

COP26 President to attend the G20 Climate and Environment Ministerial in Indonesia

Press release

Alok Sharma will attend the G20 Environment Ministerial in Bali, Indonesia



- The COP26 President will lead the UK delegation at the G20 Climate and Environment Ministerial in Bali
- Mr Sharma will continue to urge G20 countries to honour their commitments and revisit their 2030 emission reduction targets this year
- He will also meet key Indonesian ministers as the UK Presidency continues to progress implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact

COP26 President Alok Sharma will travel to Bali from 30 August-1 September to lead the UK delegation attending the G20. The visit is a critical opportunity to engage with G20 Climate Ministers to maintain momentum and drive action on climate, environment and biodiversity ahead of COP27.

He will use the climate sessions to lobby G20 countries to move faster to limit global temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees. The COP26 President will push for climate action through emission reductions this decade, noting that accelerating energy transitions and building net zero green sectors is crucial to long-term economic security and sustainable development.

Mr Sharma will continue to reiterate that current global crises relating to Vladimir Putin's illegal, unprovoked and barbaric invasion of Ukraine and rises in the cost of living should increase G20 countries' determination to accelerate the shift to renewables and deliver on the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Alok Sharma, COP26 President said:

The current energy crisis has demonstrated the vulnerability of countries relying on fossil fuels controlled by hostile actors.

If Countries don't want the risk of being held to ransom they should do all they can to achieve domestic energy security as fast as possible.

Climate security has become synonymous with energy security and the chronic threat of climate change is not going away.

He added: "Some Countries have already come forward with great ambition but the science clearly shows our window to act is closing rapidly. Now is the time for the G20 to step up and deliver on the commitments made in the Glasgow Climate Pact."

The COP President will also meet with Indonesian Ministers to welcome the country's ongoing work to enhance its climate ambitions, encourage them to submit a 1.5C aligned Nationally Determined Contribution as soon as possible, and to place climate action and energy transition as a central aspect of their G20 Presidency.

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[Philippine 2050 Pathway Calculator – Expression of Interest](#)

The UK government is supporting the Philippine government through the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop its own version of the 2050 Pathway Calculator (2050 Calculator) with Mott MacDonald as the delivery partner.

The 2050 Calculator will be used as a tool to engage experts, policy makers, senior officials, politicians, and the public on how the Philippine energy sector's GHG emissions could be reduced over time and on the benefits, costs, and trade-offs of different scenarios/possible pathways. It will bring real scientific evidence into the debate around energy issues and, in turn, will inform decision-making.

With its own version of this transparent, interactive tool of energy and emissions model, the DOE will improve its long-term energy strategies and ultimately, the assessment of mitigation actions and targets through increased engagement of senior officials, politicians, experts, academics, and the general public in determining different feasible and credible low-carbon and net zero pathways.

The local consultants fulfilling the following requirements may apply:

- At least 15 years' experience in climate change-related work; with specific expertise in energy and climate mitigation work in the

Philippines

- In-depth technical work on NDC development process and leading the delivery of database and modelling outputs
- Proven experience in leading the project coordination involving international organizations, cross national government agencies and wider range of stakeholders

Applicants who fulfil the required qualifications can send email to the Delegated Procurement Officer Wolansa.Deneke@fcdo.gov.uk copying Rexor.Amancio@fcdo.gov.uk, Jacqueline.MielSoliguin@fcdo.gov.uk, and Josephine.Orense@fcdo.gov.uk to express interest from 29 August – 2 September.

Shortlisted candidates will be able to access the full “Invitation to tender” pack which includes, 9 A. ITT Covering Letter, 9 B. ITT Instruction, 9 C. Terms of Reference and 9 D. ITT Volume 3 Commercial Proforma.

The British Embassy in Manila will follow a two-stage contracting process for this particular exercise. That is short-listing the Expressions of Interest based on the above criteria and then assessment of Technical and Commercial bids based on the pre-established Technical, Value for Money and Commercial assessment criteria, which will be obtained from the full ITT pack.

Separate Technical and Commercial bids should be sent electronically to Wolansa.Deneke@fcdo.gov.uk copying Rexor.Amancio@fcdo.gov.uk, Jacqueline.MielSoliguin@fcdo.gov.uk, and Josephine.Orense@fcdo.gov.uk.

British Embassy Manila reserves the right not to award any contract.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on 14 September 2022. Late applications will not be considered.

[UK calls for the end of cluster munitions use around the world](#)

Actor and UN Ambassador Daniel Craig and FCDO Minister Graham Stuart MP will today call for the end of cluster munition use around the world at an international conference chaired by the UK.

Cluster bombs continue to kill and maim civilians in conflicts around the world, including Syria, Libya and Ukraine, often leaving their victims with life-changing injuries. Unexploded munitions continue to threaten the lives of civilians for years afterwards, hampering post-conflict reconstruction and development.

The UK currently holds the Presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, an international agreement ratified by 110 countries to end the use of these devastating weapons. This conference will bring together the international community and civil society organisations to work together to rid the world of these weapons, educate communities on the dangers associated with their use and support survivors and their families.

Alongside the Minister, Daniel Craig will open the conference with a video message in his capacity as the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards.

Daniel Craig will say:

Civilians all too often pay the price when these brutal weapons are used. In my work with the United Nations Mine Action Service, I have seen how long after conflicts, damage caused by cluster munitions persists.

Unbelievably we are still seeing use of cluster munitions today, most recently in Ukraine.

