



Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, COP26 President Designate
Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs, FCDO,
King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH

Stephanie Draper
Bond
Society Building
London
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL

24th March 2021

Dear Mr Sharma and Mr Raab,

As co-chairs of the forthcoming Climate and Development Ministerial, we are writing to you together as UK NGOs working across humanitarian, development, climate, and environment challenges around the world and supported by millions of British people, to call on the UK government to act in solidarity with developing countries and communities suffering the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

Around the world climate change is setting back gains made in sustainable development and poverty reduction, and increasing indebtedness and fragility. COVID-19 and related crises have further compounded vulnerabilities, and action has never been more urgent.

Therefore we welcome that you have taken the initiative to host this Ministerial. Ahead of COP26, the UK must demonstrate leadership on ensuring that no one is left behind as the world builds back better from COVID-19 and tackles the climate emergency. At the Climate and Development Ministerial we call on you to:

- Honour the UK's legally binding commitment to 0.7% of GNI for aid; an election manifesto promise of this government, and a prerequisite for solidarity with those most vulnerable.
- Appoint a loss and damage champion and develop a clear strategy to ensure action on loss and damage is delivered at COP26, in recognition of the suffering being caused by climate change impacts right now.
- Support the UN Secretary General's call for all countries and multilateral development banks to commit by COP26 to allocating at least half of their climate finance to adaptation.

Reverse aid cuts: The planned cuts to the aid budget undermine the UK's credibility as hosts of the Climate and Development Ministerial, G7, and COP26. In the face of a global pandemic; the climate crisis; loss of nature; growing inequality, insecurity, and poverty; now is not the time for the UK to be stepping back from this vital commitment. Reducing the ODA budget - while at the same time drawing on it as the only source of climate finance - will inevitably harm the most vulnerable in society, pushing huge numbers (back) into poverty.

Appoint a champion to prioritise loss and damage: While the UK has had a good track record on mitigation and adaptation in the UNFCCC negotiations, the UK has failed to stand up for those

suffering the worst impacts of climate change on loss and damage. Failure to progress this agenda risks vulnerable countries losing faith in COP26. Loss and damage is the third pillar of climate action recognised in article 8 of the Paris Agreement, but is insufficiently prioritised and addressed in UK COP26 Presidency initiatives and activities to date. Yet without addressing the rising levels of loss and damage, adaptation will be increasingly undermined and will ultimately fail. The UK needs to show leadership on this urgent issue by developing a prioritised and coherent strategy for ensuring COP26 delivers on addressing loss and damage experienced by the most climate change impacted peoples and communities, and appointing a high-level champion to drive action and consensus on it.

Support call for adaptation finance: Despite global commitments to provide a balance of finance between adaptation and mitigation, funding for adaptation continues to lag behind, leaving the poorest people most vulnerable to climate change impacts. A breakthrough on adaptation finance is a critical outcome for COP26. As COP president and a country that does provide 50% climate finance for adaptation, the UK is in a strong position to support the UN Secretary General's call for all donors and multilateral development banks to allocate at least half of their climate finance to adaptation, improve ease of access to finance, and expand debt relief and other debt related initiatives that would provide much needed liquidity, especially for the most vulnerable.

As you prepare to host developing countries from around the world at the Climate and Development Ministerial next week, we call on you to demonstrate your support for developing countries priorities, and deliver on these fundamental commitments to pave the way for success at COP26. Now is not the time for the UK to renege on its promises to the most vulnerable, but to redouble efforts and to lead from the front on commitments to leave no one behind.

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Draper, Chief Executive
Bond



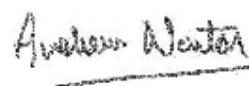
Laurie Lee, Chief Executive
CARE International UK



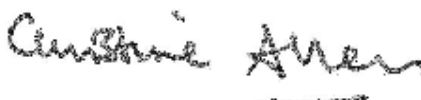
Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief Executive
Christian Aid



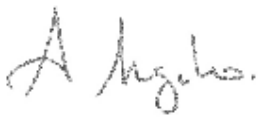
Tim Wainwright, Chief Executive UK
WaterAid



Andrew Norton, Director
International Institute for Environment and
Development (IIED)



Christine Allen, Director
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
(CAFOD)



Alexandra Angulo, Interim Executive Director
Mercy Corps



Nick Mabey, Chief Executive
Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G)



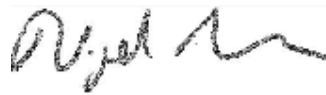
Rose Caldwell, Chief Executive
Plan International UK



Tufail Hussain, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Relief Worldwide



Mark Sheard, Chief Executive Officer
World Vision UK



Nigel Harris, Chief Executive
Tearfund



Jasmine O'Connor, OBE, Chief Executive
Anti-Slavery International



Bijay Kumar, Executive Director,
Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for
Disaster Reduction



Paul Smith Lomas, Chief Executive
Practical Action



John Sauven, Executive Director
Greenpeace UK



Danny Harvey, Executive Director
Concern Worldwide UK



Danny Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive Officer
Oxfam GB



David Hillman, Director
Stamp Out Poverty / Robin Hood Tax Campaign