

# Delivering climate justice at COP26 in Glasgow



Seizing Scotland's unique opportunity  
to shape global action

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**#TimeforAction**

## Summary: COP26 as a turning point for climate action

We all need the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow to be a turning point for global climate action. They are a litmus test for the world's commitment to averting the worst climate chaos. And with the planet already over 1°C warmer and on track for a devastating 3°C or more of heating, there is no more time to waste. Climate change is already affecting millions of the world's poorest people and fuelling a linked nature crisis.

It's not too late to limit global temperature rise to the critical 1.5°C threshold but the decisions we take over the next few years are crucial. The 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in a world hit hard by a COVID-19 pandemic that has exacerbated entrenched inequalities and exposed the intense vulnerability of the poorest globally. But the climate crisis is not on pause.

We must learn the lessons of COVID-19 and rapidly increase action to achieve both emission reductions and economic recovery in ways that respond to the interlinked climate, nature and inequality crises. Successive COPs have failed to deliver adequate action, and millions of people are now suffering from droughts, floods, rising sea-levels, fires, food shortages and displacement.

This is an emergency created by the 'haves' which is hitting the 'have nots' first and worst: fuelling poverty, hunger, and suffering. COP26 is an opportunity to avert the worst impacts and deliver climate justice. It is the first real test of the Paris Agreement agreed in 2015 to limit global emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and to address climate-induced loss and damage.<sup>1</sup>

Some progress has been made, but not enough. The UK and Scottish Governments have a shared responsibility to do everything possible to secure a strong global outcome, the former as joint COP26 President with Italy and the latter as home to the host city. To fulfil these positions of global leadership effectively, they must swiftly get their own houses in order and work together while doing everything possible to ensure equitable participation in the talks despite the ongoing pandemic.

This briefing sets out the priorities of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS), a diverse coalition of over 60 civil society organisations who campaign together on climate change. Uniquely, it outlines side-by-side the measures the Scottish and UK Governments need to take, before and during COP26, to drive down domestic emissions, increase their support to the people most impacted, and to use their positions of influence and leadership to drive up global ambition. It is a call for climate action and climate justice.

Scotland's voice must be heard. We will never have a greater opportunity to influence global climate action. With 68% of adults in Scotland viewing climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, it's time to seize it. Scotland has a relatively strong record of climate action: our legal targets are amongst the strongest in the global North – yet three annual targets in a row have been missed.

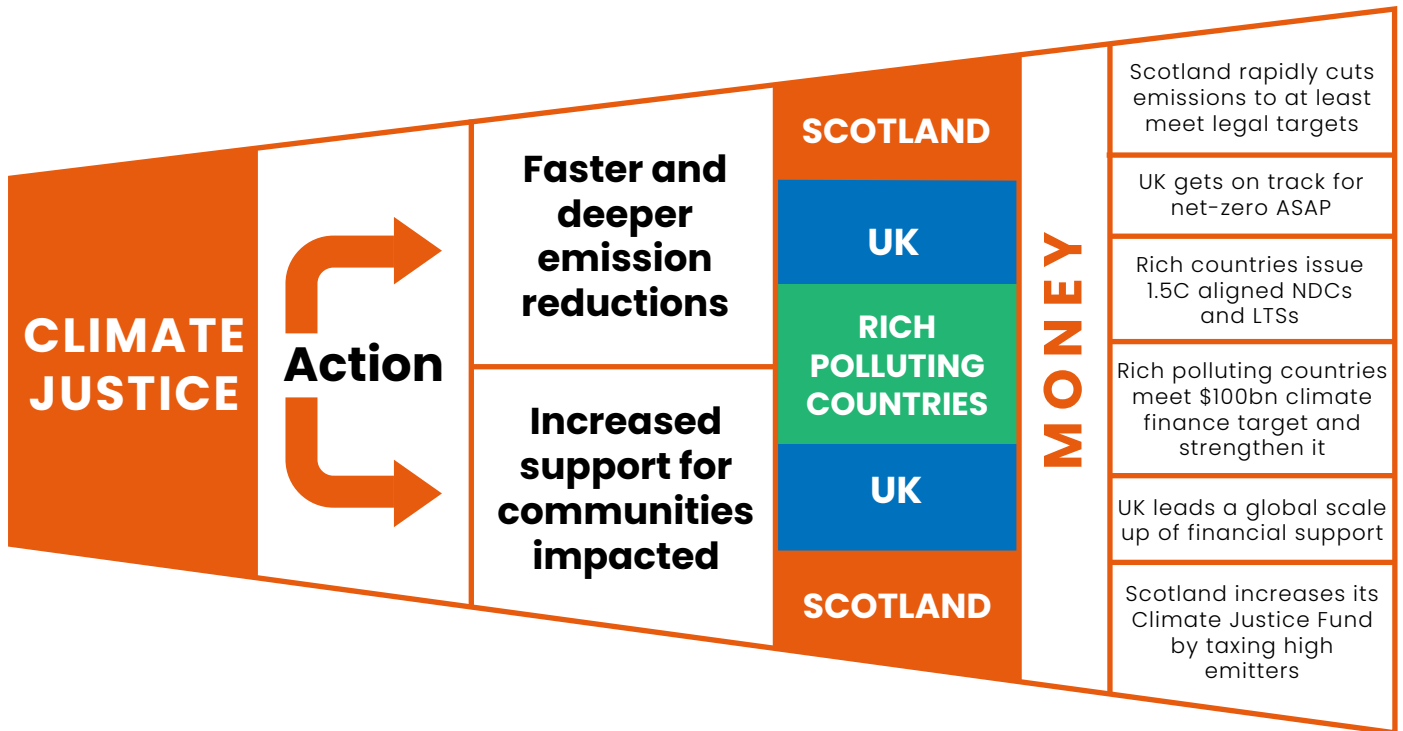
This paper outlines the steps needed to bolster Scotland's record and then to use it to drive up global ambition. It also outlines our priorities for all rich, polluting countries, including the UK, to deliver more ambitious climate plans to rapidly cut emissions, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)<sup>2</sup>, and to strengthen Long-Term Strategies (LTSs.)

