

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the first Global Stocktake

provided in line with Decision 19/CMA.1¹



¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add2_new_advance.pdf

Introduction

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is pleased to make this submission to the first Global Stocktake (GST). The GST sits at the heart of the Paris Agreement's ambition cycle, set up by Parties to keep us on track towards fulfilling our collective goals. In light of the IPCC's AR6 reports and the closing window to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees, the GST must lead to tangible action across mitigation, adaptation and support. Having been launched at COP26 in this critical decade for climate action, the first GST must therefore increase our ambition and accelerate the implementation of climate policies and initiatives in order to meet the long-term goals set out in Paris.

Given the breadth and complexity of the challenge, it is vital that the GST is informed by the whole range of actors across society. The UK therefore welcomes the participation of non-Party stakeholders in the Information Collection and Preparation and Technical Assessment phases of the GST to date and considers this should continue throughout the process, as well as the role of the High Level Champions in mobilising and supporting their efforts.

As Parties, we can learn from the progress made through international and multi-stakeholder initiatives since Paris. The GST mandate to be forward-looking means it must assess which solutions are replicable and scalable as well as identifying the gaps between current policies and targets. It should enable our Governments and other stakeholders to continue to drive transformation across the economy, increase our readiness to the impacts of climate change, and get finance flowing to the right places.

To that end, following the call for inputs made in decision 19/CMA.1 and reiterated at SB56, this submission outlines the UK's approach to and experience of climate solutions both domestically and in collaboration with other Parties and non-Party stakeholders. It explores the ways in which a focus on scientific evidence, robust governance, domestic mobilisation and efforts to increase international cooperation have led to results before and during the UK's COP26 Presidency. We hope that the practices and lessons outlined in this submission will be helpful to others in developing their own climate policies according to their circumstances.

Centred on science

It is a UK priority to ensure that science underpins every decision made on climate action domestically and internationally. The following are examples of how we have sought to develop the evidence base and enable the best available science to be utilised in decision making:

- Making efforts to **translate climate information into accessible forms** to ensure climate evidence is taken into account across the Government portfolio, including the domestic £5m 4-year Climate Services for a Net Zero resilient World (CS-N0W) programme.
- **Using expert input and citizen engagement to directly inform policy** and gain new insights on net-zero solutions, including their feasibility, public perception and prioritisation of benefits and trade-offs. The UK established the Global Science

Partnership for Net-Zero at COP26, which will run four pilots in Colombia, India, Kenya and Seychelles with the aim of developing a shareable methodology that can be replicated elsewhere.

- Supporting **science-based development policies** in developing countries by committing £100m of aid funding towards the Climate Adaptation and Resilience research programme.
- **Sharing knowledge** of weather and climate science to create improved services through the Newton Fund Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership, working with the UK Met Office and others alongside organisations in Brazil, China, India, South Africa and South-East Asia.
- **Recognising the importance of Indigenous knowledge** and Indigenous science and continuing to engage with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to benefit from enhanced understanding.
- Given the vital role that education plays in helping to tackle climate change, seeking to **provide children and young people with high-quality education and training** through improving teacher training and development in STEM and other key subjects, in line with the needs of the green economy. Education builds resilience, supports adaptation and helps to mitigate the climate and environment crisis by equipping young people with knowledge and skills for a changing world.

UK climate governance

The UK has developed robust legal frameworks to hold successive governments accountable for climate action and progress against long term mitigation and adaptation goals and policies, as set out below.

The UK takes a whole of society approach to climate policy, recognising that climate change is a complex issue that affects everyone and therefore requires the full and meaningful involvement of all actors to meet the Paris goals.

The **Climate Change Act (2008)** sits at the heart of the UK's climate governance for both mitigation and adaptation. It established the **Climate Change Committee (CCC)** – an independent statutory body to provide expert advice to the Government and Devolved Administrations on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The CCC reports to Parliament.

