



## DEBATE PACK

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# Estimates Day Debate: COP26 Climate Conference

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## Summary

This briefing has been produced ahead of the Estimates Day debate to be held in the Commons Chamber on 10 March.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most 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. Background

In November 2021 the UK and Italy will jointly host the 26<sup>th</sup> [Conference of the Parties](#) (COP26). This is the international [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) conference on climate change held every year and attended by signatory countries and other parties, 196 in total. The UK will host the COP events. The pre-COP Summit and other preparatory events such as a youth event will be held in Italy

The UNFCCC was adopted during the 1992 Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It entered into force in 1994 and has been ratified by 196 States (including both the EU and the UK) which constitute the “Parties” to the Convention. The objective of the Treaty, set out in article 2 of the Convention, is to “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”

COP26 was originally going to be held five years after the Paris Agreement was agreed, in 2020. This was effectively when the Paris Agreement came into effect and was also the year when Parties to the [Paris Agreement](#) were expected to put forward enhanced or updated [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDC) as part of the so-called “ratchet” mechanism. NDCs set out each Party’s efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There have been a number of developments since 2015, including the publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on [Global Warming of 1.5°C](#) above pre-industrial levels and related greenhouse gas emissions pathways in 2018.<sup>1</sup> The IPCC noted that limiting warming to 1.5°C is possible but would require rapid and far-reaching transitions across multiple sectors. In response to this a number of countries, including China and the US have set a [net zero emission target](#). The [UK has set a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050](#).

For further background on climate change, including UK policy and previous COP climate conferences please see the Commons Library [Climate Change Overview](#) page.

## 1.1 UK Presidency aims for COP26

According to the UK Government, COP26 will be the largest summit the UK has ever hosted, with over 30,000 delegates, including world leaders, experts, campaigners and government officials. Further details can be found on the [COP26 official website](#).

The conference was scheduled to be held in Glasgow and Milan from 9-20 November 2020. The Prime Minister officially launched COP26 on 4 February 2020.<sup>2</sup> However, on 1 April 2020, the UNFCCC, the UK Government and the Italian government announced that COP26 had

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC, Global Warming of 1.5 °C [ website visited 9 March 2020]

<sup>2</sup> [PQ 20511](#) [on climate change convention] 2 March 2020

been postponed due to Covid-19. The [Government press release](#) stated:

Rescheduling will ensure all parties can focus on the issues to be discussed at this vital conference and allow more time for the necessary preparations to take place. We will continue to work with all involved to increase climate ambition, build resilience and lower emissions.

New dates of 1 to 12 November 2021 were announced jointly by the UK and Italian Government on 28 May 2020. Until 8 January 2021, Alok Sharma was the COP26 President alongside his position as Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); from that date, when he stepped down from his BEIS role and was appointed [full-time President](#) for COP 26.

Box 2 sets out a summary of the UK's key aims of COP26 explained by the UK President of COP26 (Alok Sharma) in March 2020.<sup>3</sup>

#### Box 1: key aims of COP26

- All countries to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, committing to further cuts in carbon emissions by 2030.
- All countries to commit to reach net zero emissions as soon as possible
- Developed countries to honour their commitments, including meeting the 100-billion dollar goal for climate finance
- Seeking to agree a package which takes forward the Paris Agreement.

## Government preparations

The Government announced on 17 October 2019 that the Prime Minister would chair a new Cabinet Committee on Climate Change to “drive further action across government to protect our environment, reduce emissions and improve air quality”. Amongst other things, the Committee will oversee the UK's preparations to host COP26.<sup>4</sup> In response to a PQ in January 2020 on details of the Committee's work, the Prime Minister stated that, in line with the approach by successive governments, information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees is not disclosed.<sup>5</sup>

A PQ response on 13 February 2020 provided the following update regarding preparations for COP26 relating to the negotiations timetable, the budget and the security plans:

The negotiations timetable for COP26 will be set by the UK, as President of COP26, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. The timetable will be informed by the outcome of negotiations, including at the intersessional meeting in Bonn in June. Details of the timetable for high level and public events will be announced by the Government in due course.

<sup>3</sup> Gov.uk speech, [COP26 President Alok Sharma's briefing to UN member states](#), published 8 March 2020

<sup>4</sup> Gov.uk press release, [PM to chair new Cabinet Committee on Climate Change](#), 17 October 2019

<sup>5</sup> [PQ 224](#) [on climate change] 7 January 2020

The UK Government is working closely with the Scottish Government and with operational delivery partners, including Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council, to ensure the successful delivery of COP26 in Glasgow. The security plan for the COP26 venue will be jointly developed and agreed on by the United Nations security team and UK counterparts. Discussions with delivery partners regarding costs for COP26 are ongoing, and final budgets and details are yet to be confirmed.

The UK Government is committed to working with the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive to deliver an ambitious and successful summit for the whole of the UK. Details of Ministerial meetings are published quarterly on GOV.UK.<sup>6</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Alok Sharma made his first speech as COP26 President at the UN, where he set out the UK Government's aims:

So, we want all countries to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, committing to further cuts in carbon emissions by 2030.

With all nations committing to reaching net zero emissions as soon as possible.

I want to re-emphasise, this shift must be fair.

The people most affected by climate change are those who have contributed the least and have the fewest resources to adapt.

Developed countries must honour their commitments. Including meeting the 100-billion-dollar goal for climate finance.

At COP26, the world must seek to agree a package which takes forward the Paris Agreement and powers the UN climate process onwards.

We will seek to progress all issues mandated for discussion and I have already heard from many of the countries I have spoken to about their priorities for the negotiations.<sup>7</sup>

Mr Sharma also highlighted the following areas as needing particular action in 2020:

- Adaptation and resilience to climate change. The governments of UK and Egypt, in partnership with Malawi, Bangladesh, St Lucia, the Netherlands, UNDP and others launched a Call for Action on resilience and adaptation in September 2019<sup>8</sup>
- Nature
- Energy transition
- Accelerating the move towards zero carbon road transport
- Unleashing finance to support the goals of the Paris Agreement

### **Climate Diplomacy**

The role of host and president are [seen as critical](#) in the run up to COP events in bringing together parties in advance of the meeting, and

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<sup>6</sup> [HL 1368](#) [on climate change convention] 13 February 2020

<sup>7</sup> Gov.uk speech, [COP26 President Alok Sharma's briefing to UN member states](#), published 8 March 2020

<sup>8</sup> See: Global Resilience Partnership, [UN Climate Action Summit Call to Action: Resilience and Adaptation Initiatives](#), 16 September 2019 [accessed 12 March 2020]

ensuring progress is made during conferences. The Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, a non-profit organisation, explained how UK actions would be important in advance of the conference, both nationally and internationally:

The UK has an opportunity to take a number of international actions – on diplomacy, trade and investments – which could increase the likelihood of a successful outcome at COP26. Thoughtful UK decisions can strengthen other countries’ ability to deliver climate action; but short-sighted decisions can undermine international action and hinder countries’ achievement, for example, of their own NDCs. Scrutiny of the UK actions in the run up to COP26 will be intense, with many complex and sometimes conflicting agendas potentially challenging the diplomatic effort.<sup>9</sup>

The latest information from Government an activity in advance of the conference is available on the dedicated [Gov.uk COP26 pages](#), this include details of the work of Alok Sharma in advance of COP26.

A [Climate Ambition Summit](#) was co-hosted by the UK, France and the United Nations and took place on 12 December 2020. This highlighted that countries “representing around 65% of global carbon dioxide emissions, and around 70% of the world’s economy have now committed to reaching net zero or carbon neutrality.”<sup>10</sup>

The latest meeting held by the COP26 President was with John Kerry, US climate envoy, on 8 March 2021. The US State Department issued a brief [joint statement](#) following the meeting:

We resolved today to work closely together to reduce our own emissions and to rally all countries, and most especially the world’s major economies, to strengthen climate ambition. President Biden’s upcoming Leaders Summit on Climate and the G7 leaders meeting to be hosted by the UK are both critical opportunities to build momentum on the way to COP26 in Glasgow.

Our countries are fully committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050. We urge all countries to take the steps needed to keep a 1.5 degree C temperature limit within reach, including through ambitious nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies to cut emissions and reach net zero.

