

# COP27 UK Government Asks CAN-UK Briefing



2022 has been a year of devastating impacts for so many people around the world. From catastrophic and widespread flooding in Pakistan to the heatwaves in the UK with homes lost to fire, from the widespread drought and harvest loss across Europe to the escalating hunger crisis affecting millions of people in East Africa. Increasing numbers of people are suffering the impacts of climate change, food insecurity, the energy price crisis, and conflict, but as ever, the worst suffering is borne by those least responsible and most marginalised in our communities and across the world.

These are not separate crises, and the role of climate change in each is profound. Never has there been a more important time to deliver real action on climate change and to keep pushing to go further and faster. Yet we are witnessing a backsliding on climate change promises.

Last year at COP26, the UK Government stood up for climate action and urged all countries to do more. Yet the Government has been stepping back from promises made to UK voters, those suffering the worst consequences of the climate crisis, and the world. It has been a difficult year for all, and the climate crisis is not the only crisis we are facing. But none of the crises are helped by slowing or reversing action on climate change - in fact all of them are made worse by this. The only way to secure the future we all want for our children is to take decisive action on climate change to reap the rewards of lower pollution, better health, cheaper renewable energy, increased security, and greater stability.

As the UK prepares for COP27, the people of the UK demand a resurgence in the UK's commitment to address the climate emergency and secure a better and fairer future for us all. Recent IPSOS polling shows 8 out of 10 UK citizens are concerned about climate change, and half think the UK net zero target should be brought forward.<sup>1</sup> **This is the UK Government's mandate for greater ambition, greater delivery, and bold action at COP27.**

Urgent action is now needed to ensure the UK does not squander the reputation built on the global stage through its presidency of COP26 and diplomatic outreach, and instead redouble efforts to secure the opportunities such commitments bring for security, stability, sustainable growth, renewable energy, and resilience at home and around the world.

## Address loss and damage

COP26 failed to reach an agreement to establish a loss and damage finance facility to address the impacts of climate change, as called for by the majority world and impacted communities. A dialogue was established, and the first session held in June. Both the urgency and the gap in current financing to address loss and damage was clear, and climate vulnerable countries reiterated that a decision is now needed at COP27 to collectively act on a finance facility.

Despite the devastating floods in Pakistan and food crisis in East Africa, to date only Scotland and Denmark have committed new and additional finance for loss and damage. Climate vulnerable countries and those who are most marginalised within their communities, continue to raise the alarm on the urgency of support needed.

**At COP27 the UK must support the majority world's call to agree to establish a loss and damage finance facility, with a clear road map for its development.<sup>ii</sup>**

#### Deliver overdue \$100bn and double adaptation finance

Under the UK's COP26 Presidency, a delivery plan was developed to demonstrate how the overdue \$100bn a year climate finance will be delivered by 2023 (three years late) and agreement reached to double global adaptation finance by 2025. An update of the delivery plan has just been published showing little progress since last year, and recent analysis also estimates that the real value of climate finance counted towards the \$100bn to date is only around a third of that reported.<sup>iii</sup> As a result, trust in the process and in higher income countries to keep their promises hangs in the balance just days before COP27.

While the Government maintains the UK's five-year international climate finance commitment is not under threat, much of its delivery has been put-off to later years, and there are now real risks that UK ODA - already cut from 0.7% GNI to 0.5% and with around a third now spent domestically rather than as intended as support to lower income countries - could be cut again, including climate finance and adaptation spending. Further cuts, delays, or reallocation would both undermine lower income countries' abilities to respond to climate change and the progress made at COP26 to increase support for those who have been made most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

**Before COP27, the UK must protect UK ODA and climate finance, make payment on the UK's outstanding Green Climate Fund (GCF) contribution, and provide concrete figures for near-term adaptation spending to demonstrate the UK's contribution to the global agreement to double adaptation finance.**

#### Keep 1.5°C alive

The Glasgow Pact agreed at COP26 recognised both the importance of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and the fact that we are not yet on course to deliver that. The UK presided over an agreement for all countries to revisit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2022 for the purpose of increasing mitigation action to close the gap to 1.5°C. Yet in September, the UK submitted an updated NDC that did not include an increase in the UK's contribution to this global effort, and instead announced new fracking and North Sea oil and gas licences that undermine the UK's commitments on the global stage and ability to deliver domestically.

**Before COP27, the UK must reverse all domestic policies that take the UK off course from ambitious climate action and commit to increasing the UK's contribution to global climate action with an NDC update in 2023.**

### End fossil fuels

The Glasgow Pact included the first language under the UNFCCC to work towards the end of fossil fuels, and 39 countries and institutions signed up to a statement to end international public finance for fossil fuels. While the UK and other G7 countries repeated their pledge to end overseas public fossil fuel finance in June, they added a loophole opening the door to future investment in gas. Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C is out of reach without phasing out all fossil fuels. And, while the UK has kept its commitment to publish its policy to shift overseas public fossil fuel finance before COP27 - an important first step - several other key signatories to the Glasgow Joint Statement have yet to do so. While at the same time domestically, recent decisions have taken UK energy investments away from that which is needed to secure a resilient and clean energy future.

**Before COP27, the UK must reverse recent decisions on fracking and North Sea licences, and instead ensure no new investment in oil and gas, and scale up renewable energy in the UK and overseas, including by providing increased grant and concessional financing.**

### Harness the crucial role of nature for tackling the climate crisis

At COP26, the Glasgow Pact recognised nature's critical role in addressing climate change, and the UK secured a global agreement to halt and reverse deforestation. Yet currently in the UK, nature is under attack from changes to government policy, despite the critical role of healthy ecosystems in delivering the UK's climate change commitments. On the global stage, negotiations on the Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity are behind schedule, received limited political attention, and achieved little progress, with positions of Parties remaining divergent on many issues, which risks poor outcomes for nature, climate, and people.

**Before COP27, the UK must reverse the attacks on nature in the UK, and work with countries around the world to ensure the most ambitious outcomes for nature and food systems at COP27 and at the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP15.**

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*Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK) is the UK node of CAN, a global network of more than 1,500 civil society organisations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice.*

*CAN-UK brings together international development and environment organisations in the UK working on the poverty-nature-climate agenda to advocate for climate justice and sustainable development for all.*

*climatenetwork.org*

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<sup>i</sup> [8 in 10 Britons concerned about climate change – half think net zero target should be brought forward | Ipsos](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Loss and Damage Finance Facility - Why and How - Climate Action Network](#)  
[More than 400 NGOs sign open letter demanding governments to put Loss & Damage on the COP27 Agenda - Climate Action Network \(climatenetwork.org\)](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.oxfam.de/system/files/documents/bn-climate-finance-short-changed-191022-en\\_embargoed.pdf](https://www.oxfam.de/system/files/documents/bn-climate-finance-short-changed-191022-en_embargoed.pdf)