The poorest people also need help to adapt their lives. Rich countries must fulfil their climate finance promises and use COP26 to strengthen them. They must also act on demands for additional money to cover the losses and damages created by irreversible climate impacts. And, amid a biodiversity emergency, nature can't wait either. We must transform our approach to the inter-linked nature and climate crises if we are to make significant progress on either. It's time for action.

Nearly 250 years ago, James Watt invented the steam engine in Glasgow, kick-starting the industrialisation that fuelled the climate crisis. Glasgow now needs to provide the backdrop for tackling it. We must ensure the decisions taken in a city known as the 'Dear Green Place' help set the world on a climate-safe and climate just path.

Every crisis needs a turning point and COP26 in Glasgow must provide it.

## Delivering climate justice: Our priorities ahead of COP26



### Faster and deeper emission reductions to limit global heating to 1.5°C

The Scottish Government must implement the transformational policy and spending actions needed to deliver Scotland's legal greenhouse gas emission targets, without international offsets, and ensure a just transition. It should use its relatively strong record, and Glasgow's status as COP26 host city, to push other historical polluters towards actions consistent with limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C, including using its prominent role within the Under2 Coalition to show international leadership.

The UK Government must significantly raise ambition for COP26 by putting in place the range of policies and investments needed to meet its Paris Agreement obligations and limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C as fast as possible, without the use of international offsets and with an emphasis on emission reduction at source. It must also use every diplomatic tool, including its joint Presidency of COP26, to close the global gap between countries' existing NDCs and long-term strategies (LTSS), and what is needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, with every country taking on their fair share.

Before and at COP26, all rich polluting nations must commit to deeper and faster emission reductions within their NDCs and LTSS while ensuring they are fully consistent with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, and informed by a Fair Shares analysis<sup>3</sup>, including a swift and just phase-out of fossil fuels.

## Increased support for communities impacted by the climate crisis

The Scottish Government must significantly increase the Climate Justice Fund by raising new and additional funding through taxing high emitters, and align it to best practice in adaptation globally. It should then call for other rich countries to increase their climate finance informed by a Fair Shares analysis, and champion for this to be additional to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). It should strongly promote the issue of finance for climate-induced loss and damage while maximising the influence of Global South communities, including by strongly capitalising upon planned 'Glasgow Climate Dialogues' pre-COP26 and via funding and support during the talks. It should prevent big polluting companies, such as oil and gas majors, from influencing COP26.

The UK Government must show global leadership for an urgent and significant scale up of grant-based finance to support poor and vulnerable countries and communities to adapt, informed by a Fair Shares analysis<sup>4</sup>.

The Government must honour its legally binding commitment to 0.7% of Gross Domestic Income for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), ensure that international climate finance is additional to non-climate ODA, and maintain its commitment to 50% of UK climate finance for adaptation.

