risk assessment, recognising the importance of risk assessment for informing climate change policy.

**Department of Energy and Climate Change**  
**EU agrees next steps to tackling climate change**

21 Sep 2015

Recently the formal Environment Council of the EU took a step forward in reforming the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS).

The EU ETS is the European Union's flagship climate policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the least cost whilst stimulating investment in the low-carbon economy. A cap is set on the total amount of certain greenhouse gases that can be emitted, and within the cap, companies

receive or buy emission allowances which they can trade with one another as needed.

The Environment Council has agreed a measure, known as the Market Stability Reserve (MSR), to tackle the surplus of allowances built up in the ETS over the last five years.

The Council also agreed the EU negotiating approach to the Paris COP. These set out a strong and positive position for the final negotiations to secure an ambitious global deal to tackle climate change.

*Secretary of State Amber Rudd said recently:*

“I welcome today’s agreement, which the UK has been driving forward and will enable businesses to remain competitive and grow as we move to a low carbon future.

“With just over 2 months to go until the climate change conference in Paris we are working hard to land a robust global deal that will mark the beginning of a global step change in efforts to limit global warming to 2 degrees in the long term.”

## **G7 Summit Leaders’ Declaration**

### **Communiqué**

7-8 June 2015

#### **[Extract]**

### **Climate Change, Energy, and Environment**

#### *Climate Change*

Urgent and concrete action is needed to address climate change, as set out in the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report. We affirm our strong determination to adopt at the Climate Change Conference in December in Paris this year (COP21) a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) applicable to all parties that is ambitious, robust, inclusive and reflects evolving national circumstances.

The agreement should enhance transparency and accountability including through binding rules at its core to track progress towards achieving targets, which should promote increased ambition over time. This should enable all countries to follow a low-carbon and resilient development pathway in line with the global goal to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C.

Mindful of this goal and considering the latest IPCC results, we emphasize that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required with a decarbonisation of the global economy over the course of this century. Accordingly, as a common vision for a global goal of greenhouse gas emissions reductions we support sharing with all parties

to the UNFCCC the upper end of the latest IPCC recommendation of 40 to 70 % reductions by 2050 compared to 2010 recognizing that this challenge can only be met by a global response. We commit to doing our part to achieve a low-carbon global economy in the long-term including developing and deploying innovative technologies striving for a transformation of the energy sectors by 2050 and invite all countries to join us in this endeavour. To this end we also commit to develop long term national low-carbon strategies.

The G7 welcomes the announcement or proposal of post-2020 emission targets by all its members, as well as the submission of intended nationally determined contributions (INDC) and calls upon all countries to do so well in advance of COP21. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the Copenhagen Accord to mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion a year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources, both public and private in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation.

Climate finance is already flowing at higher levels. We will continue our efforts to provide and mobilize increased finance, from public and private sources, and to demonstrate that we and others are well on our way to meet the USD 100 bn goal and that we stand ready to engage proactively in the negotiations of the finance provisions of the Paris outcome. We recognize the potential of multilateral development banks (MDBs) in delivering climate finance and helping countries transition to low carbon economies. We call on MDBs to use to the fullest extent possible their balance sheets and their capacity to mobilize other partners in support of country-led programs to meet this goal. We thank the presidency for the publication of the Background Report on Long-Term Climate Finance and call for a further exchange in all relevant fora in view of COP 21.

Mobilization of private sector capital is also crucial for achieving this commitment and unlocking the required investments in low-carbon technologies as well as in building resilience against the effects of climate change. To overcome existing investment barriers finance models with high mobilization effects are needed.

*To this end, we will:*

a) Intensify our support particularly for vulnerable countries' own efforts to manage climate change related disaster risk and to build resilience. We will aim to increase by up to 400 million the number of people in the most vulnerable developing countries who have access to direct or indirect insurance coverage against the negative impact of climate change related hazards by 2020 and support the development of early warning systems in the most vulnerable countries. To do so we will learn from and build on already existing risk insurance facilities such as the African Risk Capacity, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility and other efforts to develop insurance solutions and markets in vulnerable regions, including in small islands developing states, Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean as set out in the annex.

b) Accelerate access to renewable energy in Africa and developing countries in other regions with a view to reducing energy poverty and mobilizing substantial financial resources from private investors, development finance institutions and multilateral development banks by 2020 building on existing work and initiatives, including by the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance as set out in the annex.

We also reaffirm our ambition to make the Green Climate Fund fully operational in 2015 and a key institution of the future climate finance architecture.