Mitigation

In 2019 the UK set a legally-binding target to reach **net zero GHG emissions by 2050**, the first G7 country to do so. This replaced a previous target to reach 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, as set by the Climate Change Act in 2008.

The same Climate Change Act introduced the **UK's Carbon Budgets**: we have a goal of capping emissions in successive five-year blocks. The carbon budgets currently set in

legislation (carbon budgets 1 to 6 covering the period between 2008 to 2037) are among the most stringent in the world.

The work of the CCC was vital in providing evidence-based independent advice ahead of each carbon budget and informing the net zero target.

As climate change policy is devolved, the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own statutory emissions reduction targets. Progress towards these targets also contributes to achievement of UK-wide targets. The UK takes a coordinated approach, working across local and national government, the Devolved Administrations, and with businesses and civil society organisations, recognising that working across all levels of government is essential to ensure consistent action and reduce emissions.

Last year we set the UK's sixth Carbon Budget into law for the period from 2033 to 2037, including international aviation and shipping, which will take the UK to 77% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2035, progressing our fair and inclusive transition to net zero by 2050.

The UK announced its **Nationally Determined Contribution** (NDC) in December 2020, which commits the UK to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030 on 1990 levels.

In response to Parties' commitment in the Glasgow Climate Pact to revisit and strengthen 2030 targets in NDCs as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal, the UK communicated its updated NDC for inclusion in the UNFCCC NDC synthesis report. The UK has strengthened its NDC with information on delivery of our target and by making the following updates in line with international best practice and the Paris Agreement rulebook:

- We have clarified how our target - which remains a commitment to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030 on 1990 levels - is compatible with the Paris Agreement temperature goal;
- We have explained more fully how we will deliver the NDC by 2030, taking account of policies and plans announced since the NDC was first submitted in December 2020;
- We have updated on progress made in expanding the territorial scope of the NDC to include the UK's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories;
- We have included more detail on the UK's approach to gender, green skills, public engagement, Just Transition and how the UK is supporting other countries with delivery of their NDCs.

The UK's **Net Zero Strategy**, published in October 2021, is a cross-economy strategy which keeps the UK on the path to net zero, including the action to meet carbon budgets and our 2030 NDC. This was submitted to the UNFCCC as the UK's second Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) under the Paris Agreement.

The policies and spending announced in the Net Zero Strategy mean that the UK has mobilised £26 billion of government capital investment for the UK's green industrial revolution since 2020. Together with the British Energy Security Strategy, it will leverage an unprecedented £100 billion of private investment by 2030. There will be an independent review of the government's approach to meeting its net zero target, reporting by the end of

2022. This will ensure the UK delivers on our legal net zero commitment, given the changes in the economic landscape.

Adaptation

The Climate Change Act also created the legal framework for climate change adaptation in the UK, establishing a statutory obligation to produce a **UK-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Programme** on a five-yearly basis.

The Act provides for an **Adaptation Reporting Power** for the UK government, to require public authorities and public and private companies that provide infrastructure and related services to report on how they have assessed climate change risks to their work.

In order to assess progress in adapting to climate change for England and issues that are reserved to the UK Government (as opposed to the Devolved Administrations), the Adaptation Committee (AC) of the CCC has since 2012 used an **evaluation method** based on a two-part framework, combining quantitative and qualitative information and evidence from multiple sources:

- Cross-sector Indicator framework: the Committee collects indicators to assess trends in risk factors: hazard, vulnerability and exposure. Indicators are also collected to assess trends in adaptation action and impacts.
- Decision-making analysis: the extent to which planning for climate change is taking place is assessed, including whether climate-sensitive plans and policies are adequately considering the risks and opportunities from climate change.

The framework is designed to assess whether risks identified in the latest Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) have been reduced. By considering both what is described in the current National Adaptation Programme and other activity underway the AC uses this framework to answer two questions: a) Is progress being made in managing risk? and b) Is there a good quality plan? The CCC publishes biennial progress reports which include a score out of nine for each adaptation priority area based on this assessment.