It must ensure robust implementation of the policy to end UK public support for fossil fuels overseas. It must then champion a new post-2025 global adaptation finance goal which is responsive to the needs and rights of women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups.

The UK must also facilitate concrete advances on loss and damage finance at COP26.

It should prevent big polluting companies, such as oil and gas majors, from influencing the talks.

Before and at COP26 in Glasgow, all rich polluting countries must fulfil their \$100 billion per year climate finance promise to the world's poorest countries through non-repayable grants and agree a strengthened post-2025 commitment informed by a Fair Shares analysis. They must identify new and innovative ways to mobilise funds to support communities facing climate-induced loss and damage and proactively prevent big polluting companies, such as oil and gas majors, from influencing the talks.

## What is Climate Justice?

A simple fact lies at the heart of the climate crisis: those who have done the least to cause it are those suffering most. This emergency was disproportionately caused by the world's richest people, including in Scotland. Globally, between 1990 and 2015, the richest 1% accounted for 15% of emissions – more than twice that of the poorest half of humanity (7%)<sup>5</sup>. We must confront this deep carbon inequality.

Rising global temperatures are increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather like droughts and floods. Combined with slower-onset impacts such as rising sea-levels, food crops, sources of clean water and livelihoods are being destroyed, pushing more people into poverty, fuelling hunger and forcing people from their homes.<sup>6</sup>

The UN warns climate change is increasing inequality across and within countries.<sup>7</sup> The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights warns of a “climate apartheid” in which the “wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer”.<sup>8</sup>

Not only are low-income countries exposed to some of the most severe impacts, they also have the least financial capacity to adapt and find it hardest to respond to irreversible climate impacts. Without action, future generations will inherit an ever more dangerous climate and increased inequality.

Gendered power structures interact with other characteristics – such as age, disability, race and poverty – to make women, and particularly poor women of colour in the global south, most vulnerable: from having to walk further to collect water, to being last to eat during food shortages.<sup>9</sup>

Without more women from the global south at the table, and a gendered and intersectional response to adaptation, women and girls in the global south will continue to pay for climate change with their lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

Making those who are not responsible for the climate crisis bear the costs is a breach of the polluter pays principle in international law.<sup>10</sup> It is also a violation of the principles of equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” within the Paris Agreement.<sup>11</sup>

It is ethically wrong and economically nonsensical that our global system fails to adequately incorporate the negative climate consequences of our activities into the marketplace, allowing some to profit while others are robbed of their human rights. The unjust economic activities of some countries are hindering the ability of others to develop.

Whilst financial mechanisms do exist to partially address this injustice, global action is deplorably inadequate, undermining confidence in the grand bargain underpinning the Paris Agreement.<sup>12</sup> Promises that rich countries would mobilise \$100 billion per year by 2020<sup>13</sup> for poorer countries, with a balance between helping them to adapt and to cut their own emissions, are off track, despite even that sum being woefully insufficient.<sup>14</sup>

Even the world's poorest countries and communities are having to take out loans to protect themselves. Nor is there any financial mechanism to compensate communities left with irreversible losses and damages.

COP26 will be judged on action to address these glaring climate injustices and the UK and Scottish Governments must ensure their COP26 strategies fully reflect the priorities of communities already impacted.

However, the principles of climate justice also apply within Scotland. We must reduce our emissions in ways that recognise that the climate crisis is not felt equally, and nor are the policies developed to tackle it.

We must act in ways that support social justice; for example, boosting energy efficiency to cut emissions and help the 279,000 households facing “extreme fuel poverty”.<sup>15</sup>

Those working in sectors and living within communities impacted by the urgent transition needed must be heard and supported, particularly in the oil and gas sector where workers and communities must be empowered to help shape a just transition.

This climate justice-centred approach must engage with community-led and deliberative democratic processes that empower and enable citizens to co-create local plans to tackle climate disruption.

In Scotland and globally, the climate crisis must be tackled by delivering climate justice.

## Climate injustice in Bangladesh



*Walking home from fetching shrimp larva in Satkhira, Bangladesh, where frequent floods and cyclones are already destroying livelihoods (WaterAid Bangladesh)*

Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world. Most of the country is less than 10 metres above sea level, and over 35 million people are already suffering the extreme impacts of climate change, costing lives and livelihoods.