We also resolved to work with other countries to help the world’s most vulnerable adapt and respond to climate impacts and to scale up finance and private investment for both mitigation and adaptation. We also look forward to working with all countries to finalize the Paris Rulebook and successfully advance wider negotiations issues. Strong progress on all of these fronts is critical to ensuring the success we need in Glasgow.<sup>11</sup>

The Foreign Affairs Select Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry on [Environmental diplomacy](#) which is focusing on UK preparations for COP 26.

<sup>9</sup> ECIU, [UK diplomacy and influence ahead of COP26](#) [website visited 9 March 2020]

<sup>10</sup> [Written Statement](#), 15 December 2020

<sup>11</sup> US Department of State, [Joint Statement: The United States and the United Kingdom are Working Together in the Fight Against Climate Change](#), 8 March 2020

## 1.2 Nationally Determined Contributions

The Paris Agreement requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive (every five years) nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve.<sup>12</sup> NDCs set out each Party's efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Further information is available on the [UNFCCC pages on nationally determined contributions](#).

NDCs were first submitted by Parties in 2015. To date 190 of 196 parties to the Convention, including the EU Member States, have submitted their [first NDCs](#). Parties were expected to put forward enhanced or updated NDCs in 2020.

### UK Nationally Determined Contribution

The UK is a party to the UNFCCC and has ratified the Paris Agreement separately to the EU. However, the EU had an overall NDC on behalf of its Members States (including the UK), acting jointly.

The UK Government confirmed in February 2020 plans to bring "forward its own, increased NDC well ahead of COP26" following the UK's departure from the EU:

Following our departure from the EU, the UK will be bringing forward its own, increased NDC well ahead of COP26. The UK NDC will be built on the foundations of well-established UK analysis and policy development for domestic climate change mitigation, used to set the UK's fifth carbon budget (2028-32) and described in the Clean Growth Strategy. In its Net Zero advice, the Committee on Climate Change was clear that the Clean Growth Strategy continues to offer the right framework for the ambitious action needed to deliver net zero.<sup>13</sup>

The Climate Change Committee published its [advice to Government](#) on setting NDC's on 3 December 2020, setting out its key recommendations which included setting a target for reducing UK territorial emissions by at least 68% by 2030:

1. We recommend that the UK commits to reduce territorial emissions by at least 68% from 1990 to 2030, as part of the UK's nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the UN process.
2. We encourage the Prime Minister to make a 2030 commitment that is as bold as possible, to inspire other world leaders to follow suit. As such, the Government may choose to go beyond a 68% reduction. The CCC would support the use of international credits to do so. We would not expect credits to be used towards the 68% reduction.
3. The NDC is more than just a number. It should be accompanied by wider climate commitments, including the development of a policy package and Net Zero Strategy to deliver against the UK goal, clear commitments to reduce international aviation and shipping emissions, and greater support for climate finance, particularly for developing countries. It is also imperative that the NDC is accompanied

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<sup>12</sup> Article 4, para 2

<sup>13</sup> [PQ 12820](#) [on climate change] 14 February 2020

by strengthened climate change adaptation plans – with new commitments – for the UK to show its leadership on emissions reduction and adaptation.<sup>14</sup>

The [Government followed this by announcing](#) on 4 December 2020 in a written statement that it had increased the UK ambition for cutting emissions from 53% to 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels:

On Friday 4 December the Prime Minister announced the UK's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. This commits the UK to a new ambitious target to reduce the UK's emissions by at least 68% by the end of the decade, compared to 1990 levels.

This is a step forward in our ambition to tackle climate change over the next ten years as we accelerate towards meeting our legally-binding commitment to reach net zero by 2050. Just as the UK led the way as the first major economy to legislate for net zero, our NDC raises the bar for global climate ambition by committing the UK to the highest level of emissions reductions by 2030 of any major economy, compared to 1990 levels. The level of the UK's NDC is consistent with advice from the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC). It is a significant step up from the level of the UK's previous target as a contributor to the EU's NDC, which was equivalent to around a 53% UK reduction over the same time period.

As the UK looks ahead to hosting COP26 (the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties) in Glasgow next year, in partnership with Italy, we are urging all countries to follow suit and come forward with ambitious new NDCs and transformational Long-Term Strategies towards next zero emissions, in order to ensure that this will be a decade of ambitious climate action. The Climate Ambition Summit on 12 December, which the UK is co-hosting with France and the UN in partnership with Chile and Italy, provides an excellent opportunity for countries to come forward with new commitments across the three pillars of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, finance and adaptation.<sup>15</sup>

Full details of the UK's NDC can be found in its [official submission to the UNFCCC](#).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) published its [NDC Synthesis Report](#) on Friday 26 February 2021. The report provides an overview of the 48 NDCs representing 75 Parties, submitted by 31 December 2020.

CarbonBrief produced an analysis of [which countries met the UN's 2020 deadline to raise 'climate ambition'](#), examining NDCs of the 45 "parties" (44 countries, plus the EU's 27 member states viewed as one bloc) that met this deadline. It noted that although some parties such as the UK and EU, have increased ambitions, many others restated existing ambitions and, in some cases,, ambitions were decreased.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> CCC, [Advice on the UK's 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\)](#), 3 December 2020

<sup>15</sup> Written Statement, [The UK's new Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\)](#), 7 December 2020

<sup>16</sup> CarbonBrief, [Which countries met the UN's 2020 deadline to raise 'climate ambition'](#), 8 January 2021

## 1.3 COP26 costs and conference arrangements

The work on COP26 is being led by the Cabinet Office, which has a budget of £216m for COP26, transferred from 11 Government Departments since Spending Round 2019, as set out in the [Cabinet Office Memorandum on Main Estimate 2020-21](#). The Departments with the largest budget transfers are the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (then the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) at £119m, BEIS at £36.3m and £11.6m from the Department for Transport.

The BEIS Select Committee published an interim report [Net zero and UN climate summits: Scrutiny of Preparations for COP26](#) on 5 March 2021. This set out details of the COP26 Unit in the Cabinet Office:

Planning and delivery of the summit is being led by the COP26 Unit, situated within the Cabinet Office. It is vital that the Unit has access to sufficient resources and expertise to be able to deliver COP26, as well as to effectively manage the associated diplomatic elements in the lead-up to it. CEO of the COP26 Unit, Peter Hill, told the Committee on 19 January that there are around 160 staff within the COP26 Unit, and that “we have a significant team [...] working night and day on this”.<sup>17</sup>

### Policing

Policing is expected to be a significant part of the costs of the conference and was originally estimated at £200m,<sup>18</sup> although this estimate was decreased to £180m in March 2020.<sup>19</sup>

In [a letter](#) dated 1 February 2021, Police Scotland highlighted that the COP26 conference “is likely to be one of the largest policing operation in UK policing history”. The letter also set out details of ongoing discussions with the Cabinet Office on funding for the operation:

With regards to the financial aspect of the policing element of the Conference, work continues with the Chief Financial Officer to develop a memorandum of understanding between Police Scotland and the UK Government, which ensures the policing of the Conference will not be detrimental to the Police Scotland budget, either directly or indirectly. This is a principle that was established with the Cabinet Office one year ago.<sup>20</sup>

## 1.4 UK domestic policy

The Climate Change Committee (CCC), the government’s statutory advisory body on climate change, published its [advice on the sixth carbon budget](#) (2033-2037) in December 2020, taking into account for the first time the [new net-zero target](#) and how to set a pathway achieve

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<sup>17</sup> BEIS Select Committee [Net zero and UN climate summits: Scrutiny of Preparations for COP26 – Interim report](#) 5 March 2021.

<sup>18</sup> [Letter from Police Scotland to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing in the Scottish Parliament](#), 1 February 2020

<sup>19</sup> Scottish Government, [COP26 Update](#), 10 March 2020

<sup>20</sup> [Letter from Police Scotland to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing in the Scottish Parliament](#), 1 February 2020

it. The Government has not yet published its response to the Committee's advice.

The CCC's report sets out a range of pathways for meeting net zero. It summarised its [preferred option](#) as follows:

Our recommended pathway requires a 78% reduction in UK territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035. In effect, bringing forward the UK's previous 80% target by nearly 15 years.