We remain committed to the elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and encourage all countries to follow and we remain committed to continued progress in the OECD discussions on how export credits can contribute to our common goal to address climate change.

We pledge to incorporate climate mitigation and resilience considerations into our development assistance and investment decisions. We will continue our efforts to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and call on all Parties to the Montreal Protocol to negotiate an amendment this year to phase down HFCs and on donors to assist developing countries in its implementation.

In order to incentivize investments towards low-carbon growth opportunities we commit to the long-term objective of applying effective policies and actions throughout the global economy, including carbon market-based and regulatory instruments and call on other countries to join us. We are committed to establishing a platform for a strategic dialogue on these issues based on voluntary participation and in cooperation with relevant partners, including the World Bank.

## 4. Parliamentary Questions

### [Developing Countries: Climate Change](#)

**Asked by: Hussain, Imran**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to use the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015 to promote support for developing countries to help tackle climate change.

**Answering member: Grant Shapps | Department: Department for International Development**

DFID is working closely with DECC, the lead department for the climate negotiations, on preparations for the Paris Climate Summit to ensure that poverty reduction and development priorities are reflected to help the poorest and most vulnerable, including girls and women, respond to a changing climate.

Last month the Prime Minister announced that the UK would provide £5.8bn in climate finance over the next 5 years.

**HC Deb 29 Oct 2015 | House of Commons | 13420**

### [Climate Change: International Cooperation](#)

**Asked by: Gardiner, Barry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans he has to remove the climate diplomacy function of his Department in response to the UNFCCC Paris COP 21.

**Answering member: James Duddridge | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Government takes the risk posed by climate change very seriously, and the UK remains a global leader on climate change action. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris COP21 will aim to keep the goal of limiting global temperature rise to below 2 degrees within reach, but is not the end game.

Whatever the outcome of COP21, the Government will continue to engage with international partners on climate policy issues, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will work closely with Department of Energy and Climate Change, Department for International Development and other relevant departments to this end.

Demonstrating the UK's commitment to climate action, the Prime Minister announced at the UN General Assembly on 27 September that the government will provide a further £5.8 billion from the existing 0.7% official development assistance (ODA) budget to the UK's International Climate Fund in the next spending round, between April 2016 and March 2021.

**HC Deb 29 Oct 2015 | House of Commons | 12872**



[Climate Change](#)**Asked by: McGovern, Alison**

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if she will make it her policy to obtain binding commitments from her international counterparts at forthcoming global talks on climate change.

**Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

The UK Government is committed to securing at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris, an ambitious, legally binding global Agreement on climate change with mitigation commitments from all Parties and a set of rules that ensure transparency and accountability of commitments that will allow the world to track progress.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, is working closely with her international counterparts to pave the way for an ambitious deal. In June, the Prime Minister joined other G7 leaders in calling for an ambitious climate package to be agreed in Paris. But there remains a lot of work to do. My Ministerial colleagues and I will take every opportunity to press for an agreement that meets these objectives.

**HC Deb 07 Sep 2015 | Written questions | 7922**

[Climate Change](#)**Asked by: Flynn, Paul**

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, with reference to section 4.2 of the Summer Budget 2015, what steps she plans to take to ensure that making the most of the UK's oil and gas resources is compatible with the Government pushing for a global climate deal that keeps the goal of limiting global warming to two degrees.

**Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

The Government is seeking a deal in Paris in December that keeps the goal of limiting average global emissions to below 2°C within reach. The UK has led in taking action to reduce its emissions and has reduced them by 30% since 1990. Our carbon budgets are set to deliver emissions reductions that put us on a pathway to deliver our 2°C consistent 2050 target. They take account of the fact that Britain will still need significant oil and gas supplies while we decarbonise our economy and transition to a low carbon economy, as set out in our 2011 Carbon Plan.

Projections show that in 2030 oil and gas will remain a vital part of the energy mix, providing around 70 per cent of the UK's primary energy requirements. It makes sense to make the most of the UK's oil and gas resource as any oil and gas that we do not produce ourselves has to be

imported, resulting in additional transportation costs and emissions, and increasing levels of production will help maintain security of supply as well as boost growth and jobs.

**HC Deb 21 Jul 2015 | Written questions | 7057**

[Climate Change: Health](#)

**Asked by: Smyth, Karin**

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what the implications are for her Department's policies of the findings of the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change, published on 23 June 2015.

**Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

Climate change is one of the greatest threats the world faces, and that is why reaching a successful outcome in Paris is a priority for this Government. A global deal is the only way we can deliver the scale of action required.