For the most recent 2021 cross-indicator set, the CCC identified both existing and potential indicators. The indicators were selected on the basis of their suitability to demonstrate a change over time (even if there is no current data available) and through applying a theory of change approach to assess the indicators' suitability.

This approach helps to expand and streamline existing data sources, ensuring that the use and interpretation of existing indicators is maximised before incurring the cost and effort of developing or sourcing new datasets.

Transparency and Reporting

The UK places high value on transparency and accountability to measure progress and inform improved policymaking. In August 2022, we submitted our 5th Biennial Report and 8th National Communication.

As part of efforts to ensure transparency, the UK seeks to **continuously improve** the quality of reporting. For example, in December 2019, the UK submitted its 4th Biennial Report. This

was reviewed by the UNFCCC Expert Review Team (ERT), which allowed the UK to strengthen its report and re-submit it in June 2021 with further examples on technological transfer activities, and clarification on Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories (CDOT) inventories addressed. The improvements identified through this review process continue to inform our reporting as we move through the reporting and review cycles.

We have also **proactively set out our domestic policies** in the UNFCCC context by publishing our Adaptation Communication and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy. The UK's Adaptation Communication under Article 7 paragraph 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement was submitted in December 2020, with an update published prior to COP26. The UK's Net Zero Strategy was submitted to the UNFCCC in April 2022 as the UK's Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy, setting out the UK's plan to reach net zero by 2050.

Domestic implementation

The UK is committed to accelerating climate action across the economy by incentivising sectoral transitions in an inclusive manner and creating an enabling environment for financial investment to flow towards our climate goals.

Low carbon transitions should be fair and affordable and not negatively impact disadvantaged groups. We are committed to monitoring the impacts of our climate and clean energy policies, and any disparities which arise, to assess the need for targeted support for disproportionately impacted groups, in line with the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan and domestic law. Public authorities must fulfil responsibilities set out under the UK's Equality Act (2010), which covers a range of protected characteristics. As a result, the UK's NDC and Adaptation Communication both feature gender equality and inclusivity.

Sectoral transitions

Energy

The UK Government has committed to a **2024 coal phase out** date and, as a founding member of the Clean Energy Transition Partnership, has implemented policy to end international fossil fuel financing. The **British Energy Security Strategy**, published in April 2022, sets out plans to reduce Britain's dependence on fossil fuels, including plans to stop importing Russian oil and coal by the end of 2022 and Liquefied Natural Gas as soon as possible thereafter, as well as plans to boost our diverse sources of home-grown energy for greater energy security in the long-term. The government has also unveiled a landmark commitment to decarbonise the UK's electricity system by 2035 subject to security of supply.

Home-grown energy includes new ambition for solar capacity to grow up to 70GW by 2035; up to 24GW of nuclear power by 2050 and increasing the pace of deployment of offshore wind by 25% to deliver up to 50GW by 2030, including up to 5GW of innovative floating wind technology.

The UK is also committed to implementing a just transition in the UK. Our Net Zero Strategy sets out a commitment to collaboration between government, industry and other

stakeholders to form a new **Green Jobs Delivery Group** to ensure that the UK has the skilled workforce needed to deliver a green industrial revolution. It will also look to explore what actions can be taken across industry to improve diversity in the green economy, including improving data collection and transparency.

The United Kingdom is a strong advocate for advancing gender equality and diversity in the energy sector. We are signatories to the Clean Energy Ministerial Initiative, Equality in Energy Transitions, and the Equal by 30 Campaign, to support work to close the pay gap, improve female representation in senior roles and widen opportunity for women in the global clean energy sector by 2030.