The Sixth Carbon Budget can be met through four key steps:

1. **Take up of low-carbon solutions.** People and businesses will choose to adopt low-carbon solutions, as high carbon options are progressively phased out. By the early 2030s all new cars and vans and all boiler replacements in homes and other buildings are low-carbon – largely electric. By 2040 all new trucks are low-carbon. UK industry shifts to using renewable electricity or hydrogen instead of fossil fuels, or captures its carbon emissions, storing them safely under the sea.
2. **Expansion of low-carbon energy supplies.** UK electricity production is zero carbon by 2035. Offshore wind becomes the backbone of the whole UK energy system, growing from the Prime Minister's promised 40GW in 2030 to 100GW or more by 2050. New uses for this clean electricity are found in transport, heating and industry, pushing up electricity demand by a half over the next 15 years, and doubling or even trebling demand by 2050. Low-carbon hydrogen scales-up to be almost as large, in 2050, as electricity production is today. Hydrogen is used as a shipping and transport fuel and in industry, and potentially in some buildings, as a replacement for natural gas for heating.
3. **Reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities.** The UK wastes fewer resources and reduces its reliance on high-carbon goods. Buildings lose less energy through a national programme to improve insulation across the UK. Diets change, reducing our consumption of high-carbon meat and dairy products by 20% by 2030, with further reductions in later years. There are fewer car miles travelled and demand for flights grows more slowly. These changes bring striking positive benefits for health and well-being.
4. **Land and greenhouse gas removals.** There is a transformation in agriculture and the use of farmland while maintaining the same levels of food per head produced today. By 2035, 460,000 hectares of new mixed woodland are planted to remove CO<sub>2</sub> and deliver wider environmental benefits. 260,000 hectares of farmland shifts to producing energy crops. Woodland rises from 13% of UK land today to 15% by 2035 and 18% by 2050. Peatlands are widely restored and managed sustainably.

## A Green Recovery

The Government has made a number of announcements on policies aimed at reducing UK emissions and achieving its 2050 Net Zero target in the last year. As highlighted above, there is expectation of action from the UK in its role as COP26 host, but there are also calls for a green recovery in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following the announcement of a £40m [Clean Growth Fund](#) by the Government in May 2020, the Climate Change Committee published a [report to Parliament](#) in June 2020 in which it highlighted a “growing evidence base” for green stimulus measures that offer good economic returns<sup>21</sup>

The CCC stated that the research indicates there is a “wide range of investments” that can be delivered quickly, with high multiplier effects for growth and jobs with the potential to be targeted at regions and sectors most affected in economic terms by the pandemic. The CCC concluded there were clear short and long-term economic, social and environment benefits from immediate expansion of the following five policy measures that could support recovery from covid-19:

- Investments in **low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure** (such as wind turbines)
- Support for **reskilling, retraining and research** for a net-zero, climate-resilient economy
- **Upgrades to homes and buildings**, such as energy efficient retrofits and low-carbon heating
- Actions to encourage “climate positive lifestyle changes” that have emerged during the pandemic, such as walking, cycling and working remotely (e.g. **broadband investment** and **safe cycles lanes**)
- **Nature restoration projects** (tree planting, peatland restoration, green spaces) and other green infrastructure

## Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan

The [Prime Minister set out a 10 point plan](#) for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs on 18 November 2020 together with a [£80 million fund for green jobs and new national parks to kick start green recovery](#):

1. Offshore wind: Producing enough offshore wind to power every home, quadrupling how much we produce to 40GW by 2030, supporting up to 60,000 jobs.
2. Hydrogen: Working with industry aiming to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes, and aiming to develop the first town heated entirely by hydrogen by the end of the decade.
3. Nuclear: Advancing nuclear as a clean energy source, across large scale nuclear and developing the next generation of small and advanced reactors, which could support 10,000 jobs.
4. Electric vehicles: Backing our world-leading car manufacturing bases including in the West Midlands, North East and North Wales to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, and transforming our national infrastructure to better support electric vehicles.

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<sup>21</sup> Hepburn, C., O’Callaghan, B., Stern, N., Stiglitz, J., and Zenghelis, D. (2020), [‘Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change?’](#), Smith School Working Paper 20-02. See also: [Leading economists: Green coronavirus recovery also better for economy](#), Brian O’Callaghan, Prof Cameron Hepburn, article for *Carbon Brief*, 5 May 2020.

5. Public transport, cycling and walking: Making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero-emission public transport of the future.

6. Jet Zero and greener maritime: Supporting difficult-to-decarbonise industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships.

7. Homes and public buildings: Making our homes, schools and hospitals greener, warmer and more energy efficient, whilst creating 50,000 jobs by 2030, and a target to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028.

8. Carbon capture: Becoming a world-leader in technology to capture and store harmful emissions away from the atmosphere, with a target to remove 10MT of carbon dioxide by 2030, equivalent to all emissions of the industrial Humber today.

9. Nature: Protecting and restoring our natural environment, planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year, whilst creating and retaining thousands of jobs.

10. Innovation and finance: Developing the cutting-edge technologies needed to reach these new energy ambitions and make the City of London the global centre of green finance.<sup>22</sup>

## Climate change spending

While the Department for Business, Innovation and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has overall responsibility for delivering climate change policies, achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is a government-wide target requiring engagement from every department. Over the past year, the government has made a number of significant funding announcements in this area:

- £2 billion for the Green Homes Grant to make homes more energy efficient, announced in the summer statement 'A Plan for Jobs 2020' in July 2020. Of this, £0.6 billion has been included in BEIS' forecast investment spending for 2020-21<sup>23</sup>.
- £1 billion to improve the energy efficiency of public sector buildings, also announced in the July 2020 statement. Of this, £0.6 billion has been included in BEIS's forecast spending for 2020-21<sup>24</sup>.
- £12 billion to deliver a Green Industrial Revolution, announced in November 2020, although not all of this is new funding.
- £12 billion of initial capitalisation for the new UK Infrastructure Bank, announced in the 2021 Budget, which will support £40 billion of investment including offshore wind infrastructure in Teesside and Humberside.

Some have argued that substantial further investment is needed soon. For example, the [Institute for Public Policy Research report](#) argued in November 2020, prior to the announcement of the 10 point plan above, that there was an investment gap of around £29 billion per year between what the Government has committed to spend and what is

<sup>22</sup> Gov.uk [Prime Minister's 10 point plan](#) 18 November 2020

<sup>23</sup> [BEIS Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2020-21](#)

<sup>24</sup> [BEIS Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2020-21](#)

required to achieve the Government's goals for decarbonisation and the restoration of nature<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> IPPR, [The road to COP26: A clean and fair recovery at home, and a leader on climate and nature abroad](#) November 2020

## 2. Press releases

### Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

#### [COP26 President Alok Sharma's briefing to UN member states](#)

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP's first speech as COP26 President Designate at the UN with the Secretary-General, Italian Permanent Representation and British Ambassador to the United States.

8 March 2020

Secretary-General, excellences, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to be here at the United Nations for my first international engagement as COP26 President.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the great leadership he has shown in tackling climate change.

I look forward to working with him and the wider UN team in the lead up to COP26.

In my first 3 weeks as COP26 President I have met with the Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa.

Other former COP Presidents, such as Laurent Fabius.

Civil society organisations.

Corporate leaders and finance executives.

Encouragingly, there has been a strong level of agreement that we must act now to tackle climate change.

Whilst in New York this has been further reinforced through my meetings with the permanent representatives of the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and others who are on the frontline of climate impacts.

Failure to act, will cause irreversible consequences.

As temperatures continue to rise, droughts and heatwaves will become more common.

The risk of crops failing will increase.

Sea levels will rise by anywhere between 1 to 3 feet by the end of this century.

Hurricanes will become stronger and more intense.

These events will put human life at risk.

Lead to population displacement.

It will devastate nature and biodiversity.

And exact a catastrophic economic cost

I do not need to tell many of you in this room what the impact to human life will be, because many of your countries are already living with the realities of climate change.

Over the past 25 years an estimated 4.5 billion people have been affected by disasters, 90% of which have been caused by weather and climate related events.

The UK first responders to Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas last year described the scenes on the ground as apocalyptic.

Roofs ripped from buildings, homes underwater, families left devastated by the loss of their loved ones.