Cyclone Amphan that hit Bangladesh in 2020 became a super cyclone while it was in the Bay of Bengal where the sea surface temperature was several degrees higher than normal due to climate change. Fortunately, Bangladesh has one of the best cyclone warning and evacuation systems in the world and we successfully evacuated over two million people to cyclone shelters.

In previous decades, super cyclones had cost hundreds of thousands of lives. This time, only a few dozen people died, but thousands were still homeless as they had lost their homes or their land became salinised by sea water intrusion. Hence, while Bangladesh has been good at saving lives, it has still suffered loss and damage to livelihoods and infrastructure.

At COP25 there was a decision to set up the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage,

which is a positive development and needs to be built upon at COP26 in November in Glasgow, Scotland. However, one of the aspects of the issue that has remained highly politically sensitive is financing, as developed countries do not wish to acknowledge the notion of liability and compensation that may be associated with loss and damage from climate change.

Vulnerable developing countries have already made it clear that if COP26 fails to address finance for loss and damage, they will consider COP26 to be a failure, despite any other agreements that are reached.

Let 2021 be the year when the issue of loss and damage from human-induced climate change is recognised with utmost urgency and importance, and that governments and civil societies around the world rise to the occasion for the victims of climate change.

***Adapted with the author's permission from a blog by ICCAD Director Dr Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh. Read the full article here.***

## Faster and deeper emission reductions to limit global heating to 1.5°C

### The actions needed by the Scottish Government

**The Scottish Government must implement the transformational policy and spending actions needed to deliver Scotland's legal emission targets, without international offsets, and ensure a just transition. It should also use its relatively strong record, and Glasgow's status as COP26 host city, to push other historical polluters towards actions consistent with limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C, including using its prominent role within the Under2 Coalition to show international leadership.**

The Scottish Government must bolster its relatively strong record on climate with rapid and transformative action to cut emissions in all areas of life. Our legal targets commit us to 'net-zero' – only producing the amount of emissions that we are able to remove from the atmosphere – by 2045, with an interim 75% cut from 1990 by 2030.<sup>16</sup>

These targets, and the linked governance frameworks, are amongst the strongest in the global North yet do not fully reflect our historic emissions nor those from goods and services consumed in Scotland but not produced here. While territorial emissions<sup>17</sup> have already halved since 1990, our 2017<sup>18</sup>, 2018<sup>19</sup> and 2019<sup>20</sup> annual targets were missed. There is also very slow progress in cutting Scotland's total carbon footprint, including consumption-based emissions embedded within imports.<sup>21</sup>

Like all rich countries, Scotland must go much further and faster to reduce emissions. Commitments<sup>22</sup> to ramp up investment in home energy efficiency and green jobs, are welcome but detail is lacking and delivery must be fast-tracked. The Climate Change Plan update must be urgently brought forward and reworked into a credible plan which ends over-reliance on Negative Emissions Technologies and provides the framework for a Just Transition. Detailed recommendations from SCCS and Parliamentary committees must be adopted for the plan to be a credible pathway to meeting targets. Plans to meet our

climate targets must be reworked and strengthened to end an over-reliance on Negative Emissions Technologies, such as Carbon Capture and Storage.<sup>23</sup> We have previously outlined detailed recommendations<sup>24</sup> – summarised here:

- **Transform our energy systems:** Deliver 100% renewable electricity generation for a fully decarbonised system by 2032 and establish the Publicly Owned Energy Company at pace and with a broad remit, as recommended by the Just Transition Commission, to support a just decarbonisation.
- **Make our buildings fit for the future<sup>25</sup>:** Speed up ambition so that all homes reach at least Energy Performance 'C' by 2030 not 2035, supported by greater investment within fuel poverty schemes and deeper measures to drive significant uptake by private homeowners and within the rented sectors.
- **Transform our transport networks:** Switch capital expenditure from road building to low-carbon infrastructure, as per the sustainable travel hierarchy, while committing at least 10% of the transport budget to active travel, expanding concessionary bus travel and disincentivising high-emitting options.
- **Transition to a circular economy<sup>26</sup>:** Cut consumption and waste by investing in recycling infrastructure, banning single-use plastics where practical reusable alternatives exist and introducing charges for single-use disposable cups.
- **Protect and enhance our land and seas<sup>27</sup>:** Invest in proven practices to foster healthy ecosystems and enhance biodiversity, leading to reduced carbon emissions and increased adaptive resilience, such as peatland restoration, while ensuring inshore fisheries protect habitats and flourishing native woodlands.
- **Transform our food, farming and fishing systems<sup>28</sup>:** Target support at regenerative practises and systems that benefit people, communities and the environment. Introduce a plan for food, farming and fishing in Scotland with climate and nature at its heart, reviewing this every five years.