We remain committed to meeting our climate change target of an 80% emissions reduction by 2050, which is based on advice from the Committee on Climate Change on the UK's contribution to an international effort to limit global warming to 2 degrees.

The Government is maintaining the momentum with a commitment to cost-effective energy efficient homes and clean energy, with unabated coal set to provide only one per cent of the UK's electricity generation by 2025.

**HC Deb 20 Jul 2015 | Written questions | 6725**

[Sustainable Development](#)

**Asked by: Ritchie, Ms Margaret**

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what policy outcomes the Government is seeking on the mitigation of climate change and promotion of low carbon development from the Sustainable Development Goals summit in September 2015 and the UNFCCC's summit in November 2015; and if she will make a statement.

**Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

2015 is an important year for international decision-making.

The Government recognises the important linkages between sustainability, climate change and development, since eradicating extreme poverty goes hand-in-hand with addressing climate change and sustainability.

The UK supports visible integration of climate and environment across the post-2015 framework; and significant targets in key areas, such as

food, energy and water. The framework should complement and support, but not duplicate, international climate negotiations already underway.

Securing an ambitious global climate deal at the UNFCCC conference of the Parties in Paris is a priority. We are working to secure an agreement that; secures a set of country targets that together keep the global 2°C goal within reach, includes a regular review of targets and a Long Term Goal and a set of rules that ensures transparency and accountability of commitments and allows the world to track progress.

**HC Deb 03 Jul 2015 | Written questions | 4662**

### [Climate Change](#)

**Asked by: Grady, Patrick**

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if she will make it her policy to respond to the messages contained in Pope Francis's Encyclical Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home.

**Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

The recent "Speak Up for the Love of" climate lobby in Westminster – along with interventions from the Pope and other faith leaders on climate change shows that all sectors of society recognise that climate change is a serious threat.

The Papal Encyclical raises a number of important issues, including – the reduction of global poverty, the protection of the planet, and a process of sustainable development which will lead to a healthier life for all.

The UK is already acting to address these challenges. Our commitment to the 0.7% target for our international aid budget is a concrete sign of the UK's solid support for sustainable development for all.

The UK Government also recognises the importance of tackling climate change. We were the first country to put in place a legally binding long-term target, and we have established five year carbon budgets for reducing emissions into the late 2020s.

Internationally we are leading the charge. The EU is on track to meet its commitments for 2020 and has agreed an ambitious emissions reduction target of at least 40% by 2030. We are also committed to securing a global deal on climate change at COP 21 in Paris.

**HC Deb 03 Jul 2015 | Written questions | 3363**

### [Climate Change](#)

**Asked by: The Lord Bishop of Salisbury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the issue of climate finance at the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change conference in Paris; and whether they plan to commit the

United Kingdom to budgeting for climate finance arrangements up to 2020.

**Answering member: Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

The Prime Minister, with other G7 leaders, recently reaffirmed their commitment to jointly mobilise USD \$100 billion of climate finance a year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources, both public and private, and that they stand ready to engage proactively in the negotiations of the finance provisions of the Paris outcome.

The UK has a strong track record on climate finance and is meeting its commitments, for example committing £3.87bn through the International Climate Fund (ICF) in this spending review period. Climate finance commitments beyond 2015/16 will be determined through the forthcoming Spending Review process.

**HL Deb 30 Jun 2015 | Written questions | HL656**

[Climate Change](#)

**Asked by: The Lord Bishop of Salisbury | Party: Bishop**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the Lambeth Declaration on Climate Change, signed by the leaders of the United Kingdom's Christian and other faith communities and launched on 17 June.

**Answering member: Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth | Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

I very much welcome publication of the Lambeth Declaration 2015 on climate change and would like to thank the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, for his work in securing it.

Faith communities have a strong track record of bringing about real and lasting change at every level of society so we welcome this significant intervention on climate change and urge all faiths to work together in the lead up to Paris Climate Summit and beyond.

We all have a responsibility to learn how to live and develop sustainably in a world of finite resources. Caring for our environment and being conscious of our impact on it is central to many faith's beliefs and something that faith groups communicate better than anyone.

The UK Government is working hard to secure a global climate deal in Paris and will continue to work with stakeholders from all sectors to help deliver an ambitious international agreement on climate change.