Sadly, this is a pattern we have seen over some time, and one which will accelerate unless we take action.

As the representative of one of the Small Island Developing States I met yesterday said to me;

Tackling climate change is an existential issue for us, if we do not get it right, we will no longer have a place to call home.

Whether we live in the South or the North, the East or the West, we share one life-giving but fragile planet. And all our futures are intrinsically linked.

COP26 can be a moment where the world comes together to ramp up momentum towards a climate-resilient, zero-carbon economy.

Sending out a message of ambition and hope, that decarbonisation is the future, with huge opportunities for those who are willing to act now.

And, of course, this transition must be fair and inclusive, leaving no-one behind.

We all know that the current commitments made under the Paris Agreement fall far short of what is required.

As the Secretary-General has said we must go further to limit warming to well below 2 degrees, whilst pursuing efforts to achieve 1.5 degrees.

So, we want all countries to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, committing to further cuts in carbon emissions by 2030.

With all nations committing to reaching net zero emissions as soon as possible.

I want to re-emphasise, this shift must be fair.

The people most affected by climate change are those who have contributed the least and have the fewest resources to adapt.

Developed countries must honour their commitments. Including meeting the 100-billion-dollar goal for climate finance.

At COP26, the world must seek to agree a package which takes forward the Paris Agreement and powers the UN climate process onwards.

We will seek to progress all issues mandated for discussion and I have already heard from many of the countries I have spoken to about their priorities for the negotiations.

Ahead of the Summit, the UK with our partner Italy, will work not just with nations, but also cities, regions, companies, the Multilateral Development Banks, the Development Finance Institutions.

And, very importantly, civil society in all its various forms.

Yesterday I hosted a roundtable with a range of organisations and activists, including representatives from the Wildlife Conservation Society, the UN Foundation and Earth Rising founder Alexandria Villaseño.

By uniting around specific issues, we can spur innovation, scale up solutions and bring down costs.

And there are some areas which need particular action in 2020.

First, adaptation and resilience. Helping people, economies and the environment adapt and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

This was a personal priority for me when I was International Development Secretary.

Working with Egypt and friends from Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Malawi and St Lucia here at the UN, we launched a Call for Action in this area where 118 nations and over 80 organisations committed to raising their ambition.

I met with permanent representatives, the UN and NGOs this morning to discuss how we can translate these political commitments into on-the-ground action.

We know it will be important to consider opportunities to improve responses to climate impacts and access to adaptation finance.

Second, nature. Safeguarding ecosystems, protecting natural habitats and keeping carbon out of the atmosphere.

A million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, more than ever before in human history.

We cannot meet the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement or adapt the effects of climate change without restoring, protecting and enhancing nature.

We have heard from you, I have heard from you, that there are opportunities to look at environmental regulation around supply chains and channel finance to invest in nature.

The UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon, the 15th Conference on Biological Diversity hosted by China, and of course COP26, offer an opportunity to bend the curve of greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

And we will work with China, the United Nations and others to make sure that these global summits complement and support each other.

Third, energy transition. Seizing the massive opportunities of cheaper renewables and storage.

In the last few years, we have seen how alliances like 'Powering Past Coal' can drive momentum.

In the UK the proportion of energy generated from coal has fallen from 40% in 2012 to 5% in 2018.

We all need to invest in the innovation which will help us accelerate the transition to clean energy.

But we also need to help empower developing countries to leapfrog the polluting options of the past and embrace the clean energy of the future.

In my previous role as International Development Secretary, I saw fantastic examples of companies already doing this.

A UK business called Azuri Technologies is providing solar energy systems to off-grid homes across Africa.

This is a great example of existing opportunities that we need to scale up.

Fourth, is accelerating the move to zero-carbon road transport. By 2040, over half of new car sales worldwide are projected to be electric.

Yet to meet the Paris goals, this needs to happen faster.

By working together, countries and industry can bring forward the date when zero-emissions vehicles will not only be cleaner, but also cheaper, than petrol and diesel.

This will deliver benefits for the climate, and will help tackle air pollution which currently contributes to the death of an estimated 7 million people a year.

And let me be clear, this is not about the UK pointing the finger, we know we also need to do more ourselves.

That is why the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced last month that we would bring forward a ban on selling new petrol, diesel or hybrid cars from 2040 to 2035.

And this week as Business Secretary I announced a multi-million pound investment to design, test and manufacture electric machines in some of the UK's most polluting industries.

And lastly, we need to unleash the finance which will make all of this possible and power the shift to a zero carbon economy.

From solar panels, to electric vehicles and tree planting, it is often finance that turns good intentions into action.

The OECD estimates that we will need nearly 7 trillion dollars a year up to 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Much of this funding needs will also need to come from the private sector.

Whilst at the Department for International Development I set up the UK's International Development Infrastructure Commission to help corral private sector money, alongside sovereign development funds, into sustainable infrastructure projects.

Following the Commission's recommendations, the UK is now partnering with Uganda, Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana, to design a new facility to plan, deliver and support funding to a range of infrastructure projects.

Sustainability will be central to these projects, focusing on investments with low carbon emissions and infrastructure that will be resilient to a changing climate.

As COP26 President, I will continue our efforts to mobilise finance for developing countries.

Including asking others to make ambitious future international climate finance commitments.

As the UK has done by doubling our contribution to £11.6 billion over the period from 2021 to 2025.

The Multilateral Development Banks are the largest vehicle for channelling climate finance to developing countries.

They will have a critical role to play, along with the development finance institutions, in the build up to COP26.

But to move from billions to trillions, we will need all finance to align with the Paris Agreement.

Making the spirit of Paris felt in London, New York, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Shanghai and every other financial centre.

Last week, I joined the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, at the launch of the COP 26 Finance Action Plan.

As Governor Carney noted, private finance is now increasingly focused on the opportunities and risks in the transition to a decarbonised economy.

Every major systemic bank, the world's largest insurers, its biggest pension funds and top asset managers are backing the Taskforce for Climate related Financial Disclosures.

And this has been highlighted to me during the meetings I have had with leading financial organisations.

Achieving net zero will require a whole economy transition.

We have the opportunity to turn climate change into a growth opportunity for the global economy.

In the UK, we have grown our economy by 75% since 1990 whilst cutting emissions by 43% showing, green growth is absolutely possible.

While the list of initiatives I have outlined is not exhaustive, it gives an idea of the scale of the challenge before us. A challenge where we can only succeed together.

As COP26 President I see my role as the custodian of a process. The UK and Italy will be co-hosting the summit, but success at this event will belong to the whole world.

Alongside my Italian counterpart, we will work with you all to develop more ambitious plans on mitigation, adaptation and finance.

Creating a drumbeat of action in the calendar of international events leading up to COP26.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak with one of my childhood heroes: the broadcaster and naturalist Sir David Attenborough.

His message was simple. We must act now.

Ladies and gentleman, each of us can help write our planet's future.

I have faith that working together with all of you in a collaborative manner, we will make the right choices.

We owe that to ourselves. And to future generations.

Thank you.

## Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

### [The need to secure an outcome that delivers for every country and for our planet: COP26 President-Designate's speech](#)

Alok Sharma spoke on reducing emissions, adaptation, finance flow and international cooperation, and highlighted the need for adaptive, creative planning, to turn COP negotiations into climate action.

8 February 2021

## Cabinet Office

### [Call between COP26 President Designate Alok Sharma and US Special Presidential Climate Envoy John Kerry,](#)

21 January 2021

COP26 President Designate Alok Sharma and US Special Presidential Climate Envoy John Kerry spoke today, on Secretary Kerry's first full day in his new role.

COP26 President Designate Alok Sharma and US Special Presidential Climate Envoy John Kerry spoke today, on Secretary Kerry's first full day in his new role.

Mr Sharma congratulated Secretary Kerry on bringing the US back to the Paris Agreement yesterday, noting the great importance of the accord being fully universal again.

They agreed that there is no time to waste on tackling climate change. They noted that our two countries are once again tightly aligned in

prioritising this shared challenge and will work together to raise global efforts ahead of COP26 in November.

Mr Sharma said that, as hosts of COP26, the UK had sent a clear message to the world in setting an ambitious new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in December and that he looked forward to seeing the US's own ambitious NDC in the coming months.