Critically, we must phase out our most polluting activities while supporting those impacted, as well as those affected by any surge in unemployment from the pandemic,<sup>29</sup> by creating new, quality job opportunities in green industries.

We must rebuild a more resilient, green economy by meeting the Just Transition Commission's challenge to "move beyond the rhetoric of just transition"<sup>30</sup> – both within a Just Transition Action Plan and by placing a green recovery at the core of Scotland's economic strategy. As one of only a handful of jurisdictions with legislative commitments and a programme of work on Just Transition, we must deliver on these, while sharing our experience and learning from others.

The Government must also commit resources to communicate Scotland's wider climate record before and during COP26, through vocal leadership within the UK and globally. This should include delivering the promised indicative Nationally Determined Contribution<sup>31</sup> and strongly promoting it – including via Scotland's "International Hubs"<sup>32</sup> and as European co-chairs of the Under2 Coalition<sup>33</sup> – to drive up ambition, whilst amplifying the priorities of impacted communities.

## The actions needed by the UK Government

**The UK Government must significantly raise ambition for COP26 by putting in place the range of policies and investments needed to get on track to meet its Paris Agreement obligations and limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C as fast as possible, without the use of international offsets and with an emphasis on emission reduction at source. It must also use every diplomatic tool, including its joint Presidency of COP26, to close the global gap between countries' existing NDCs and long-term strategies (LTSS), and what is needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, with every country taking on their fair share.**

In 2019, UK emissions were 45% below 1990 levels, driven by cuts from electricity generation, waste and the industrial sector. However, the Committee on Climate Change says the UK is not on track for future emission targets despite these reflecting the previous goal of an 80% cut by 2050, not the current net-zero, 100%, target.

It says progress is "generally off-track" in most sectors,<sup>34</sup> and that 'the UK is leading in diagnosis but lagging in policy and action'.<sup>35</sup> For credibility as COP26 President, the UK Government must get on-track to deliver and exceed the UK's strengthened NDC which commits to cut emissions by 68% by 2030 based on 1990 levels.<sup>36</sup>

Alongside an ambitious and detailed UK Long-term Strategy, this is critical in order to rally all countries to raise ambition in line with limiting climate change to 1.5°C. While the UK Government's responsibility for climate action is largely focused on England, it will act as joint COP26 President on behalf of all parts of the UK, and powers for decision-making for the whole of the UK in key areas, such as offshore oil and gas licensing, rest with Westminster.

Further, increased climate investment in England increases funding in Scotland too. SCCS endorses the domestic recommendations<sup>37</sup> from the UK-level alliances The Climate Coalition, Bond and CAN-UK – including:

- **A Robust Long-term Strategy:** Detail a path to meet the UK's climate targets with social and environmental integrity, including detailed green investment plans, no international offsets, and a focus on cutting source emissions. Require UK financial institutions to implement 1.5°C-aligned transition plans and create a rule for overall UK Government recovery spending to support the Paris Agreement.
- **Homes:** Decarbonise UK homes with a 10-year infrastructure programme backed by long-term capital funding and prioritising fuel poverty. Increase investment in energy efficiency and heat-pump deployment.
- **Transport:** Introduce a zero-emissions vehicle mandate on manufacturers to deliver the 2030 phase-out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans; significantly boost investment in active and public transport; redirect funds from new road projects and halt new airport expansion; and introduce a frequent flier levy.
- **Energy:** Set a target for a zero-carbon power system by 2035, deployed in harmony with nature, and to triple onshore wind and solar power by 2030. Introduce an immediate end to new licensing for oil and gas production and exploration, and a managed phase-out of existing production, in line with 1.5°C.
- **Nature:** Protect and restore nature in the UK, including: by delivering an ambitious Environment Act with binding long-term and interim targets to restore and enhance UK nature; and ensuring that by 2030, 30% of UK land is managed primarily for nature and that 30% of UK seas are fully or highly protected.
- **Just Transition:** Redirect support from oil and gas to green energy and ensure a just transition led by workers, trade unions and affected communities. Prioritise investment in skills, training and infrastructure to support a just transition for impacted workers and



communities and invest £100bn within this Parliament in green projects to create 1.8 million new green jobs and to stimulate the green transition. Increase obligations on green industry, such as renewables, to grow supply chains and guarantee more UK jobs, and on the oil and gas industry for decommissioning jobs.

