

Green Party responds to conclusion of COP29

Reacting to the conclusion of COP29, Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay MP said:

“This COP has tested the patience of everyone who wants to see the devastating climate crisis tackled.

“The final agreement is simply not good enough for the world’s poorest nations with too little money to deal with devastating impact of climate change, and the oil and gas lobby has succeeded in weakening the commitment made at the last COP to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels.

“Yet, COP is still the one international forum in which those who are today bearing the major, immediate burdens of the human-made climate catastrophe become visible and heard.

“It is the one forum that offers the chance to bring nations together to act and move away from the fossil fuel economies that are destroying our planet and making life intolerable for millions in the global South.

“That is worth protecting and building on.

“We are half-way through a critical decade for action, and the devastation wrought through more floods, drought and wildfires is now obvious.

“The moral and scientific case for doing everything possible to meet the demands of the Paris climate agreement becomes stronger as the damage caused by every 0.1 degree rise becomes ever clearer.

“Now is the time for action. That means turning the limited financial pledges agreed at COP, which already fall far below the demands of the global South, into hard cash.

“That money – in the form of grants, not loans – needs to be available right now for adaptation and mitigation, alongside funding to cover the loss and damage already experienced by the poorest countries.

“The climate finance to fund the transition to a global green economy only makes sense if we move away from fossil fuels. Here, that means the Labour government ruling out the Rosebank development in the North Sea.

“Prime Minister Keir Starmer has shown commitment to the COP process by being one of the few leaders of richer countries to attend.

“Now, he needs to build on that foundation and take an international lead in defending the gains made through previous COPs in the face of what will be a relentless attack by fossil fuel companies backed by a climate denier in the White House from January next year.

“He must also take seriously the need to make the UK more resilient to changes in the climate that are already affecting us here.

“Climate action today is about creating a world tomorrow in which can meet people’s basic needs and enable people and nature to thrive.

“The UK government should back the call from international leaders (1) for a reformed COP process in which the powerful fossil fuel lobby is excluded.

“The fossil fuel lobby has the self-interest to block the immediate action the people and planet need. They cannot be allowed to succeed.

“COP must become the forum that holds governments to account and pushes forward change, including supporting countries to adapt to the impacts of the crisis already being felt.

“A COP that excludes the fossil fuel companies and their lobbying arms while supporting representatives of countries and indigenous peoples most impacted by climate change can transform all our futures.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. <https://www.clubofrome.org/cop-reform-2024/>

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