Mr Sharma and Secretary Kerry agreed on the particular importance of international climate finance, and for both the UK and the US to work closely with countries who are especially vulnerable to climate change. They also noted the encouraging growth in the shift to renewable energy across the world.

The pair agreed that their respective officials should work together closely. They looked forward to speaking regularly in the run up to G7 and COP26, and to meeting in person at the soonest possibility.

### [COP26 President's keynote speech at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week summit](#)

COP26 President, Alok Sharma, discusses raising climate ambition and action in 2021 at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, a global platform for accelerating the world's sustainable development.

19 January 2021

## **BEIS**

### [Summit shows new surge in action and ambition on road to Glasgow Climate Conference](#)

12 December 2020

Concrete plans and new pledges at the Climate Ambition Summit by 75 countries, businesses, sectors, cities bring Paris Agreement goals a step closer, highlight work ahead.

Global climate leaders took a major stride towards a resilient, net zero emissions future today, presenting ambitious new commitments, urgent actions and concrete plans to confront the climate crisis.

Co-convened by the United Nations, the UK and France, in partnership with Italy and Chile, on the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, today's Climate Ambition Summit marked a major milestone on the road to the crucial UN climate conference COP26 in Glasgow next November.

75 leaders from all continents outlined new commitments at the Summit. This is a clear signal that the Paris Agreement - more than ever before the compass of international action - is working to steeply increase climate action and ambition.

The Summit showed clearly that climate change is at the top of the global agenda despite our shared challenges of COVID-19, and that

there is mutual understanding that the science is clear. Climate destruction is accelerating, and there remains much more to do as a global community to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5C.

However today's Summit showed beyond doubt that climate action and ambition are on the rise. The announcements at or just before the Summit, together with those expected early next year, mean that countries representing around 65% of global CO2 emissions, and around 70% of the world's economy, will have committed to reaching net zero emissions or carbon neutrality by early next year.

These commitments must now be backed up with concrete plans and actions, starting now, to achieve these goals, and today's Summit delivered a surge in progress on this front.

### **Leading the way to Glasgow with strengthened national climate plans (NDCs)**

- The number of countries coming forward with strengthened national climate plans (NDCs) grew significantly today, with commitments covering 71 countries (all EU member states are included in the new EU NDC) on display. As well as the EU NDC, a further 27 of these new and enhanced NDCs were announced at or shortly before the Summit.
- A growing number of countries (15) shifted gears from incremental to major increases. Countries committing to much stronger NDCs at the Summit, included Argentina, Barbados, Canada, Colombia, Iceland, and Peru.
- The leadership and strengthened NDCs delivered at the Summit mean we are now on track to have more than 50 NDCs officially submitted by the end of 2020, boosting momentum and forging a pathway forward for others to follow in the months ahead.
- Today's announcements, together with recent commitments, send us into 2021 and the road to the Glasgow COP26 with much greater momentum. The Summit showcased leading examples of enhanced NDCs that can help encourage other countries to follow suit - particularly G20 countries.

### **Another stride towards a resilient, net-zero emissions future**

- Following today's Summit, 24 countries have now announced new commitments, strategies or plans to reach net zero or carbon neutrality. Recent commitments from China, Japan, South Korea, the EU and today Argentina have established a clear benchmark for other G20 countries. A number of countries at the Summit set out how they are going even further, with ambitious dates to reach net zero emissions: Finland (2035); Austria (2040) and Sweden (2045).
- Climate vulnerable countries are at the forefront of action and ambition. Barbados and the Maldives have set a highly ambitious target for achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, with the right support. Fiji, Malawi, Nauru and Nepal indicated that they are aiming for the 2050 goal.
- At the Summit, adaptation and resilience moved to centre stage. 20 countries indicated new or forthcoming commitments to

protect people and nature from climate impacts. Countries, such as Ethiopia, said they were taking a whole-of-economy approach that protects people and nature, while Suriname said it is stepping up its implementation of its National Adaptation Plan. Developed countries, including the UK, Portugal and Spain, announced they were stepping up their adaptation efforts. A major new global campaign - the Race to Resilience - was also launched today, setting a goal of safeguarding 4 billion people vulnerable to climate risks by 2030 (more details below).

## Speeding up the shift from grey to green economies

- Several countries set out concrete policies to implement their economy-wide targets at the Summit. Pakistan announced no new coal plants, while Israel said it was joining the growing list of countries stepping away from coal. 15 countries provided details on how they will speed up their transitions to renewable energy by 2030, including Barbados (aiming for fossil-fuel free), Vanuatu (100% renewables), and Slovakia (decarbonised power). Denmark announced it will end oil and gas exploration. India announced a new target of 450GW installed capacity of renewable energy by 2030. China committed to increasing the share of non-fossil fuel in primary energy consumption to around 25% by 2030.
- In line with this momentum, the UK, France and Sweden set out plans to end international financial support for fossil fuels, while Canada announced it will ramp up its price on carbon to C\$170 per tonne by 2030.

## Working with nature, not against it

- The Summit showed dedication to protecting nature with 12 leaders highlighting their existing plans to increase the use of nature-based solutions to combat climate change. As we approach the UN Biodiversity Conference in 2021, the Summit highlighted the need for more integrated solutions to confront both the climate and biodiversity crises, and speeding up progress right across the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 12 donor countries highlighted their commitments to support developing countries, including just under €500m in additional investment from Germany, an additional €1bn per year from France from its previous target, as well as a World Bank commitment to ensure that 35% of their portfolio includes climate co-benefits, and EIB commitment to ensure that 50% includes climate co-benefits, as well as 100% alignment of EIB's activities on Paris agreement.
- However, the Summit also demonstrated there is much more to do to ensure that no one is left behind. With COVID-19 impacting international climate finance flows this year, 2021 will be critical to show that finance is flowing and to meet and surpass the \$100bn goal.

**From momentum to a truly global movement: cities, business and financiers stepping up ambition at scale**

- Race to Resilience (Global) – a campaign launched today which brings together initiatives involving mayors, community leaders, businesses and insurance companies, among others, who commit to building resilience actions to safeguard by 2030 the lives and livelihoods of 4 billion people from groups and communities vulnerable to climate risks. Examples of actions and initiatives include the following:
- Zurich Insurance (Switzerland) announced that the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance will triple funding by 2025 and expand its reach from 11 to 21 countries.
- Mayor of Freetown (Sierra Leone) committed to planting 1 million trees between 2020 and 2021.
- Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative (Global) - representing US\$9 trillion of assets under management has seen each of the 30 founding members unequivocally commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This includes setting individual portfolio targets, as well as engaging companies in each member's portfolio to set decarbonization goals in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C.
- C40 Cities (Global) – reinforced the commitment and action by cities to implement the Paris agreement by announcing the launch of the Cities Race to Zero campaign and that 70 cities have joined in the first month.
- Godrej & Boyce (India)—a manufacturing company, announced commitments to key global initiatives including the Business Ambition for 1.5C, setting science-based targets, and advancing energy efficiency, through the EP100 initiative for energy-smart companies, in line with their overall ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- International Airlines Group (Spain/UK) — are the first airline group worldwide to commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The Oneworld Alliance of 13 airlines representing 20% of global aviation, is investing US\$400m in sustainable aviation fuels (over the next 20 years) to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Dalmia Cement (India) – 40 of the world's leading producers of cement as part of the Global Concrete and Cement Association have issued a industry commitment to deliver carbon-neutral concrete by 2050. The Indian cement company has gone further and established a roadmap to become carbon negative by 2040 and is working globally to meet its 100% renewable energy objectives.
- Movida-Rent-a-Car (Brazil) – presented the actions that will underpin their pledge of net-zero emissions by 2030 and becoming carbon positive by 2040. Movida is reducing emissions across its operations, offsetting the carbon footprint of the company and its customers by planting trees, as well as adapting to impacts of climate change and undertaking risk analysis using methodologies of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.
- Apple (United States) – pledged carbon neutrality for its supply chain and products by 2030 and announced new progress that 95 of its suppliers have committed to moving to 100% renewable energy.

- Artistic Milliners (Pakistan) – a textile company announced joining the UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action and shared their actions on the circular economy to reduce their carbon footprint and provide zero emissions energy to thousands of homes.