- **Keep polluters out of COP:** The UK Government should ensure fossil fuel companies are not allowed to sponsor COP26. The UK Government should also use its role as COP president to proactively protect the integrity of COP26 through ensuring such companies do not influence the talks through other means. They should give UK Party badges to those with an agenda that is focused on solutions to stopping climate change rather than on diluting action.

The UK Government must work with other countries – capitalising on the UK and Italy's joint COP26 Presidency to ensure economic recovery results in enhanced NDCs and LTSS, with countries taking their fair share of global action, particularly major emitters. The UK Government must ensure COP26 dramatically accelerates action to close the remaining gap to 1.5°C.

The UK Government must work with other countries – capitalising on the UK and Italy's joint COP26 Presidency to ensure economic recovery results in enhanced NDCs and LTSS, with countries taking their fair share of global action, particularly major emitters. The UK Government must ensure COP26 dramatically accelerates action to close the remaining gap to 1.5°C.

### **The action needed by all rich polluting nations**

**Before and at COP26, all rich polluting nations must commit to deeper and faster emission reductions within NDCs and LTSS while ensuring they are fully consistent with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, and informed by a Fair Shares analysis, including a swift and just phase-out of fossil fuels.**

Pre-COP26, all countries, but particularly rich polluting nations currently failing to do so, must publish NDCs consistent with their Fair Share<sup>38</sup> limiting global temperature rises to a maximum of 1.5°C. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), this means global emissions need to halve between now and 2030. However, developing countries, many of whom are already meeting their Fair Share, are rightly angered by insufficient action by developed countries to cut emissions pre-2020.<sup>39</sup>

COP26 must not erase history and shift the burden onto countries who did the least to cause this emergency. It must ensure economic recovery and stimulus efforts result in fair and resilient delivery of enhanced NDCs and LTSS; a just transition away from fossil fuel dependency; and an expansion and restoration of natural sinks – ensuring co-benefits for sustainable development, and vulnerable and marginalised people.

In addition, the issue of carbon markets\* – a mechanism through which polluters can continue emitting, but at a price – is likely to feature strongly at COP26. While Article 6 of the Paris Agreement<sup>40</sup> allows for carbon markets, this is one of the last pieces of the Paris Rulebook to be completed. There are a variety of strong views on whether carbon markets should exist at all given the overwhelming need to cut total emissions quickly and the links between offsetting and trading schemes with human rights abuses around the world.

Parties to the UNFCCC must support efforts to safeguard against big polluters exercising adverse influence on the Glasgow Summit, including through any inappropriate participation, venue [or event] sponsorship, or other means.

## **Increased support for communities impacted by the climate crisis**

### **The action needed by the Scottish Government**

**The Scottish Government must significantly increase the Climate Justice Fund by raising new and additional funding through taxing high emitters, and align it to best practice in adaptation globally. It should then call for other rich countries to increase their own climate finance informed by a Fair Shares analysis, and champion for this to be additional to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). It should strongly promote the issue of finance for climate-induced loss and damage while maximising the influence of Global South communities, including by strongly capitalising upon planned 'Glasgow Climate Dialogues' pre-COP26 and via funding and support during the talks. It should prevent big polluting companies from influencing COP26.**

As a hub of the industrial revolution, Scotland bears a significant responsibility for fuelling the climate crisis. Our current emissions are making it worse and, as per our emission targets, we plan for this to continue for nearly 25 years.

Decarbonising quickly is essential, but we must also substantially boost support to those already impacted. Encouragingly, Scotland's Climate Change Act update commits to supporting the people who are "most affected by climate change but who have done the least to cause it and are the least equipped to adapt to its effects".<sup>41</sup>

The Act also aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given these positive commitments, and the need for global leadership ahead of COP26, as well as, most importantly, the increasing impact of the climate crisis on the poorest, the Scottish Government must significantly increase its climate finance and do so quickly to apply pressure on other rich developed countries to do the same.<sup>42</sup>

The Scottish Government's innovative Climate Justice Fund (CJF)<sup>43</sup> – which aims to "share the benefits of equitable global development and the burdens of climate change fairly" – is a welcome contribution but has remained frozen at £3m a year since 2016 and has lost value.<sup>44</sup> The Scottish Government must realise positive promises to double the Fund<sup>45</sup> and do so quickly to maximise the influence this has on the climate finance commitments of other rich developed countries.<sup>46,47</sup>

Alongside increasing the Fund, the planned independent evaluation of it is welcome<sup>48</sup> and should build on the Fund's success to date, while ensuring it is fully aligned with best practice in adaptation globally. Importantly, Scotland should also set the strongest possible international example by signalling its strong intent to finance the CJF through innovative and additional sources of finance, such as a high-emitter tax, and it should immediately commission work on this. The Fund should also be focused on helping to plug the large global gap in funding to support the world's poorest countries to adapt.