**HL Deb 23 Jun 2015 | Written questions | HL655**

[Climate Change](#)**Asked by: Lord Hunt of Chesterton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, as a contribution to establishing future targets and implementation plans for the reduction of carbon emissions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015, what policies are being proposed by the United Kingdom delegations to the United Nations specialised agencies responsible for climate change mitigation, including United Nations Habitat, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Maritime Organisation and the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

**Answering member: Baroness Verma |Department: Department for Energy and Climate Change**

We recognise the UNFCCC as the only place where a legally binding international agreement could be delivered at the scale necessary to meet the challenge of climate change, given its universal coverage and legitimacy.

As such, we are working with countries to intensify domestic preparations for the new deal and want as many as possible to put forward contributions to the UNFCCC by the first quarter of 2015, which set out how they are going to achieve their commitments on post-2020 mitigation. Alongside this we are working closely with UN institutions and relevant international agencies to assess how different international actors can best support an ambitious deal in Paris.

**HL Deb 24 Feb 2015 | Written questions | HL4911**

## 5. Other parliamentary material

### Ministerial Statements

There have been no formal Ministerial Statements on climate change policy by the Conservative Government to date; the main statements on policy to date have been as follows:

Letter from Secretary of State, DECC to Chairman, Energy and Climate Change Committee [Climate negotiation priorities for COP 21 Paris](#)  
September 3, 2015

Energy and Climate Change Committee  
Oral evidence: [DECC Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15](#)  
HC 544, 10 November 2015

Energy and Climate Change Committee  
Oral evidence: [DECC Priorities 2015](#),  
HC 287, 21 July 2015

Opposition Day Debate  
[Climate Change](#)  
HC Deb10 Jun 2015 | 596 cc1259-1303

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd):** Let me first set out the strength of the Government's commitment on combating climate change. The Government are committed to taking robust, effective action to tackle climate change here at home and on the international stage. Climate change, as the right hon. Lady said, is not a party issue. It is not a Conservative, Labour, Liberal or even a Scottish National party issue. It is not exclusively left-wing or right-wing, if we can use those terms anymore. Climate change brings together all the parties in this House, and indeed countries across the globe. The G7 on Monday demonstrated just how far the major developed economies are aligned.

The pledge signed by the leaders of the main UK parties in February this year ahead of the election, which was brokered by the Green Alliance, underlines our domestic unity. We are pledged to work together to achieve a fair, legally binding global climate deal; to work together to agree domestic carbon targets; and to work together to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. We are united here in this United Kingdom, because climate change represents a threat to our national prosperity, our national security and our way of life. The science of climate change is sound. While uncertainties remain, especially on scale and pace, there is a lot we do understand. The evidence continues to point in one direction: a world warming due to human activity.

As an island nation surrounded by the sea, with an open economy dependent on trade, we cannot bury our heads in the sand. We are exposed to the ramifications of a world 2° warmer or more. Margaret Thatcher, one of the first world leaders to put climate change firmly on the international stage, told the World Climate Conference 25 years ago that

“the threat to our world comes not only from tyrants and their tanks...The danger of global warming is real enough for us to make changes and sacrifices, so that we do not live at the expense of future generations.”

She was right on this, as on so much else.

Acting on climate change also represents an opportunity for us to build a stronger, more resilient, more efficient low-carbon economy that conserves resources and energy instead of wasting them; that preserves a healthy natural environment; and that puts Britain at the forefront of the green global transition that must happen if we are to protect this planet for future generations. Getting a global deal on climate change in Paris in December is one of my highest priorities this year. I want, therefore, to talk about the international picture and the prospects for agreement, but first I want to set out how we in the UK, through the actions of successive Governments and with cross-party support, have been living up to our responsibilities on climate change.

[...]

I shall quickly make some comments about the international picture before finishing, so that colleagues have time to speak. We agree with the sentiment behind this motion. Only a global response on the scale required can hope to keep a 2° pathway within reach. A global deal can help ensure that the transition to a low-carbon world happens as cost-effectively as possible with a more level playing field for business, because business plays a very important part in making sure that we can deliver on these targets and make this transition.

A global deal will protect the most vulnerable countries and share the burden. Paris will be a seminal moment in this process. It will not be the last word. Indeed, holding 195 countries to their commitments will be as challenging as bringing them to agreement in the first place, but that should not curtail our ambitions. In Paris we need to ensure that all countries come forward with emissions reduction contributions that keep that target within reach. The agreement needs to be legally binding, so we can all have certainty in what each country is doing.

This agreement needs to be based on a set of rules that define commitments and how they can be met, so that each country's progress can be tracked and there is no room for backsliding. Indeed, we want the opposite to be the case. We need to build in a process for regular reviews, so that ambition can be further increased.