**United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said:**

“The Summit has now sent strong signals that more countries and more businesses are ready to take the bold climate action on which our future security and prosperity depend.

“Today was an important step forward, but it’s not yet enough. Let’s not forget that we are still on track to an increase of temperature of 3 degrees at least in the end of the century, which would be catastrophic.

“The recovery from COVID-19 presents an opportunity to set our economies and societies on a green path in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“As we look ahead, the central objective of the United Nations for 2021 is to build a truly Global Coalition for Carbon Neutrality.”

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:**

“Today we have seen what can be achieved if nations pull together and demonstrate real leadership and ambition in the fight to save our planet.

“The UK has led the way with a commitment to cut emissions by at least 68 percent by 2030 and to end support for the fossil fuel sector overseas as soon as possible, and it’s fantastic to see new pledges from around the world that put us on the path to success ahead of COP26 in Glasgow.

“There is no doubt that we are coming to the end of a dark and difficult year, but scientific innovation has proved to be our salvation as the vaccine is rolled out. We must use that same ingenuity and spirit of collective endeavour to tackle the climate crisis, create the jobs of the future and build back better.”

**President Macron said:**

“Despite the global pandemic and one of the worst economic crises of our time, we have shown today that climate action remains at the top of the international agenda. The crisis gives us the opportunity to accelerate our ecological transition and I welcome the announcements made today by more than 70 heads of State and government. This summit has confirmed that the Paris agreement struck under the French COP Presidency five years ago remains, more than ever, the compass of international climate action.

“The EU is a leader in this global fight, with our new target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 – which is a fundamental milestone on the way to carbon neutrality. The EU and France will continue to promote ambitious levels of climate finance. We look forward to working with the United Nations, the UK COP

Presidency and all parties to the Paris Agreement to keep raising ambition, and deliver on it through concrete action, in the year ahead.”

**For further information, contact**

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- UN: [matthew.coghlan@un.org](mailto:matthew.coghlan@un.org); [shepard@un.org](mailto:shepard@un.org)
- France: [organisationpresse@elysee.fr](mailto:organisationpresse@elysee.fr)

### 3. Press articles

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

[Instead of launching a green recovery, the Budget has destroyed Britain's credibility at Cop26](#), The Independent, 5 March 2021

[COP26 'lacks plan to measure success' say MPs](#), Daily Business, 5 March 2021

Andrea Leadsom, [Three ways for the UK to think big at COP26](#), The Times, 15 Feb 2021

[Holyrood and Westminster locked in an 'extraordinary state of stand-off' over COP26 climate change summit](#), The Telegraph, 4 Feb 2021

[Wanted: 1,000 volunteers for COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow](#), Business Green, 20 Jan 2021

[Government's COP26 unit 'working night and day'](#), Ends report, 19 Jan 2021

[Could the foreign aid budget cut harm UK's efforts to lead the world on climate crisis?](#), The Independent, 26 Nov 2020

[Scottish authorities trim cost of hosting COP26 in Glasgow](#), Financial Times, 8 March 2020

[COP26: Climate summit may cost 'several hundred million pounds'](#), BBC News, 15 Jan 2020

## 4. Parliamentary material

### 4.1 Statements

#### [Climate Ambition Summit 2020](#)

**On Saturday, 12 December, the United Kingdom co-convened the Climate Ambition Summit with the United Nations and France,** and in partnership with Chile and Italy, on the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement. The Summit marked a major milestone on the road to the crucial UN climate conference COP26 in Glasgow next November.

**Countries representing around 65% of global carbon dioxide emissions, and around 70% of the world's economy have now committed to reaching net zero or carbon neutrality.** This includes announcements made in the run up to and at the Climate Ambition Summit and those expected early next year. This follows a huge diplomatic and cross-government effort to raise ambition.

**75 leaders from all continents outlined over 90 commitments at the Summit** demonstrating that climate change is a global priority despite the shared challenges of COVID-19. There is mutual understanding that the science is clear. Climate destruction is accelerating, and there remains much more to do as a global community to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5C.

**The UK met commitments covering the 3 pillars of the Paris Agreement.** We formally communicated our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC which commits the UK to a new ambitious target to reduce the UK's emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, published our first Adaptation Communication and reiterated our commitment to providing £11.6 billion in climate finance. A copy of the NDC has been laid in Parliament.

**The Prime Minister announced that the UK will no longer provide any new direct financial or promotional support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas,** other than in exceptional circumstances, as soon as possible, and align its support to enable clean energy exports. The consultation, which is now live, will seek views on how to further enable an accelerated growth in UK clean energy exports, and on the impacts of the timing of implementation of the policy shift.

**The Prime Minister also highlighted the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution** announced last month which spans clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies and will mobilise £12 billion of government investment to unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030; support up to 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs; and level up regions across the UK.

**44 countries and the EU announced headlines of their more ambitious NDCs.** This includes a number of countries who have made significant increases such as Colombia, Jamaica, Peru and the EU, as well as the UK.

**24 countries have now announced new commitments, strategies or plans to reach net zero or carbon neutrality.** With recent commitments from China, Japan, South Korea and Argentina establishing a clear benchmark for G20 countries.

**The Summit heard from the poorest and most vulnerable countries, who are already feeling the impacts of climate change.** Barbados, Ethiopia and Maldives set themselves an aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, with the right support. Meanwhile, Fiji, Malawi, Nauru and Nepal and others are aiming for 2050.

**20 new or forthcoming adaptation commitments including in National Adaptation Plans, Adaptation Communications and NDCs.** Countries such as Ethiopia are leading the way, by taking a whole-of-economy approach that protects people and nature and Suriname is stepping up its implementation of its National Adaptation Plan. Developed countries, including the UK, Netherlands and Spain, are also upping their adaptation efforts, showing no country is immune to the impacts of climate change. The Summit also saw the launch of the Race to Resilience setting a goal of safeguarding 4 billion people vulnerable to climate risks by 2030 (more detail below).

**A number of leaders set out concrete policies to implement their economy-wide targets.** Pakistan announced that they will have no more power based on coal, while Israel has committed to ending fossil fuel energy use by 2050. Canada greatly increased the floor price for carbon. Denmark announced that it will end all new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea. 15 countries profiled their targets to accelerate the transition to renewable energy by 2030 - with Barbados (fossil-fuel free), Vanuatu (100% renewables) and Austria (100% renewables), all turning their backs on fossil fuels. Alongside the UK, France and Sweden set out plans to end international financial support for fossil fuels.

**A strong commitment to protecting nature** was also clear. Leaders spoke about their existing plans to increase the use of nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

**12 donor countries highlighted their commitments to support developing countries,** including just under €500m in additional investment from Germany, an additional €1bn per year from France from its previous target, as well as a World Bank commitment to ensure that 35% of their portfolio includes climate co-benefits, and EIB commitment to ensure that 50% includes climate co-benefits, as well as 100% alignment of EIB's activities on Paris agreement. However, it is clear that there is much more to do to ensure that no one is left behind. COVID-19 has impacted international climate finance flows this year. 2021 will be a critical year to show that finance is flowing and to meet and surpass the \$100bn goal.

**The Summit also saw commitments from business, cities and investors.** Over 2,500 businesses, cities, regions, investors and members of the Climate Ambition Alliance representing nearly 70% of the global economy have now got commitments to net zero by 2050.

- The Race to Resilience campaign, launched at the Summit, brings together non-state actors and initiatives which commit to building resilience actions to safeguard by 2030 the lives and livelihoods of 4 billion people from groups and communities vulnerable to climate risks. Examples of actions include: Zurich Insurance (Switzerland) announced that the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance will triple funding by 2025 and expand its reach from 11 to 21 countries and the Mayor of Freetown (Sierra Leone) committed to planting 1 million trees between 2020 and 2021.
- Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative (Global) - representing US\$9 trillion of assets under management has seen each of the 30 founding members unequivocally commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This includes setting individual portfolio targets, as well as engaging companies in each member's portfolio to set decarbonization goals in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C.
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- Artistic Milliners (Pakistan) - a textile company announced joining the UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action and shared their actions on the circular economy to reduce their carbon footprint and provide zero emissions energy to thousands of homes.

