



# Building a just and sustainable world

Our vision for international development





# This is a manifesto for our shared future.

**We want our next government to commit to making the UK a proud global leader in international development. The UK must help create a sustainable world where everyone has an equal opportunity to live a healthy, safe and prosperous life.**

**We are united around a vision for the UK** that respects and upholds international conventions and institutions that benefit and protect us all. We want the UK to play its part in promoting peace, justice, equality, sustainability and prosperity for all around the world.

**We have a duty to be responsible guardians in the face of the global threats and challenges of our time:** poverty, inequalities, the climate crisis, environmental degradation, conflict, record numbers of refugees and displaced people, and accelerating technological change. We must act and work in partnership with governments and global institutions to have the best chance of protecting people and the planet for future generations.

In a fast-changing world, the UK can be a major force for good in the world, promoting good quality jobs, universal health coverage, more children in education, and tackling the climate crisis. But to realise this change, we need a transformational shift in our economics, politics and society to pursue truly sustainable development for all.

This manifesto is our vision and plan for the next UK government to ensure that future generations live in a safe, just, prosperous world free from poverty, inequality and environmental degradation of all kinds, where human rights are respected, and no one is left behind.



## 1. Strengthen the UK's voice and influence on international development by targeting poverty and inequality. This means:

- ⦿ Ensuring all UK aid has the primary purpose of tackling poverty and pursuing sustainable development, in line with the International Development Act and the Gender Equality Act. The UK should target resources towards the people and places that need them most.
- ⦿ Promoting OECD Development Committee rules that bind the purpose of official development assistance (ODA) to improving the lives of women, men, girls and boys living in poverty. The UK can only maintain the integrity and purpose of ODA if it is used first and foremost to benefit people in developing countries, and not donor interests, in accordance with DAC-eligibility criteria.
- ⦿ Government-wide, political consensus to continue to meet the 0.7% of GNI spending target for ODA.
- ⦿ Enacting the UK's 2009 commitment to provide international climate finance in addition to the UK's 0.7% gross national income target for ODA, in line with the UK's commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ⦿ Maintaining an autonomous secretary of state for international development with oversight of all government development policy and aid spending, and an independent and fully-resourced Department for International Development (DfID).
- ⦿ Committing to increased spending on human development and essential services in development, such as health, education, nutrition, and clean water and sanitation to reduce poverty and inequality.



## 2. Make global economic, financial and other rules work for the public interest in all countries.

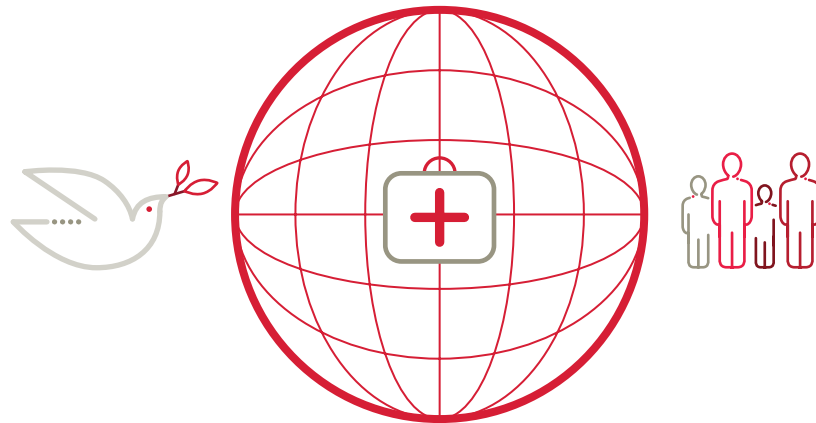
### This means:

- ◉ Ensuring that the UK's approach to trade and investment is improved in collaboration with developing country trading partners, and developed with full transparency and parliamentary scrutiny. The UK's approach must strengthen rather than undermine the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international commitments on development, climate change and human rights.
- ◉ Prioritising the needs of developing countries in future trade policy, including through meaningful impact assessments, the provision of enhanced preferential market access and a review of existing bilateral agreements, including economic partnership agreements.
- ◉ Ending the inclusion of investor state dispute settlement mechanisms in trade and investment agreements, which grant foreign investors excessive privileges enforced through private courts and often undermine policies designed to promote development and environmental sustainability.
- ◉ Providing robust support to a fair multilateral trading system by ensuring it is reformed and fit for the development and climate challenges of the 21st century.
- ◉ Supporting the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories (CDOTs) to publish their registers of companies and trusts at the earliest possible opportunity. The UK must provide financial and technical support to the CDOTs to enable them to introduce public registers, update parliament regularly on progress, and set out public, time-bound plans for implementing registers with open, accurate data.
- ◉ Acting unilaterally to implement the Finance Act (2016) commitment requiring companies to publicly report their tax payments on a country-by-country basis.
- ◉ Working with countries to build sustainable and progressive tax systems. The UK must also support fiscal policies and promote fair international tax rules that enable governments to reduce poverty and inequality by investing in free public services.
- ◉ Promoting trade, research and development models, and aid spending that aligns with development and public health objectives, and achieving the SDGs.
- ◉ Aligning drug policy with the SDGs and supporting countries who want to develop rights-based and public health-focused alternatives to the current failed approaches of enforced prohibition.