Both the US and the EU have already made public their so-called intended nationally determined contributions. Those publicly declared cover 31% of global emissions, and we are still waiting for others to

come forward, including China, which is expected to declare in the next month or so. As we speak, officials are gathered in Bonn at the United Nations framework convention on climate change inter-sessional, focusing on improving the text to be agreed in Paris and seeking to make progress on key elements such as effective rules and mitigation ambition.

The last Government set out their strategy for Paris in September last year. Although I agree with the sentiment of this motion—which I note was lifted verbatim from Labour’s green manifesto—I am afraid that we will not be able to support it in the Lobby this evening. In setting this Government’s detailed approach and to ensure that we maximise our negotiating position, I need to take stock of the results of the Bonn inter-sessional. In the signals we send to our negotiating partners, we will need to be precise in our language and united in our text. I am sure that the right hon. Member for Don Valley will understand that. Tackling climate change is not just a noble aim. It is not just the right thing to do. It is an economic and social imperative.

## **Debate**

### **Opposition Day Debate**

#### [Climate Change](#)

**HC Deb 10 Jun 2015 | 596 cc1259-1303**

#### **[Extracts]**

**Caroline Flint (Don Valley):** I beg to move,

That this House believes that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in Paris in 2015 is vital in ensuring that the target of keeping global temperature increases below two degrees is met; further believes that the UK Government should push for ambitious emissions targets for all countries, strengthened every five years on the basis of a scientific assessment of the progress towards the two degrees goal, a goal of net zero emissions in the second half of the century, transparent and universal rules for measuring and reporting emissions, climate change adaptation plans for all countries, and an equitable deal in which richer countries provide support to poorer nations in their efforts to combat climate change; and further notes the importance of making adequate plans for domestic mitigation and adaptation and ensuring communities are protected from the worst effects of climate change, including flooding.

[...]

In government we passed the Climate Change Act 2008, which legally bound us to reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. It is worth remembering that back in 2008 only five Members of Parliament voted against this ground-breaking legislation, and that strong consensus influenced policy around the world.



There are now climate change laws in 66 countries, and even more are developing them. Denmark, Finland and Mexico have all now passed their own climate change Acts with legally binding emissions targets. Labour is proud of its leadership on climate change. We doubled renewable energy generation and put in the work to make sure that the UK was a global leader in a range of clean energy technologies. Two thirds of the renewable projects that came online in the past five years started under the previous Labour Government, and we can be proud of the jobs that those projects have created.

We put climate change on the agenda at the G8 in Gleneagles in 2005, making sure that this issue was discussed at the highest levels. We welcome the agreement that the G7 countries reached this week to phase out the use of fossil fuels by the end of this century and to cut greenhouse gases by 40% to 70% by 2050 from 2010 levels. That is positive, but only if the Paris conference sets out staging posts on how to get there.

[...]

In Paris we need to agree a set of tough, ambitious targets that will keep us under 2 °C and we need a goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of the century, but those ambitious targets must also be strengthened every five years on the basis of a scientific assessment of the progress towards that 2 °C goal. We cannot just keep relying on crunch moments, as we saw in Copenhagen, to deliver the targets we want. Fighting to limit climate change is part of an ongoing process that will require continual commitment. Transparent rules for measuring, verifying and reporting emissions are vital to that. This is going to work only if there is widespread confidence that everyone is playing by the same rules. We need a fair deal between richer and poorer nations, because the richer nations have a duty to help poorer countries get access to clean heat and power.

There are reasons to be optimistic, but only 39 countries have put in plans for emissions reductions to the United Nations framework convention on climate change, despite the fact that the deadline has passed. We welcome those plans, but an analysis submitted earlier this year shows that we are not on track.

What should we do both at home and abroad to set the right example and to give the talks the best possible chance of success? First, we need to show leadership at home on clean energy: we need to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. Yesterday, we got the news that the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project had received development consent from the Secretary of State, which is very welcome.

[...]

By this time next year we could have a binding agreement from 196 countries that puts us on a path to a sustainable future, but it will require us to show real leadership. It used to be said we would never get a deal without the world's biggest emitters stepping up. Well, America and China have already taken one step with a deal that could

see China's emissions peak in 2030 and would see the US reduce its emissions to 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2025.

The current bid from the EU for "at least" a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 does not go far enough. We are already signed up to a tougher target of 60% by 2030 at home, because of the Climate Change Act and the fact that we met our first carbon budget. We should be doing everything possible to toughen the EU position. The "at least" in the EU submission makes it possible to do that. The EU has already met its 2020 target five years early. I think we should be more ambitious. In his statement today, the Prime Minister said we needed to be ambitious, so I ask the Secretary of State, what does ambition in the EU look like?

