



International Development: Sustainable Initiatives Debate on 4 November 2019

On 4 November 2019 the House of Lords is due to debate a motion moved by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative) that “this House takes note of Her Majesty’s Government’s international development work to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and prevent biodiversity loss”.

Summary

The UK primarily achieves its promotion of sustainable environmental initiatives through International Climate Finance (ICF). ICF is jointly funded by the Department for International Development, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Schemes supported by UK International Climate Finance include:

- The Green Climate Fund, which supports programmes to preserve natural habitats;
- The Darwin Initiative, which helps to protect biodiversity globally; and
- The Clean Technology Fund, which finances large-scale technologies, like solar power.

At the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2019, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would double the UK’s international climate finance spend. A press release published by the Department for International Development on 23 September 2019 stated that “the UK will up its ICF support to at least £11.6bn over the next five years, between 2021/2 to 2025/6 [...] this significant uplift in UK aid support will help developing countries pursue low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable development”.

In a report published in April 2019, the House of Commons International Development Committee reviewed the Government’s use of aid to combat climate change around the world. The report stated that “the UK has historically shown leadership in advancing both the climate change and sustainable development agendas” but that “there does not appear to be an active strategy underpinning the Government’s International Climate Finance spending”. The report goes on to say that “currently, the support provided to the fossil fuel economy in developing countries by UK Export Finance is damaging the coherence of the Government’s approach to combating climate change”. The committee announced a follow up to its inquiry on 5 September 2019.

The UK is due to hold the UN’s climate change conference, the Conference of the Parties (COP26), in Glasgow in November 2020.

Sally Dray | 31 October 2019

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Any comments on Library briefings should be sent to the Head of Research Services, House of Lords Library, London SW1A 0PW or emailed to purvism@parliament.uk.

Further Information

- UK Government, [UK International Climate Finance](#), 3 April 2019 and [2019 UK Climate Finance Results](#), 10 September 2019, pp 1–2

Information on UK International Climate Finance (ICF) and the schemes it supports as well as the impact that this investment has had globally as of Spring 2019.

- Department for International Development, [‘UK Aid to Double Efforts to Tackle Climate Change’](#), 23 September 2019

Press release from the Department for International Development following the Prime Minister’s speech at the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2019.

- House of Commons International Development Committee, [UK Aid for Combating Climate Change](#), 8 May 2019, HC 1432 of session 2017–19, pp 3–5 and [Government Response](#), 1 August 2019

Report from the House of Commons International Development Committee on how the UK could most effectively use its international aid to combat climate change and the Government response.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on ‘International Climate Action’](#), HC Hansard, 26 September 2019, cols 902–15
- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [HL17932](#) (8 October 2019); [292129](#) (3 October 2019); [291108](#) (3 October 2019); [281691](#) (3 September 2019); [278526](#) (5 August 2019); [280128](#) (29 July 2019)

Press Articles and Comment

- Larry Elliott, [‘UK Urges World Bank to Channel More Money into Tackling Climate Crisis’](#), *Guardian*, 20 October 2019
- Roger Gale, [‘Nature Should Be Our Greatest Ally in the Fight Against Climate Change’](#), *Telegraph* (£), 15 October 2019
- Chris Baynes, [“Utter Hypocrisy”: Government Refuses to Stop Spending Billions on Fossil Fuel Projects Across the World’](#), *Independent*, 2 October 2019
- Clare Shakya, [‘Why the UK Parliamentary Committee Recommendations on International Climate Finance Are So Important’](#), International Institute for Environment and Development Blog, 23 May 2019
- Greenpeace, [‘A Glimmer of Hope For Our Oceans’](#), 27 September 2019