Nature and land use

The UK's **Environment Act**, passed in November 2021, focuses on driving nature's recovery and sets an ambition to restore nature and halt the decline in species abundance by 2030. The UK has also outlined plans to **reform our agricultural policy**, moving towards a system based on paying public money for public goods. These reforms to the way we grow our food and manage our land will help to deliver the promises set out in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

We have brought woodland cover back up to 13% of our land from 5% in 1924. We will treble **woodland creation** rates in order to meet the UK's target of increasing planting rates to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025, and maintain new planting at least at this level from 2025 onwards.

Ocean

The UK has established the **UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership** to further the evidence base on blue carbon habitats in UK waters, advancing our commitment to protect and restore blue carbon habitats as a nature-based solution.

38% of UK waters are already in Marine Protected Areas, covering the majority of saltmarsh and seagrass habitats. The UK has committed to designating a number of Highly Protected Marine Areas, including areas containing important habitats for long term carbon storage.

The UK Government is committed to helping the fishing industry reduce their adverse impact on the marine environment and adapt to climate change. The Climate Change Objective in the Fisheries Act ensures that consideration is taken of how fisheries management policy can mitigate against the effects of climate change, where appropriate, as well as adapting to any future impacts of climate change.

Transport

The UK is **phasing out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030** and, from 2035, ensuring that all new cars and vans must be zero emissions at the tailpipe. The Government has committed £2.5 billion since 2020 to support the transition to zero emission vehicles, with funding to offset their higher upfront cost, and to accelerate the rollout of chargepoint infrastructure. Medium and Heavy Goods Vehicles would be zero emission by 2040. We announced in the Net Zero Strategy that we will introduce a zero emission vehicle

mandate, setting targets for a percentage of manufacturers' new car and van sales to be zero emission each year from 2024.

The UK Government's ambition is to enable delivery of **10% sustainable aviation fuels by 2030** and we will be supporting UK industry with £180 million funding for sustainable aviation fuel demonstration plants. We are taking action to reduce emissions through the Jet Zero Council and a £125 million government investment in the Future Flight challenge.

On maritime, the UK has committed to support the establishment of **green shipping corridors** and will invest £206 million in research and development funding for the UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions to accelerate the sector's transition.

Breakthrough Agenda

The Breakthrough Agenda was launched at the COP26 World Leaders Summit Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment event. The UK has endorsed all five of the existing Breakthrough themes (steel, hydrogen, agriculture, road transport and power).

The next stage of the process is to agree priority projects based on the recommendations of the independent Breakthrough Agenda Report co-authored by the IEA, IRENA and the UNFCCC High Level Champions. UK domestic policy will be aligned with actions under the agenda and will help work towards making clean technology available, accessible and affordable to all.

Finance

The UK is committed to ambitious action to align our financial flows with low-carbon and climate resilient development. We recognise the financial system is critical to achieving our net zero goal, while also protecting the UK's natural environment. Since publishing the Green Finance Strategy (GFS) in 2019, the government has delivered on a number of commitments.

This includes 'greening finance', supporting the financial services sector to align with the UK's net zero commitment and wider environmental goals, where we have:

- Committed to implement a **UK Green Taxonomy** to set a robust standard for which investments count as green, by the end of 2022.
- Announced plans for legislation for economy-wide **Sustainability Disclosure Requirements (SDR)**, which will see businesses across the economy and investment products reporting consistent information on how they impact climate and the environment.
- And as standards for **transition plans** emerge, the UK Government and regulators will take steps to incorporate these into the Sustainability Disclosure Requirements and strengthen requirements to encourage consistency in published plans and increased adoption by 2023.

As well as 'financing green', to mobilise private finance at scale to support clean and resilient growth, where we have:

- Launched the UK Infrastructure Bank, with a £22 billion plan to support net zero and boost regional growth to make clean energy the largest sector for investment.
- Launched two UK Green Gilts, raising a total of £16 billion for green projects.

The UK will also publish an update to the **Green Finance Strategy** to set out a pathway to align the financial sector with net zero. Alongside the forthcoming **UK 2030 Strategic Framework on International Climate and Nature Action**, which will define the UK Government's vision for a long-term role on tackling the interlinked challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, of which finance plays a large role.