Importantly, the Scottish Government should also champion for climate finance to be new and additional to existing Overseas Development Assistance, including the UK Government's climate finance commitments, with a focus on publicly-funded grants and a 50:50 split between supporting impacted communities to adapt to climate change while mitigating their own emissions. It should also

champion calls for a global financial mechanism to compensate impacted communities for climate-induced losses and damages.<sup>49</sup> It must ensure robust implementation of the policy to end financial support for fossil fuels overseas.

The Scottish Government<sup>51</sup> and Glasgow City Council,<sup>45</sup> must deliver upon welcome commitments to ensure the voices of the people most impacted are at the very heart of COP26. The Government must strongly capitalise on the outcome of upcoming "Glasgow Climate Dialogues" to capture and amplify the priorities identified by representatives from communities most impacted by the climate crisis. These Dialogues should heavily inform the Government's own positions, ensuring it serves as a strong champion of the Global South.

Robust and early plans are also needed to ensure significant public engagement during the talks, with these backed by financial resources and delivered in partnership with civil society. Venues should be made available for civil society-led engagement, with funding and logistical support for impacted communities to participate in person, where possible, and remotely where pandemic-related disruption requires it.

All publicly-funded events should feature the voices of impacted communities, including platforming women and other marginalised voices. The Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council should use their assets to ensure country delegates are consistently reminded about the impact of the climate crisis and should ensure a lasting legacy of climate action by using the talks to bolster engagement with people in all parts of Scotland.

The Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council should not take any money from big polluters for the sponsorship of any COP26 related spaces and events they organise. They should not invite big polluters to sit on their panels or speak at their events, and reject sharing a platform with any big polluters invited by others.

They should also support the calls for a Conflicts of Interest<sup>53</sup> policy at the UNFCCC, like the one that has seen big tobacco banned from the World Health Organisation.<sup>54</sup>

## **The action needed by the UK Government**

**The UK Government must show global leadership for an urgent and significant scale up of grant-based finance to support poor and vulnerable countries and communities to adapt, informed by a Fair Shares analysis.**

**The Government must honour its legally binding commitment to 0.7% of Gross Domestic Income for Overseas**

**Development Assistance (ODA), ensure that international climate finance is additional to non-climate ODA, while maintaining its commitment to 50% of UK climate finance for adaptation.**

**It must ensure robust implementation of the policy to end UK public support for fossil fuels overseas.**

**It must then champion a new post-2025 global adaptation finance goal, which is responsive to the needs and rights of women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups.**

**The UK must also facilitate concrete advances action on loss and damage finance at COP26.**

**It should prevent big polluting companies, such as oil and gas majors, from influencing the talks.**

Alongside rapidly reducing domestic emissions, to deliver climate justice the UK must lead by example to leverage an urgent and significant global scale up of climate finance. The UK Government should therefore honour its legally binding commitment to 0.7% of GDI for ODA, ensure climate finance is additional to ODA, and maintain the commitment to dedicating 50% of UK climate finance to adaptation.

It should support the UN Secretary General's call for all contributing countries and multilateral development banks to do the same before COP26. UK diplomacy must ensure all countries deliver on the \$100bn pledge this year and, given historic international neglect for adaptation, it should also support a specific new global public finance goal for the period after 2025. This must include the UK championing action to strengthen the decision-making power of, and direct implementation by, affected people and communities through improved access to high-quality adaptation finance.

The UK should also scale up its gender equality

efforts in climate finance, recognising women's importance in leading adaptation and ensuring support is responsive to structural inequalities.

To promote a just energy transition globally, the UK Government must stop locking developing countries into polluting, high-carbon energy systems by robustly implementing the policy<sup>55</sup> to end public support<sup>56</sup> for fossil fuels overseas. In practical terms this should mean no new fossil fuel investments (ODA and non-ODA), including both direct and indirect investments through UK Export Finance, the CDC, and the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), while scaling-up support for renewable and efficient energy systems. It should proactively build an alliance of other countries and finance institutions to similarly phase out support for fossil fuels.

