

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

COP 26: UK pledges over £55m to partner with Pakistan to fight climate change, manage water more sustainably and unlock climate investment

British High Commission Islamabad (Nov. 4, 2021)

The UK has announced more than £55m of support to help Pakistan tackle climate change as part of the COP26 global climate change summit this week.

As global leaders come together for COP26, this is a critical time for Pakistan. It has been ranked the 8th most vulnerable country to climate change, and by 2100, rising temperatures mean 36% of glaciers along the Hindu Kush & Himalayan range will be gone.

The UK has already achieved notable successes. 90% of the world's economy is now covered by net zero targets, up from less than 30% when the UK took on the Presidency of COP26. This will help the most vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

The new funding for climate change in Pakistan is split into three parts:

- A 5-year climate resilience programme - worth £38 million - will help Pakistan's poorest communities to protect themselves from the changing climate;
- *A 5-year water governance programme - worth £15 million – will make water use in Pakistan more sustainable and water access fairer;
- *An additional £2.5 million to support new ways of attracting much needed climate investment to Pakistan, including on the development of a Nature Performance Bond. On World Environment Day in June alongside Prime Minister Imran Khan the UK committed to this. The British High Commissioner was due to announce the urgently needed new programmes at a high-level reception for climate change stakeholders at the British High Commission in Islamabad this evening (November 4th).

Dr Christian Turner CMG said: “For Pakistan, climate change could be catastrophic. That is why we are working together on trees and finance, and mobilising leading Pakistani businesses. This £55m new funding will ensure Pakistan becomes more resilient to climate impacts, with more sustainable water use and greater access to climate finance, so improving lives and livelihoods.

On COP26, the UK has been working with Pakistan on:

- A #26For26 campaign to have 26 Pakistani companies commit to halving emissions by 2030 and getting to net zero by 2050. 29 companies have so far signed up;
- Pakistan successfully joining more than 100 countries to pledge to end and reverse deforestation by 2030.

Even before COP26, the UK had been working closely with Pakistan on climate change, and will provide £7m this year to help the country achieve its climate change objectives. Earlier this year the UK launched a new

programme in Lahore to promote cleaner brick production practices which will help improve air quality, reduce smog and fight climate change.

Notes to editors:

1. COP26 is the largest international event of its kind ever to be held in the UK with more than 25,000 delegates arriving in the city of Glasgow, including world leaders, opinion formers and top businesses. It will work to prevent global temperatures rising above 1.5C and protect our planet and people from the impacts of climate change.
2. On World Environment Day, at an event hosted by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the UK, alongside other countries agreed to start a dialogue with Pakistan on the development of a Nature Performance Bond. Today's announcement is a follow up to this dialogue. Funds to attract climate investment will help structure financing instruments and investment deals, and will include the next stage of work to develop a Nature Performance Bond structure for donors and investors to consider
3. As hosts of COP26 (co-hosted with Italy), the UK has been driving international action and support to adapt to the effects of climate change, which are already impacting lives, livelihoods and natural habitats across the world. Thirty five countries have joined the Adaptation Action Coalition, and over 2,000 businesses, investors, regions, cities and other non-state actors have joined the Race to Resilience. Over 40 countries and organisations have joined the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership, committing to make 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.
4. Climate finance will be key at COP26. To support the transition to net zero, climate resilient economies, getting public and private finance flowing is crucial, especially to emerging markets and developing economies. Under the UK's COP26 & G7 Presidencies, we have seen clear moves towards this goal. G7 countries have committed new finance towards the \$100bn in climate finance goal, including more funding for adaptation.

British High Commission Islamabad. 2021. "COP 26: UK pledges over £55m to partner with Pakistan to fight climate change, manage water more sustainably and unlock climate investment."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cop-26-uk-pledges-over-55m-to-partner-with-pakistan-to-fight-climate-change-manage-water-more-sustainably-and-unlock-climate-investment> (accessed on November 13, 2021).