Gender Responsive Climate Policy

The impacts of climate change are disproportionately felt by women, as well as girls who are set to experience more extreme weather than previous generations. We recognise that gender mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement will make an important contribution to increasing their effectiveness, fairness and sustainability.

As part of our Net Zero Strategy, the UK committed to introduce inclusive climate policies, Action for Climate Empowerment and support for the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. The UK is also driving inclusive action by championing increased gender representation across international organisations.

International collaboration

The UK values and supports international collaboration and has made efforts to drive cooperation in order to deliver complex climate policy solutions and drive change at the scale required globally. This approach framed much of our approach to the COP26 Presidency. The following are examples and methods used across initiatives on inclusion, adaptation, mitigation, sectors and means of implementation.

Inclusion

The UK aims to support international efforts to tackle climate change and to ensure that the transition to net zero is fair and affordable and does not negatively impact disadvantaged and vulnerable groups – in particular women, young people, children, ethnic minorities, Indigenous groups and those with disabilities. As the COP26 Presidency, the UK Government has raised ambition from other countries to enhance gender-responsive and inclusive climate action in their national contexts, and to learn from and amplify the good practices of other countries and observer organizations.

The UK government has provided funding and support to widen participation in climate negotiations by funding the **Climate Ambition Support Alliance (CASA)**, which is an International Climate Finance programme that supports climate vulnerable countries advocating for strong climate ambition and enables them to attend negotiations well-prepared, drawing on appropriate evidence, and developing joint positions with other countries. These coalitions have, over the years, been instrumental in the negotiations.

CASA provides technical and practical support to developing country negotiating groups, so that they can participate effectively in international climate negotiations. As such, CASA has embedded inclusion into its programme design and delivery approach. The programme has successfully provided support and training to youth negotiators, as well as training for female negotiators and supporting the high-level representation of women in climate negotiations.

Adaptation

From April 2011 to March 2022, it is estimated that the UK's climate finance programmes have directly supported 95 million people to cope with the effects of climate change. Examples of UK programmes supporting people to cope with the effects of climate change are the 'Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme', 'African Risk Capacity', 'Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth in India', 'Adaptation for Smallholder Agricultural Programme', and 'Transboundary Water Management in Southern Africa'.

The number of people who have received direct support from UK International Climate Finance (ICF) interventions to equip them to cope with increased climate variability and shocks is **tracked as a key performance indicator**.

We used our COP26 Presidency to mobilise support for **locally-led approaches** to adaptation. Over \$450m was mobilised through the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR), Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA), Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) and the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance. **Regional programmes**, including the Climate Action for a Resilient Asia and the Africa Regional Climate and Nature programmes will receive up to £274m and £42m of new funding respectively.

Loss and Damage

The UK recognises that climate change is causing loss and damage to occur now and that these losses and damages are likely to increase. We made sure that COP26 drew attention to this fact, calling for more funds to address loss and damage and agreeing that the Santiago Network should receive and administer funding to ensure delivery of technical assistance.

We are clear that there is much to be done that can avert and minimise loss and damage through adaptation and early action and so responding to loss and damage is integral to both our development work and humanitarian response. We seek to ensure that our funding responds effectively to local needs, and is effective over the long term.

The UK spent £2.4 billion between 2016 and 2020 on adaptation and investments in areas needed to address losses and damages, including: £303 million on Humanitarian assistance directly linked to building resilience; £396 million on social protection; £196 million on financial protection and risk management.

The UK's International Development Strategy, published in May 2022, reiterated our commitment to doubling our ICF to £11.6bn over the period 2021/22 to 2025/26, with a balance between mitigation and adaptation, and additional immediate response to loss and damage through humanitarian funding.