We also have to recognise the link between the sustainable development goals being negotiated in September and the Paris conference, because we will not make progress in reducing poverty unless we succeed in limiting the effects of climate change, which we know devastates communities and affects food security, transport and jobs. It leads to the displacement of people with no home or hope, and to the costs that follow in disaster relief. I am proud that under the last Labour Government, the Department for International Development led the world in helping countries adapt to climate change, such as Bangladesh, where 300,000 people were helped in raising their homes above sea level.

[...]

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd):** Let me first set out the strength of the Government's commitment on combating climate change. The Government are committed to taking robust, effective action to tackle climate change here at home and on the international stage. Climate change, as the right hon. Lady said, is not a party issue. It is not a Conservative, Labour, Liberal or even a Scottish National party issue. It is not exclusively left-wing or right-wing, if we can use those terms anymore. Climate change brings together all the parties in this House, and indeed countries across the globe. The G7 on Monday demonstrated just how far the major developed economies are aligned.

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This agreement needs to be based on a set of rules that define commitments and how they can be met, so that each country's progress can be tracked and there is no room for backsliding. Indeed, we want the opposite to be the case. We need to build in a process for regular reviews, so that ambition can be further increased.

Both the US and the EU have already made public their so-called intended nationally determined contributions. Those publicly declared cover 31% of global emissions, and we are still waiting for others to come forward, including China, which is expected to declare in the next month or so. As we speak, officials are gathered in Bonn at the United Nations framework convention on climate change inter-sessional,

focusing on improving the text to be agreed in Paris and seeking to make progress on key elements such as effective rules and mitigation ambition.

The last Government set out their strategy for Paris in September last year. Although I agree with the sentiment of this motion—which I note was lifted verbatim from Labour’s green manifesto—I am afraid that we will not be able to support it in the Lobby this evening. In setting this Government’s detailed approach and to ensure that we maximise our negotiating position, I need to take stock of the results of the Bonn inter-sessional. In the signals we send to our negotiating partners, we will need to be precise in our language and united in our text. I am sure that the right hon. Member for Don Valley will understand that. Tackling climate change is not just a noble aim. It is not just the right thing to do. It is an economic and social imperative.

[...]

### **Select Committees**

#### **Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Oral evidence: [DECC Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15](#),

**HC 544 Tuesday 10 November 2015**

#### **[Extract]**

**Q104 Rushanara Ali:** Secretary of State, there seems to be, as you have set out, a good record of achievement both in your Government and the last Labour Government of leading the way on climate change, particularly in relation to developing countries and the investment through DfID, but that seems to be at odds with what is happening at home.

I want to take you back to the policy changes since the election. According to a BBC audit, most of the policy changes around renewables are going to increase emissions and also, in some cases, increase bills over a longer period of time. It seems to me that is an own goal because domestically we are doing one thing—it is hypocritical as well because we are trying to get other countries to play their part, and rightly so, but if we do not practice what we preach then how are we meant to have credibility in these negotiations?

**Amber Rudd:** There is absolutely no question but that we have credibility in these negotiations. As I said to your colleague, nobody internationally raises this with me. The only people who make this point are people in the UK who are making a completely different point, which is about more support for the renewable industry.

We already have some of the toughest targets, possibly the toughest target, internationally because of the Climate Change Act. We already have plans to deliver 30% of our electricity from renewables by 2020. We are used as a model for delivering support for renewable energy. In fact, I can say that one new energy Minister said to me yesterday in Paris when I was out there, “We are impressed by your approach to

delivering renewables and looking after bill payers' interests". I totally reject that anything that we are doing here impacts on our international leadership role.

### **Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Oral evidence: [DECC Priorities 2015](#),

**HC 287 Tuesday 21 July 2015**

#### **[Extract]**

Q1 Amber Rudd In terms of carbon reduction, we have some very challenging but important targets to meet right up to 2050 and we will be focusing on all of those. I personally focus much more on the carbon reduction targets, which I think are more essential than the renewable energy targets.

The point is to make sure that we reduce our carbon emissions and how we do it should largely be left up to us. But this is absolutely a priority for me as well. We have a very important year this year. We are trying to get a deal in Paris in order to get 194 other countries to jointly sign with us for a plan to make sure that we limit dangerous climate change to a maximum of 2°C. This is an incredibly ambitious task but it is also very important to give a signal to the private sector that this is the direction that the whole world is going to go in so that we can encourage private sector investment as well.