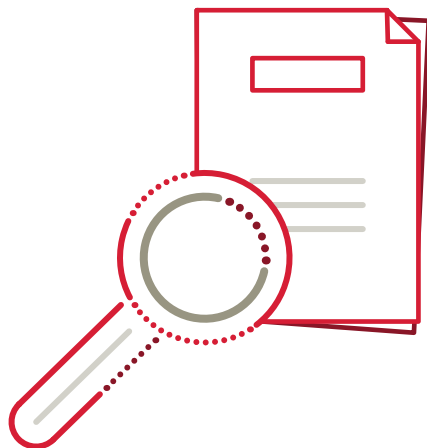
### 3. Tackle the climate and environmental degradation crisis with a coherent, consistent, cross-government approach. This means:

- ⦿ Ensuring all overseas development assistance is aligned to the Paris Agreement, contributing to global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. ODA must support sustainable development that “does no harm” to nature.
- ⦿ Providing the additional public finance needed to tackle the climate and environmental degradation crisis. The UK must urgently establish additional public funding sources for more ambitious climate action and ensure no more than 10% of the UK aid budget is allocated for international climate finance.
- ⦿ Reforming the UK’s International Climate Finance commitment to become a strategic fund for dedicated action on climate change. This fund must provide “up-front allocation” of climate finance and prioritise transformational initiatives.
- ⦿ Phasing out all UK Export Finance (UKEF) that is currently directed to fossil fuels and ensuring all UKEF projects are aligned with the Paris Agreement. The UK must declare a moratorium on any further UK ODA investments in fossil fuels.



## 4. Be at the forefront of promoting peacebuilding and humanitarian principles in response to conflict and global crises. This means:

- ◉ Having international peace and security as an objective of a transparent, coherent UK national security policy that is mainstreamed in practice across government.
- ◉ Aid spent on security must prioritise support to promoting human rights, gender equality, and peacebuilding. The UK must support other governments' accountability to civilian populations through reinforcing security sector reform and empowering local civil society organisations in line with OECD Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, and the peaceful, just and inclusive societies goal.
- ◉ Reducing the rising burdens on the global humanitarian system by investing in: disaster risk reduction, adaptive programming based on context (including on climate change), mechanisms to address loss and damage, conflict sensitivity and prevention/resolution, humanitarian access and civil-military coordination mechanisms. The UK must also fund interventions to build the resilience of communities vulnerable to disasters and protect humanitarian workers.
- ◉ Hosting the UK's fair share of refugees and ensuring that poorer countries receive adequate support to host refugees. Refugees and internally displaced people must get the help they need to address the wide-ranging consequences of their displacement, including through humanitarian, long-term development and peacebuilding efforts.
- ◉ An ambitious new Protection of Civilians Strategy that reflects the realities of modern conflict and prioritises the most vulnerable groups.



## 5. Strengthen democratic and public accountability at all levels of international development.

### This means:

- ◉ Improving public scrutiny of policy making to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development. All public policy must contribute to - rather than undermine - the achievement of sustainable development and consider consequences for future generations in line with Agenda 2030 promises.
- ◉ Doing development that respects the following international development effectiveness principles: respecting democratic country ownership of national development, outcomes that deliver results for the poorest and marginalised groups, inclusive development based on mutual trust, and transparency and accountability.
- ◉ Removing restrictions on civil society campaigning, including by revising the Lobbying Act and ensuring public sector grants and contracts respect and support civil society's right to speak out. The UK must commit to meaningful, inclusive and deliberative engagement with civil society in effective policy-making.
- ◉ Increasing direct support to civil society (particularly women's organisations, and other representative voices of marginalised groups) with flexible funding mechanisms that enable organisations to adapt in volatile political environments. The UK must commit to encouraging foreign governments to reverse restrictions on civil society space in public debate and policy-making.
- ◉ Demonstrating a commitment to the principle of "leave no one behind" and translating policy into practice by investing in human development for all (irrespective of age, gender identity, women's rights, children's, disability, minority or sexuality).
- ◉ Deepening public scrutiny of public finance (especially overseas development assistance) used to leverage private finance. The UK must ensure their private sector partnerships "do no harm" to people and nature, protect human rights, comply with development effectiveness principles, and demonstrate an additional positive contribution to social, economic and environmental elements of sustainable development.



Bond is the UK network for organisations working in international development.

We unite and support a diverse network of over 400 civil society organisations to help eradicate global poverty, inequality and injustice.

Find out more at [bond.org.uk](http://bond.org.uk)

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