15 Dec 2020 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS655

**Member:** Alok Sharma

**Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

### The UK's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

On Friday 4 December the Prime Minister announced the UK's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. This commits the UK to a new ambitious target to reduce the UK's emissions by at least 68% by the end of the decade, compared to 1990 levels.

This is a step forward in our ambition to tackle climate change over the next ten years as we accelerate towards meeting our legally-binding commitment to reach net zero by 2050. Just as the UK led the way as the first major economy to legislate for net zero, our NDC raises the bar for global climate ambition by committing the UK to the highest level of emissions reductions by 2030 of any major economy, compared to 1990 levels. The level of the UK's NDC is consistent with advice from the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC). It is a significant step up from the level of the UK's previous target as a contributor to the EU's NDC, which was equivalent to around a 53% UK reduction over the same time period.

As the UK looks ahead to hosting COP26 (the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties) in Glasgow next year, in partnership with Italy, we are urging all countries to follow suit and come forward with ambitious new NDCs and transformational Long-Term Strategies towards next zero emissions, in order to ensure that this will be a decade of ambitious climate action. The Climate Ambition Summit on 12 December, which the UK is co-hosting with France and the UN in partnership with Chile and Italy, provides an excellent opportunity for countries to come forward with new commitments across the three pillars of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, finance and adaptation.

Tackling climate change will remain a top priority for the Government. In November, the Prime Minister announced his Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution. Ahead of COP26, we intend to publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK.

The UK intends to communicate its NDC to the UNFCCC by the 12 December Climate Ambition Summit. This will include the technical annex, known as Information to Facilitate Clarity, Transparency and Understanding (ICTU), which will set out the detail underpinning the UK's headline 2030 target. The UK also intends to communicate an Adaptation Communication and Finance Biennial Communication to the UNFCCC.

Once formally communicated to the UNFCCC, I will lay the NDC in Parliament and will follow up with letters to relevant Select Committees.

07 Dec 2020 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS624

**Member:** Alok Sharma

**Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

## Business Update

The Prime Minister has today set out a Ten Point Plan to drive a Green Industrial Revolution in the UK - an innovative and ambitious programme of job creation that will support levelling up, and up to 250,000 jobs across the UK.

As we rebuild, we must build back better, greener, and faster. Our Ten Point Plan sets out ambitious policies and significant new public investment to allow the UK to forge ahead with eradicating its contribution to climate change by 2050. It presents a vision for the UK that is greener, more prosperous and at the forefront of industries for the future. Covering clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies, the plan will mobilise £12 billion of government investment to create and support up to 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs in the UK, and unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030.

In doing so, we will position the UK to take advantage of export opportunities in new, global emerging markets in low carbon technologies and services, providing jobs and reinvigorating our industrial heartlands, including in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, the Midlands, Scotland and Wales.

The plan builds on the UK's strengths and covers the following 10 areas:

1. **Offshore wind:** Generating more power with offshore wind by 2030 than households in the UK are currently using, quadrupling how much we produce to 40GW by 2030, supporting up to 60,000 jobs. We have also committed to invest £160 million into modern, integrated portside offshore wind infrastructure, providing high quality employment in coastal regions.
2. **Hydrogen:** Working with industry, aiming to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes. This will be supported by investment of up to £500 million for low carbon hydrogen production across the decade, with £240 million committed to 2024/5. We will also support trialling homes using hydrogen for heating and cooking, starting with a Hydrogen Neighbourhood in 2023, moving to a Hydrogen Village by 2025, with an aim for a Hydrogen Town – equivalent to tens of thousands of homes – before the end of the decade.
3. **Nuclear:** Advancing nuclear as a clean energy source through large scale nuclear and developing the next generation of small and advanced reactors. We have committed £525 million to help develop large and smaller-scale nuclear plants, and research and develop new advanced modular reactors, all of which could support 10,000 jobs.
4. **Electric vehicles:** Backing our world-leading car manufacturing bases including in the West Midlands, the North East and Wales to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, and transforming

our national infrastructure to better support electric vehicles. Following extensive consultation with car manufacturers and sellers, the Government confirms that the UK will end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, ten years earlier than planned. However, we will allow the sale of hybrid cars that can drive a significant distance without emitting carbon until 2035. To support this acceleration, the Government has announced: £1.3 billion to accelerate the rollout of chargepoints for electric vehicles in homes, streets and on motorways across England; £582 million in grants for those buying zero or ultra-low emission vehicles to make them cheaper to buy and incentivise more people to make the transition; and nearly £500 million to be spent in the next four years for the development and mass-scale production of electric vehicle batteries, as part of our commitment to provide up to £1 billion, boosting international investment into our strong manufacturing bases including in the Midlands and North East.

5. **Public transport, cycling and walking:** Making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero-emission public transport of the future. We will start this transformation with £250m for local measures to increase cycling and walking this year, as part of our commitment to invest £2bn in cycling and walking over this Parliament.
6. **Jet Zero and greener maritime:** Supporting difficult-to-decarbonise industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships. We will run a £15m competition to support the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuels in the UK and invest £20m into the Clean Maritime Demonstration Programme to test new fuels in shipping.
7. **Homes and public buildings:** Making £1 billion available next year to make new and existing homes and public buildings more efficient, supporting 50,000 jobs by 2030, alongside a target to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028.
8. **Carbon capture:** Becoming a world-leader in technology to capture and store harmful emissions away from the atmosphere, with a target to remove 10MT of carbon dioxide a year by 2030, equivalent to all emissions of the industrial Humber today. We have announced an extra £200 million of new funding to create two carbon capture clusters by the mid-2020s, with another two set to be created by 2030. The total investment of up to £1 billion will help to support 50,000 jobs, potentially in areas such as the Humber, North East, North West, Scotland and Wales.
9. **Nature:** Protecting and restoring our natural environment, planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year by 2025, whilst creating and retaining thousands of jobs. This will include starting the process to designate more National Parks and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, create more green jobs with £40 million for a second round of the Green Recovery Challenge

Fund and £5.2 billion for a six year programme of flood and coastal defences.

10. **Innovation and finance:** Developing the cutting-edge technologies needed to reach these new energy ambitions and make the City of London the global centre of green finance. To accelerate the commercialisation of innovative low-carbon technologies, systems and processes we will launch the £1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio. The portfolio will focus on ten priority areas that correspond with the Ten Point Plan.

This Ten Point Plan ensures that our recovery from COVID-19 will generate jobs and bolster the economy, whilst continuing to drive down emissions. It sends a clear signal to industries across the British economy to invest in the UK's cleaner, greener future.

The Plan marks the beginning of the UK's path to net zero, and we will continue to build on it. Over the next year we will continue to bring forward ambitious proposals across the economy to cut emissions and secure long-term growth for the whole country, with the Energy White Paper, and a Net Zero Strategy, in the run up to the international COP26 climate summit in Glasgow next year. The summit will bring together world leaders, climate experts, business leaders and citizens to agree ambitious action to tackle climate change.

Ahead of the summit, this Ten Point Plan demonstrates the UK's significant and continuing commitment to tackling greenhouse gas emissions and sets the foundation to drive a Green Industrial Revolution in the UK.

18 Nov 2020 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS586

**Member:** Alok Sharma

**Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

## 4.2 PQs

### [Climate Change](#)

**Asked by:** Jones, Ruth | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking ahead of COP26 to work with partners in the global south on tackling climate change.

**Answering member:** James Duddridge | **Party:** Conservative Party  
**Department:** Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

As host of COP26, securing greater global ambition to address climate change is a priority for this Government. The Foreign Secretary and FCDO ministers regularly raise the subject in their engagements with a wide range of governments. On 31 March, COP President-Designate Alok Sharma and the Foreign Secretary will host the Climate Development Ministerial which will bring together countries and partners including in the global South to identify practical solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing vulnerable countries.

Since 2011 we have helped over 66m people cope with the effects of climate change and natural disasters, and provided 33m people with improved access to clean energy. We actively encourage countries to commit financial support for developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. The UK leads by example - the Prime Minister committed to doubling UK International Climate Finance to £11.6bn over the next 5 years. On 25 January the UK launched an Adaptation Action Coalition to mobilise action on adaptation and galvanise momentum ahead of COP. This was a joint initiative with Egypt, Malawi, St Lucia, Bangladesh, Netherlands and the UN Development Programme.