Importantly, the UK Government must also use its diplomatic weight and joint COP26 Presidency to lead international efforts to establish new and additional sources of finance for loss and damage. As per the UK-level alliances, The Climate Coalition, Bond and CAN-UK,<sup>57</sup> it should develop and execute a robust strategy to ensure concrete advances on loss and damage as the third pillar of climate action on a par with mitigation and adaptation, while ensuring the Santiago Network on loss and damage is fulfilled and effectively resourced.

It should also ensure that new sources of finance – separate to existing climate finance and ODA – are on the agenda, including a climate damages tax and debt cancellation, while recognising that an over-reliance on insurance is not the solution.

## **The action needed by all rich polluting nations**

**Before and at COP26 in Glasgow, all rich polluting countries must fulfil their \$100 billion per year climate finance promise to the world's poorest countries through non-repayable grants and agree a strengthened post-2025 commitment informed by a Fair Shares analysis. They must identify new and innovative ways to mobilise funds to support communities facing climate-induced loss and damage and proactively prevent big polluting companies from influencing the talks.**

Climate finance is a lifeline to many of the world's poorest communities. In 2009, developed

countries promised to mobilise \$100bn per year by 2020 to help them adapt to climate change, while cutting their own emissions.<sup>58</sup> While far short of what is needed,<sup>59</sup> rich countries are off track in the delivery of this. Reported finance is rising, but analysis of the latest donor reports suggest that in 2017–18 public climate finance was around £59.5bn.<sup>60</sup>

However, this is still a huge over-statement, with only a fraction provided in non-repayable publicly-funded grants, amid rising use of loans which increase developing countries' debt. Reported climate finance is often not new or additional, robbing schools and hospitals of the investment they need. It is estimated that climate-specific net assistance was just \$19–22.5bn in the most recently reported year.<sup>61</sup>

Calls for a 50:50 split between mitigation and adaptation are also off track: with adaptation support estimated to be 25%.<sup>62</sup> In addition, only around a fifth of the total money reported was for the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

The way in which the \$100bn goal is met is as important as whether it is met; doing so on current terms would be cause for concern, not celebration. COP26 must therefore end the neglect of adaptation and ensure money reaches those who need it most in locally-led, gender-responsive ways. It must also help secure a stronger post-2025 target, informed by a Fair Shares analysis.<sup>63</sup>

Over the last decade, climate-fuelled disasters forced around 20 million people a year from their homes.<sup>64</sup> Poor countries are overwhelmingly most at risk yet little progress has been made towards mobilising additional funds to help them recover from irreversible climate-impacts.

Despite the Paris Agreement signatories committing to action “averting, minimising and addressing”<sup>65</sup> loss and damage, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)<sup>66</sup> still does not include any financial mechanism.

COP25 established the Santiago Network<sup>67</sup> to catalyse technical assistance but developed countries must commit new finance with concrete progress a core requirement at COP26.

## Making COP26 in Glasgow a turning point for climate justice

*“We are approaching either a tipping point – an abrupt and irreversible change in the global climate system of unforeseeable consequences or a turning point – a moment in which changes in policy and practice around the world lead to effective climate action so as to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5°C”*

Patricia Espinosa, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary<sup>68</sup>

COP26 will be one of the most vital climate summits ever held. The year-long delay caused by COVID-19 makes the outcome even more important. While the shadow of the pandemic still hangs over the build-up, it also shows the deep consequences of failing to act before disasters strike. Yet the climate crisis was already with us long before the virus hit, and it has not gone away because of it. Far from it.

Ongoing climate-induced disasters across the world and the ongoing nature crisis reinforce the need for a response that matches declarations of a “climate emergency”.<sup>69</sup> COP26 must re-energise the ambition of the Paris Agreement and get the world on track to limiting warming to a maximum of 1.5C. It must also deliver genuine climate justice for those already impacted by a crisis they did not cause.

Scotland has a relatively positive story to tell, one which, in some ways, is more ambitious than that of the UK, the joint COP26 President. However, it is essential that both the Scottish and UK Governments act quickly to bolster their respective records of climate action, work together to seize this unique opportunity to shape global climate action, and prioritise the issues that matter most to impacted communities.

Now, more than ever, the world is in search of a turning point for climate justice, and the UN talks in Glasgow must provide it.

***Please note: This briefing will be updated on a rolling basis in advance of COP26.***

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