**Q17 Dr Whitehead:** So the 40% reductions of the 1990 levels that we are committed to going to Paris with as part of the EU basket, is that something you feel comfortable with in terms of outcomes for UK, or is it something you feel is not sufficiently ambitious in terms of what we know at the moment is a likely outcome of the third carbon budget by the middle of the next decade?

**Amber Rudd:** I think it is not always right to put the maximum effort you can achieve on the table straight away. What we are trying to do in Paris is bring so many other countries with us and some countries who have very little interest in this but are going to have it because they are going to be part of receiving assistance from the developed world. So the fact that the EU has a commitment that is ambitious for the EU but not necessarily for the UK is the right place for us to be now with four months negotiating to go. I still reserve the position to say that perhaps the EU could be more ambitious but I think it is right not to push for that right now.

**Q18 Dr Whitehead:** That 40% presumably that is embedded into an agreement in Paris.

**Amber Rudd:** It is. Well, that represents the EU's INDC 40% reduction by 2030. Next year there will then be negotiations within the EU to decide the effort sharing and that will be an interesting series of discussions.

**Stephen Lovegrove:** As you know, we have met the first carbon budget and we are on track to meet the second and third. I think we

are conscious that, with the fourth carbon budget, there is a bit of shortfall as those are the years in the mid-2020s. A lot of the work that is going on in the Department at the moment with the Secretary of State and other Ministers is to develop policies that are going to be able to address that.

**Q19 Dr Whitehead:** Indeed, that was the thrust of my question. Assuming we go to Paris and put our 40% on the table, and there is a relatively successful outcome inasmuch as most of the indicative commitments are banked, as it were, at Paris. We go away with our commitments banked, but what does that mean in terms of climate policy as far as the UK is concerned subsequent to Paris?

**Amber Rudd:** I just reiterate that Paris is going to be the start of the international effort. I hope we get a great celebration in Paris for signing up but it is going to be the start of the process to make sure we have the architecture in order to achieve our carbon targets internationally. In terms of the UK, there are so many changes in this area, as you will know, in terms of new technologies, in terms of costs of technologies and we do not know yet what the answer will be for the mid-2020s, the late 2020s and the 2030s in terms of decarbonising but we will continue to support the renewal energy initiatives that we have.

We will continue to support innovation, which to me is a particularly important area that I think we can do more in—innovation and scientific commitment—in order to find out where else we can expand the opportunity to improve our carbon reductions. I am particularly keen on exploring more on storage.

So we will continue in terms of the UK's commitment after Paris to make sure that we achieve our carbon budgets and we will try to be as focused as we can on the different areas that we think can deliver it, but also making sure we support innovation because we may find that it comes from a completely different source in the end in terms of achieving these targets.

**Q20 Dr Whitehead:** There are suggestions; particularly that countries' contributions should be reviewed every five years, for example, rather similar to our carbon budgets.

**Amber Rudd:** Yes. I have to say our carbon budgets are much admired by other countries in terms of having that structure in place. What is currently being negotiated is that each country will review its own targets annually so there will be some transparency ongoing and then every five years there will be an aggregate look at how we are doing internationally.

I would say that that is still controversial. It is not agreed by all countries. Certain countries do not want to feel that they are going to be lectured to by other countries.

The whole tone of the global agreement is about trying to bring individual countries with us, for them to volunteer to participate and to see the benefit of it, and to receive—if they are developing countries—

financial support along the way, but not to try to dictate or have anything punitive because you will not get a deal in those cases.

**Q21 Dr Whitehead:** So I imagine that would mean sticking pretty closely to the recommendations that our own Committee on Climate Change is putting forward as far as carbon budgets are concerned in order to make sure that we have our own monitoring process as far as post-Paris is concerned and our own carbon budgets and the effect on—

**Amber Rudd:** The carbon budgets and our commitments to it remain in place but I would also add, if I may, that nobody raises with the UK internationally concerns about us because we are so far ahead of most other countries in terms of our commitment, our structure, our investment in this area.

We are looked at as a model of a country doing well in terms of renewables but also in terms of energy efficiency and reductions. So the international effort is much more focused on trying to make sure that we are a big tent. It is also focused on the money, on making sure that there are sufficient funds mobilised to make sure that developing countries can effectively industrialise but using renewable energy.

So the other big area of the debate currently in the Paris negotiations is money—how we demonstrate it, who is going to put how much up, how we get the private sector mobilised and how we reassure developing countries that they can sign up and make this commitment and how we will be helping them.