Mitigation

The UK is a core funder and, alongside Jamaica, 2021-2022 co-chair of the **Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership** (NDC Partnership). The UK has committed £27m to the NDC Partnership from 2019 to 2025, supporting developing country members to turn Nationally Determined Contributions from stand-alone documents into national policies and plans.

As part of this funding the UK has supported the Climate Action Enhancement Package, which supported over 60 countries to update their NDCs in advance of COP26, and the Economic Advisory Initiative, which was launched in response to Covid-19 to support governments in preparing climate compatible recovery packages by **embedding economic advisors into ministries of finance and/or planning**.

Sectoral transitions

The UK COP26 Presidency launched and supported a broad range of sectoral initiatives at COP26 that support global climate ambition, by ensuring country targets are turned into real world action in an inclusive way. The UK is now working to continue global collaboration through these initiatives, as well as to implement the commitments made at COP26.

Breakthrough Agenda

The UK established the **Breakthrough Agenda** in Glasgow at COP26, as a commitment from countries to work together internationally this decade to accelerate the development and deployment of the clean technologies needed to meet our Paris climate goals, ensuring they are affordable and accessible for all. This year the UK has been **developing a blueprint of how to enhance international collaboration** across five key sectors (hydrogen, steel, power, road transport and agriculture), informed by the authoritative and independent Breakthrough Agenda Report, co-authored by the IEA, IRENA and the High Level Champions. We have worked closely with endorsers of the Breakthrough Agenda to identify ways to enhance international collaboration. These will be set out at COP27 through the identification of a series of priority projects in each sector.

Energy

The COP26 Presidency focused on accelerating the shift to clean energy globally by encouraging countries and parties to set clear coal power phase out dates through the **Powering Past Coal Alliance** (167 members, co-chaired with Canada), the **No New Coal Power Compact** and to commit to work together to make clean power the most affordable and accessible option globally through the **Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement** (45 country signatories). Additionally, 39 signatories committed to **end international public support for fossil fuels** by the end of 2022.

On clean energy deployment, emerging economies joined the **Energy Transition Council** to raise ambition and receive technical support on their clean energy transition, and the UK-India led **Green Grids Initiative – One World One Sun One Grid** was launched to accelerate the development of grids as a critical enabler for renewable energy deployment.

The UK authored **International Just Transition Declaration** was signed by over 30 donor countries, covering a huge proportion of global international public financing, the first ever declaration to support the conditions for a just transition internationally to create green jobs that recognise and promote the inclusion of all, such as: Indigenous Peoples, gender and disability inclusion, intergenerational equity, young people and workforce in carbon-intensive industries.

We support others enhancing gender-responsive climate action in their national contexts and encourage countries to engage with initiatives that promote this action. This could include the Equality in Energy Transitions initiative and the Equal by 30 Campaign.

The energy crisis and Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the reliance on fossil fuels and underlined the volatility and vulnerability of fossil fuel markets. We are advocating for a further shift to clean energy, including increased solar, wind deployment and greater energy efficiency as key to climate and energy security, and long-term prosperity. At COP27, we aim to showcase the opportunities and solutions for accelerating the clean energy transition, and what a 1.5 pathway looks like for regions with access-to-energy challenges, particularly across the African continent. The UK will also continue to support the US and the EU on their leadership of the **Global Methane Pledge**.

Nature and land use

COP26 delivered a highly significant package of policy initiatives and announcements on forests and land-use, with 91% of the world's forests covered by a pledge from 145 countries to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 in the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use** (GLD). If implemented, this would deliver 10% of the emissions reduction needed by 2030 in order to meet net zero by 2050.

The GLD is underpinned by a number of additional commitments which will support its implementation across international trade, and public and private finance. \$19.2 billion of public and private funds were committed to forest and land use, including \$12 billion of public funds through the Global Forest Finance Pledge and \$7.2 billion of private investment and philanthropy. These commitments demonstrate how action on forests and land-use can contribute to keeping the 1.5 temperature goal in sight, to supporting sustainable livelihoods, and to meeting shared promises on adaptation and finance. Now we are focusing on turning this ambition into action, by maintaining political momentum and continuing to bring high-ambition countries together to focus on working together to deliver these ambitious targets.