Countries that still use and produce cluster munitions need to stop doing so, they are barbaric weapons used mainly on civilian populations to spread fear and anxiety. It is up to us to do the hard work, to do what we can to support each other and help civilians recover from the devastating impact of these weapons.

Graham Stuart, FCO Minister responsible for Counter-Proliferation, is expected to say:

Too many innocent civilians have lost their lives to these weapons of war. Under our Presidency, the UK has driven forward work to eliminate them altogether.

Every step taken under this Convention, makes the world a safer place – but too many states still refuse to give up cluster munitions. We will continue to speak out against these murderous weapons – as we did in March when we condemned their use in the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine.

We did so on behalf of the parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Since the Convention was founded 14 years ago, 110 State Parties have ratified it, 13 States have signed up to its objectives but not yet ratified, and 35 states have cleared their stockpiles of cluster munitions.

The UK is a leading supporter of mine action, and continues to invest heavily in clearance of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and other explosive remnants of war around the world. In June 2022, the UK announced a budget of

up to £100million for the third phase of its Global Mine Action Programme tackling the lethal legacy of these weapons.

On top of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the human rights situation is stark

Thank you President. Let me thank USG Griffiths, DSRSG Potzel and Dr Morgan Edwards for their briefings.

Let me start by offering condolences to Pakistan following the devastating flooding in their country this week. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families. As my Minister Lord Ahmad has said, we are working with the Pakistani authorities to establish the support and assistance they need. The United Kingdom stands with the people of Pakistan at this time of need.

President, Russia has called for this meeting one year after the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan. As we reflect on that anniversary, we should also recall the Soviet Union's ten year occupation of Afghanistan from 1979 until 1989 that created the conditions for devastating civil war and the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s.

Today, it is clear that the situation in Afghanistan remains critical and the needs of the Afghan people acute.

As we have heard, over 24 million Afghans are in need of humanitarian support and nearly 20 million are facing acute food insecurity. Economic stability and the delivery of basic services are essential to end the cycle of suffering in Afghanistan. There remains a vital need to inject liquidity into the country to avoid economic collapse.

While UK personnel have left Afghanistan, our commitment to the Afghan people remains resolute.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 the UK has committed \$676 million in aid to Afghanistan and our Foreign Secretary co-hosted the UN humanitarian pledging conference earlier this year, raising \$2.4 billion.

By contrast, Russia contributed nothing to the UN Humanitarian Response Plan, and China pledged \$2m.

On top of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the human rights situation is stark. There are credible allegations of extra-judicial killings and detentions and disappearances, including civil society activists and former security forces and government officials.

The last few months have also seen the imposition of deplorable restrictions on the rights and freedoms of women and girls, including on access to education, jobs and services and on their freedom of movement and dress. It is clear to all but the Taliban that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in society is a pre-requisite for a stable, prosperous Afghanistan.

The Taliban have also been repeating other mistakes from the past – not least the harbouring of the leader of Al Qaida, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in downtown Kabul in breach of their international commitments.

We again call on the Taliban to meet its commitments:

- To ensure principled, unhindered humanitarian access across the country
- To uphold basic human rights, most pressingly for women and girls.
- And to ensure Afghanistan is never again a permissive environment for terrorist groups.

Strong and consistent UN leadership remains crucial to ensuring a well-coordinated and prioritised response and UNAMA has our full support in delivering its mandate provided by this Council.

President,

One year ago, this Council adopted resolution 2593 which set out our shared expectations of the Taliban. We hope the Council can continue to speak with one voice to press the Taliban on its commitments, and to support the Afghan people in overcoming the challenges ahead. We thank the UN for their ongoing and tireless efforts.

Our commitment to championing civil society participation at the UN

Thank you Madam Vice Chair,

Let me begin by echoing the concerns raised by the representative of Estonia on the impact of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine on civil society and NGOs.

As we begin our work this session, we recall the importance of this Committee. This Committee exists because we recognise that civil society is essential to our work at the UN. Their engagement enriches the evidence base at our disposal, making our meetings more effective and more substantial. In turn, this helps ensure that what we do here has an impact on the ground.

For these reasons, the UK is committed to championing civil society

participation at the UN. Regrettably, we do this in the face of opposition, with a small group of Member States opposing civil society engagement with the UN, seeking to stifle their voices, afraid of the scrutiny that civil society provides.

Those states deliberately bring inertia to this Committee. Dozens of NGOs have been deferred for eight or more Committee sessions. The politicisation of this Committee is another example of the worrying increase in reprisals against organisations who seek to engage with the UN.

We were therefore pleased to see that, during this year's regular session, some Member States brought the arbitrary deferral of NGOs to a vote in the Committee, as has happened on several previous occasions. Those NGOs put forward to the vote, were ones that had been consistently deferred for years despite responding satisfactorily to Committee questions. We were disappointed that the vote was blocked in the committee by a no-action motion, but we were happy to co-sponsor the decision at ECOSOC, the Committee's parent body, where it was adopted by a wide margin.

We look forward to joining the Committee in January. As we have set out previously, we plan to use our membership to work with others to improve the working methods, promoting transparency to reduce arbitrary deferrals.

This Committee's role is to facilitate NGO access, not impede it. During this resumed session, in order to fulfil our collective commitment to inclusive multilateralism, we urge Committee Members to address the backlog of deferred applications fairly and transparently, and to promote a safe and welcoming space for civil society participation at the UN.

Thank you.