05 Mar 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 158206

[United States: Diplomatic Relations](#)

**Asked by:** Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Lib Dem)

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to conduct their diplomatic relations with the Government of the United States on the basis of sovereign equality.

**Answering member:** The Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon) (Con)

| **Party:** Conservative Party

My Lords, we look forward to deepening the close alliance between our two sovereign nations. At the G7 meeting on 19 February we welcomed President Biden's reaffirmation of the centrality of the transatlantic partnership in dealing with the challenges the world faces. We will work closely with the Biden Administration through our presidency of the G7 and COP 26 this year. With so many commonalities between us, we are confident that the UK/US relationship will continue to prosper and strengthen.

01 Mar 2021 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | House of Lords chamber | 810 c976

[UN Climate Conference 2021: Railways](#)

**Asked by:** Lucas, Caroline | **Party:** Green Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking with the COP26 President to facilitate access for (a) delegates, (b) media and (c) civil society to COP26 by rail.

**Answering member:** Rachel Maclean | **Party:** Conservative Party

| **Department:** Department for Transport

A multifaceted transport plan is being developed to support the delegate experience at COP26 with rail travel a key element of the plan. The plan will encourage delegates, media, and civil society travelling from Europe to consider low-carbon travel options such as rail as a way of entering the UK.

The Department for Transport is working closely with Rail Operators and Network Rail to ensure appropriate provision of rail services on the key

routes to Glasgow over the period the conference is taking place. Rail will be a key sustainable mode of travel to COP26 and will certainly be encouraged.

25 Feb 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 154944

#### [UN Climate Conference 2021: UK Delegations](#)

**Asked by:** Anderson, Lee | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the President of COP26, which Ministers in addition to the Prime Minister he plans to appoint to the UK's delegation for COP26 in November.

**Answering member:** Alok Sharma | **Party:** Conservative Party  
**| Department:** COP26

The Government is currently developing the plan for those who will be included under the COP26 UK delegation.

24 Feb 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 153371

#### [UN Climate Conference 2021](#)

**Asked by:** Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick | **Party:** Non-affiliated

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on preparations for COP26.

**Answering member:** Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park  
**| Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** COP26

Planning for COP26 is progressing in all areas and we are continuing to work closely with the venues and our delivery partners to ensure that we deliver the facilities and logistics needed for the event, in line with the requirements outlined by the UNFCCC.

Alongside summit preparations, the COP26 President, ministers and senior officials have been engaging with a wide range of UK and international partners.

Last month, COP President Designate Alok Sharma initiated a comprehensive round of consultations with the chairs of all UNFCCC negotiating groups to complement his ongoing informal engagement with international partners – which has included trips to Gabon, Ethiopia, Egypt and Nigeria already this year. And we continue to engage our international partners extensively at a technical level, as well as through our diplomatic network around the world.

23 Feb 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL13201

#### [COP26 Private Finance Hub](#)

**Asked by:** Pennycook, Matthew | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the terms of reference are for the COP26 Private Finance Hub.

**Answering member:** John Glen | **Party:** Conservative Party  
| **Department:** Treasury

The Treasury is supporting preparations for COP26 across a range of policy areas, including private finance. There is a team of 19 staff, drawn from secondees across the Bank of England, the Financial Conduct Authority, the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, as well as HM Treasury officials working on this area. The team reports to the Chancellor and Treasury ministers.

22 Feb 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 151779

[Developing Countries: Climate Change](#)

**Asked by:** The Earl of Sandwich | **Party:** Crossbench

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are discussing climate and environment issues with any less economically developed country with the aim of increasing any such country's investment in clean energy and green technologies.

**Answering member:** Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park  
| **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We cannot meet Sustainable Development Goal 7 or the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement without a clean energy transition that leaves no-one behind. As COP26 President, the UK has made clean energy transition one of the five thematic campaigns underpinning COP26. We want to ensure that developing countries are able to access the investment and assistance they need to transition to clean power, which will be crucial in helping those countries achieve more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions. The COP26 Energy Transition Council is facilitating dialogue between countries seeking energy transition support and the major international actors offering that support, to find and implement solutions more rapidly.

The doubling of the UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) to £11.6 billion between 2021/22 and 2025/26 includes up to £1 billion for developing and testing new technology in areas such as energy storage, renewable energy, low carbon and electric transport, and industrial decarbonisation. This funding for innovation is targeted at driving forward the clean energy transition in developing countries, by creating and demonstrating new technologies and business models to deploy them.

As part of a wider ICF energy portfolio, FCDO is also investing £38 million in the Climate Compatible Growth (CCG) research programme to support developing countries to accelerate their transition to green energy while growing their economies. CCG will provide data, tools and evidence to inform country policies and investments in clean energy and transport infrastructure, helping to ensure that developing countries adopt a growth path that is sustainable for decades to come.

08 Feb 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL12551

### [Climate Change](#)

**Asked by:** Jones, Ruth | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what fiscal steps he is taking to tackle climate change.

**Answering member:** Kemi Badenoch | **Party:** Conservative Party  
| **Department:** Treasury

The Chancellor's announcements at the Spending Review support the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution to help the UK achieve net zero by 2050.

The Spending Review commits to spend £12 billion of public investment, kickstarting our transition to net zero and boosting the UK's global leadership on green infrastructure and technologies ahead of COP26 next year.

The Ten Point Plan will support up to 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs in the UK, and spur over three times as much private sector investment by 2030.

The Government uses a range of levers to meet its environmental objectives. For example, the Chancellor has announced the UK government's intention to issue its inaugural green gilt in 2021, subject to market conditions. The green gilt will help to finance projects that are critical to achieving the UK's ambitious environmental and climate goals, particularly its commitment to Net Zero by 2050.

The Treasury has launched the Net Zero Review to explore how the transition to a net zero economy will be funded, and where the costs will fall. The Review will look at options for a balance of contributions between households, businesses and the taxpayer, and how to maximise economic growth opportunities from the transition.

12 Jan 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 134136

### [UN Climate Conference 2021](#)

**Asked by:** Baroness Boycott | **Party:** Crossbench

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget has been set for the UK to host COP26.

**Answering member:** Lord Callanan | **Party:** Conservative Party  
| **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Discussions on costs for COP26 are currently ongoing, and final budgets are yet to be confirmed.

09 Nov 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL9518

### [Climate Change Convention](#)

**Asked by:** Baroness Boycott | **Party:** Crossbench

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they expect to raise from sponsorship for COP26; and whether they will provide a breakdown of that funding.

**Answering member:** Lord Callanan | **Party:** Conservative Party  
| **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Sponsorship is an important part of our funding arrangements for COP26, supporting the successful delivery of an event with the level of ambition required to tackle the urgent challenge of climate change; and enhancing value for money for taxpayers. The names of any confirmed sponsor will be published on the COP26 website. The Government will conduct due diligence on all potential sponsors and ensure compliance with rigorous standards. Environmental transparency and disclosure is vital to track progress towards a net zero economy, and this is one of the criteria that the Government is using to assess potential sponsors. The Government has set strict sponsorship criteria for COP26 and will only partner with companies who have set net-zero commitments by 2050 or earlier, and who have published a credible and aligned short-term action plan to achieve this. The Government is encouraging companies with strong climate credentials to apply for sponsorship through the COP26 website.

06 Nov 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL9517

## 4.3 Committees

BEIS Select Committee, 5 March 2021

[Net zero and UN climate summits: Scrutiny of Preparations for COP26 – interim report](#)

Foreign Affairs Select Committee  
[Environmental diplomacy](#) (inquiry in progress)

This inquiry will examine how the FCO conducts environmental diplomacy, what the UK's strategy is bringing all government departments together, and the FCO's management of the tension between environmental goals and other diplomatic objectives.

In particular, the Committee will focus on preparations for COP26, speaking to other recent host countries and attempting to learn from their experiences.

Additionally, the Committee will ask how environmental diplomacy can be employed to address the governance of the polar regions.

## 5. Further information

Green Finance Platform

[Priorities for Public Climate Finance in the Year Ahead](#)

January 2021

Policy Exchange

[Capital Shift: Using the UK's COP26 and G7 presidencies to green the financial system](#)

2 March 2021

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