Ocean

We used the focus on nature at COP26 to call for ambitious action to protect and restore ocean health and resilience, including by championing a target to **protect at least 30 percent of the global ocean by 2030** as leaders of the Global Ocean Alliance. Under our Presidency, COP26 also agreed to a new annual UNFCCC dialogue on climate and the ocean, a commitment to invite the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to strengthen and integrate ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans.

We are actively engaged with international partnerships including the Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon (GO-BC). GO-BC is a partnership under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development which seeks to establish a robust evidence base to further global thinking on blue carbon habitats.

The UK supported and funded the formation of the North East Atlantic Ocean Acidification (NEA-OA) Hub in the UK as part of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON). In June 2022, the UK joined the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance).

The UK is a member of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance and the International Partnership for Marine Protected Areas for Biodiversity and Climate.

The UK's finance for nature leadership includes delivery of our £500m **Blue Planet Fund** programme, which supports developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty.

Transport

At COP26, over 100 signatories including Ford, GM, and 13 US states and cities to the **ZEV Declaration**, committed to rapidly accelerate the transition to zero emission vehicles to 100% new cars sales to be zero emission vehicles by 2040 globally, and by 2035 in leading markets.

We now have over 190 signatories to the declaration but we must go further and faster to support the global transition. At New York Climate Week, we announced our intention to launch the **Accelerating to Zero Coalition** to build on the ZEV Declaration. The A2Z Coalition will bring together all the leading actors committed to a Paris-aligned ZEV transition (governments at national, sub-national and city-level, businesses, investors, and organisations) to:

- Expand the membership of actors committed to all sales of new cars and vans being zero emission globally by 2040, and 2035 in leading markets, in order to generate an unequivocal signal across all markets;
- Support existing members to deliver on their commitments by nurturing and drawing on an International Community of Best Practice; and
- Provide a mechanism to continuously coordinate and align all leading demand and supply-side initiatives.

Finance

Major steps are still needed to ensure the whole global financial system is aligned with the ambition of Paris and delivering low emission and climate resilient development. The Global Stocktake can help maintain momentum towards this realignment and evaluate progress against meeting Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement, whilst also encouraging the continued scaling up and effective use of the various instruments at play, including through cooperation internationally and with the private sector. With this vision in mind, the UK has several priority areas of action:

Scaling up public support where it is most needed

- **In our International Development Strategy, published in May 2022, we reiterated our commitment to doubling our provision of International Climate Finance (ICF) contribution to £11.6bn** between 2021/22 and 2025/26, ensuring a balanced split between mitigation and adaptation finance. A major focus of our ICF programming will be on accelerating the clean energy transition in developing countries and at least £3bn of our ICF between 2021-26 will be invested in climate change and poverty reduction solutions that protect, restore and sustainably manage nature.
- **Continuing to support an effective global climate finance architecture.** The UK is one of the largest contributors to the major multilateral climate funds, with £724m provided over 2019 and 2020. We will use our voice in the funds to champion transformational change, increase effectiveness at mobilisation of private finance, and deliver support for adaptation in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

Mobilising the global financial system and enhancing the role of the private sector