### **Early Day Motions**

#### **[CLIMATE CHANGE RISK, FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY PENSION FUND](#)**

That this House notes that approximately £500 million is invested in the UK and global economy through the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund; further notes the considerable academic and economic evidence from reputable sources, including the Bank of England and Carbon Tracker, that climate change poses a serious risk to returns on investment for pension holders; notes the growing fossil fuel divestment movement consisting of universities, churches, institutions, businesses, individuals and others who are shifting investment to low carbon alternatives instead of fossil fuels and undertaking investor stewardship to promote strong management of climate change risk within the corporate sector; considers that parliamentarians, past and present, should demonstrate leadership on responsible investment and tackling climate change by challenging and changing how the Parliamentary Pension Fund is invested; further considers that such action from parliamentarians would be a practical and positive move in advance of the Paris climate talks and would highlight the urgent need to shift financial flows away from fossil fuels and into low-carbon solutions and climate adaptation; and calls on the trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund to quantify and review the fund's

investments in high carbon industries and the fossil fuel sector, and associated risks, to enter into discussions with members about addressing these risks and to develop an industry-leading approach to climate change in its investment strategy, with a view to divesting the Parliamentary Pension Scheme from fossil fuels over an appropriate timescale.

**14 Sep 2015 | Early day motions | House of Commons | 445 (session 2015-16)**

#### [UNFCCC CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2015](#)

That this House notes that the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the June session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, will be held from 1 to 11 June 2015 in Bonn, Germany; believes that ongoing evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world; further believes that climate change will have far-reaching effects on the environment, people and economies around the world; and calls on the Government to work constructively at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties Summit in Paris in December 2015 for a fair and binding global deal to reduce carbon emissions and support developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change.

**08 Jun 2015 | Early day motions | House of Commons | 90 (session 2015-16)**



## 6. Statements by Religious bodies

The following provide links to the declarations from the following Religious bodies:

Roman Catholic Church

[\*Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si' on Care for Our Common Home\*](#)

24 May 2015

Global Buddhist Climate Change Collective

[\*Buddhist Climate Change Statement to World Leaders\*](#)

29 October 2015

International Islamic Change Symposium

[\*Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change\*](#)

18 August 2015

Church of England

[\*Lambeth Declaration 2015 on Climate Change\*](#)

16 June 2015

[\*Statement of Faith and Spiritual Leaders\*](#) on the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21 in Paris in December 2015

19 October 2015

## 7. Further Reading

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

[\*Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change\*](#)

[Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp  
November 2014

Royal Society

[\*UK science communiqué on climate change\*](#)

21 July 2015

Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

[\*Climate negotiation priorities for COP 21 Paris\*](#)

Letter from Secretary of State, DECC to Chairman, Energy and Climate Change Committee,  
3 September 2015

Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

[\*Paris 2015: Securing our prosperity through a global climate change agreement\*](#)

September 2014

Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

[\*Climate change explained\*](#)

Committee on Climate Change

[\*The scientific and international context for the fifth carbon budget,\*](#)

22 October 2015

Committee on Climate Change

[\*Website\*](#)

House of Commons Library Note

[\*Lima Climate Change Conference\*](#)

01 December 2014

Lords' Library Note

[\*Global Action on Climate Change,\*](#)

29 October 2015

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

[\*Bonn Climate Change Conference - June 2015\*](#)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Submission by EU and its Member States

[\*Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of the EU and its Member States as submitted by Latvia as President of the European Union\*](#)

March 2015

International Energy Agency

[\*Energy and Climate Change: World Energy Outlook Special Briefing for COP21\*](#)

November 2015

Energy and Climate Change Committee

[\*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report: Review of Working Group I contribution\*](#)

2014/15, HC 587, 15 July 2014

Energy and Climate Change Committee

[\*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report: Review of Working Group I contribution Government response\*](#)

2014/15, HC 732, 20 October 2014

European Parliament Research Service

[\*Are we ready for the 2015 Conference in Paris? – EU and Member States preparedness for COP21\*](#)

November 16, 2015

European Parliament Research Service

[\*Developments in international climate policy\*](#)

July 2, 2015

19th Annual Chatham House Climate Change Conference

*Measuring Progress and Completing the Deal*

Lord Bourne (DECC) keynote [speech](#)

26 October 2015

Overseas Development Institute

[\*Empty promises: G20 subsidies to oil, gas and coal production\*](#)

Elizabeth Bast, Alex Doukas, Sam Pickard, Laurie van der Burg and Shelagh Whittle

November 2015

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