- **Working with investors**, including **Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)**, to identify and scale up private investment opportunities in emerging markets and developing countries.
- Supporting efforts to build a **financial architecture** equipped to mobilise investment and ensure that support is flowing to developing countries. New partnerships such as the **Just Energy Transition Partnerships** and the **Climate Finance Leadership Initiative**, where the UK plays a leading role, are an important step in supporting developing countries to realise ambitious plans for energy transition.
- Supporting the operationalisation of the **Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)** and the **International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)**, ensuring the Taskforce on **Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)** is embedded in ISSB. We have supported the TNFD Secretariat through funding and pilot projects to ensure it can be applied internationally (e.g. ASEAN project).
- Delivering on our commitment to ensure all our **ODA expenditure** is aligned with the Paris Agreement and nature positive. Alongside **committing to end new direct public support for the international unabated fossil fuel energy sector** by the end of 2022, except in limited and clearly defined circumstances.
- Championing the **Voluntary Carbon Markets Initiative (VCMI)** and the **Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM)**. This will help to ensure that private capital from companies flows in a transparent way to further emissions reduction and removal projects in developing countries. VCMI's work on credible use of voluntary carbon markets, and IC-VCM's work on credit quality can provide the building blocks for scaled, high integrity voluntary carbon markets.

Responding to challenges faced by the most vulnerable

- Driving policy and programming reform to the multilateral architecture, improving access to climate finance for developing countries and local communities through our

work on the **Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance**. We are also a member of the **Champions Group on Adaptation Finance**.

- Improving debt practices by supporting the implementation of the **G20-Paris Club Common Framework for Debt Treatment** to tackle debt vulnerabilities. We will promote greater debt transparency and sustainability among borrowers and creditors, working with and through the International Financial Institutions. We will drive the uptake of **climate resilient debt instruments** (CDRCs), which automatically defer debt repayments in response to climate shocks or disasters.
- **Embedding principles of inclusivity in finance**. We will strengthen socially and disability-inclusive climate action within the UK's ICF portfolio, and increase the proportion of our ICF that has gender equality as a principle or significant objective (as defined by the OECD Dac Gender Equality Policy Marker).
- Developing a framework that aims to **guide investment towards a global net zero transition that also supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals**. This will indicate how support for developing countries and emerging economies can accelerate climate ambition in an inclusive way. This is the first time donor countries will have set out how they will support this transition, including through financial flows for quality local jobs in the most vulnerable communities.

Capacity building

The **COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action**, a UK Presidency convened framework, brought together key stakeholders on capacity building to discuss implementing the Paris Agreement and to catalyse action in four key thematic areas: (i) access to finance; (ii) transparency and reporting; (iii) adaptation communications; and (iv) participation in carbon markets. These themes reflect the most significant challenges in relation to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and wider climate action, identified through broad stakeholder consultation at the start of the initiative. Since the launch, detailed recommendations on the areas have been published.

The UK is continuing to work directly with partner governments to understand the support they require to enhance and implement their NDCs. Through the **2050 Calculator** the UK is responding to demand from countries to develop and communicate low-carbon development plans.

The **Climate Finance Accelerator** brings project developers, private investors and policy makers together to improve the financial structuring of sustainable infrastructure projects, and identify policy and regulatory interventions to lead to a transformational mobilisation of finance into key low-carbon sectors.

Technology

The UK values the Technology Mechanism under the UNFCCC and its role in supporting country efforts to accelerate and enhance climate action. To support the operation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the delivery of technical assistance to help

countries effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, the UK has:

- Provided a £1m voluntary contribution to the Climate Technology Centre and Network in 2021; and
- Co-convened a donor roundtable at COP26 in Glasgow with the COP25 Chilean Presidency to encourage further pledges of support for the CTCN.

Conclusion

The first Global Stocktake we are undertaking will inform the course of global climate action in the immediate term, in the next ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement - including NDCs to be announced in 2025 - and beyond. A meaningful outcome will depend on our collective ability to learn from each other to test, improve and deploy solutions that can be shared while being implemented in a way that is adapted to the relevant context.

In view of that objective, we hope that the approaches outlined in this submission are a helpful contribution to the discussion. The UK has found that a focus on evidence, strong governance, international collaboration and on the inclusion of all parts of society has helped us to build momentum and chart a journey that accelerates climate policy towards delivering on the Glasgow Climate Pact and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, while considering the economic system as a whole and upholding the needs of the most vulnerable.