

Alok Sharma delivers keynote speech at Global Witness 'Time for a Climate Revolution' event

Greetings to you all. It is a pleasure to join you today. And thank you to Global Witness for organising this event.

Friends, the window we have to avoid the worst effects of climate change is closing, and it is closing fast.

In 2015, the countries of the world signed the Paris Agreement, an international deal to tackle the climate crisis.

And in that Agreement they committed to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees, aiming for 1.5 degrees.

Because the science says this would avoid the worst effects of climate change.

And yet, since the Paris Agreement was signed, the world has not done nearly enough.

And now, to keep 1.5 degrees within reach we must halve global emissions by 2030.

And that means taking action now. To launch a consistent and concerted effort to reduce emissions throughout the next ten years.

And it means making the next United Nations climate conference, COP26, the moment that every country, and every part of society, embraces their responsibility, to protect our precious planet.

To achieve this, the UK's COP26 presidency is pushing for action around four goals.

Firstly, to put the world on a path to driving down emissions, until they reach net zero by the middle of this century.

This is absolutely vital to keeping the 1.5 degree target within reach.

And we are asking all countries to set targets to get us to net zero by the middle of the century, and to come forward with 2030 emissions reduction targets to take us there.

And we are asking companies, and investors, and cities, regions and others to make similar commitments.

We are also pushing for action in vital areas like power generation, like clean transport and halting deforestation.

Where progress is absolutely essential to keeping 1.5 degrees alive.

We are co-hosting the Forest Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue, with Indonesia, to protect forests and help farmers make a better living.

And we are working to end international coal financing, and urging countries to abandon coal power, and at the same time working with developing countries to support their transition to clean energy, including through our COP26 Energy Transition Council, which aims to make clean power the best option for all and support a just transition.

Our second goal is to protect people and nature from the impact of climate change.

Our climate is already changing, and it will continue to do so, even as we reduce emissions.

Having been born in India, and having spent time as UK International Development Secretary, I am committed that this COP will deliver for the communities most vulnerable to climate change.

So we are working to encourage action to protect people and nature, to increase support, and to ensure that funds are available for this important work.

And this brings me on to our third goal, finance.

Frankly, without adequate finance, the task ahead is near impossible.

So we are working to get funds flowing to climate action.

It is vital that donor countries mobilise the \$100 billions a year they have promised, to help developing countries respond to the climate crisis.

This is, quite simply, a matter of trust.

And it is central to the UK's COP26 Presidency, and our presidency of the G7.

Our fourth goal is working together, building consensus among governments, so the negotiations in Glasgow are a success.

We are also encouraging cooperation across borders and across society to keep the 1.5 degree target in reach, including by bringing businesses, civil society, young people, faith communities and Indigenous Peoples on board, behind our COP26 goals.

Because, as Global Witness has said in organising this event, we recognise that tackling the climate crisis relies on everyone playing their part.

Civil society, for example, can raise awareness, build support for strong government policy, and hold leaders to account, creating the conditions for ambitious climate action.

And it can help to represent the voices of communities, something the UK

COP26 presidency values very very highly.

Because we are committed to an inclusive COP26 where all voices are heard.

And that includes the voices of developing countries, of women, of young people and Indigenous Peoples.

Historically marginalised communities are some of the most impacted by climate change, but they also hold some of the most effective solutions to tackling it.

For example, as stewards of 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples hold unique and precious knowledge.

So, we are amplifying the voices of civil society and historically marginalised groups, and bringing them into the heart of COP26.

We are hosting regional dialogues with Indigenous leaders to highlight their leadership on nature based solutions.

I have committed to meet personally with youth and civil society climate activists in every country that I visit.

The UK's COP26 Presidency has established the Civil Society and Youth Advisory Council to help shape the Summit.

And we are supporting a mentoring initiative to help women from a diverse range of backgrounds participate in climate negotiations.

Businesses will also be involved in COP26. But only if they can demonstrate a real commitment to climate action.

We have been clear that all companies applying for a place in the UK Government managed spaces at COP26 must have joined the Race to Zero Campaign or set Science Based Targets.

That means they have committed to concrete plans to reduce emissions.

Plans based on the science, that align with the Paris Agreement, and that have been independently assessed.

Because there is no room for greenwashing at COP26.

Yet, to succeed, we need every part of society on board.

Because if we all play our part, we can make the goals of the Paris Agreement a reality.

And we can make COP26 the moment we put the world on a path to keep 1.5 degrees alive and deliver for those on the front line of climate change.

But we need your help.

So, please, advocate action, show us solutions and build public support.

So that when we meet in Glasgow, the conditions are set, to build a cleaner, brighter future for us all.

Thank you.

[Statement by Nicholas Woolley on the passing of His Excellency Dr Kenneth Kaunda](#)

World news story

Statement by the British High Commissioner to the Republic of Zambia on the passing of His Excellency Dr Kenneth Kaunda, First President of the Republic of Zambia.



UK Government

I am greatly saddened to learn of the passing today of former President, His Excellency Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

Dr Kaunda will forever be remembered for:

- his service to the people of Zambia
- his role as the Founding Father of his nation
- his regional leadership in maintaining Zambia as a bastion against apartheid
- his mantra, 'One Zambia, One Nation'

He has earned his place in history many times over.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Dr Kaunda's family and to all Zambians at this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Published 18 June 2021

[UK-Nigeria Tech Hub Innovative Teachers Fellowship](#)

Part of DCMS' [International Tech Hub Network](#).

Overview

Challenge

Lack of digitally skilled teachers in the Nigerian education sector

Solution

Impact

- 261 teachers received training and mentoring from education experts
- Education sector supported through digitally upskilling teachers across 6 political zones in Nigeria

Background

COVID-19 has affected educational systems worldwide, with 191 countries implementing nationwide closures of schools (UNESCO monitoring, April 2020), impacting 98% of the world's student population. This has also been the case in Nigeria since March 2020, resulting in a spike in demand for digital tools for education. To rise to this challenge, the UK-Nigeria Tech Hub partnered with the [Co-Creation Hub](#) (Cchub), a social innovation centre dedicated to accelerating application of social capital and tech for economic prosperity in Nigeria, to design and launch an intervention programme aimed at supporting innovation in the education sector.

Programme

The Innovative Teachers Fellowship was designed to upskill teachers in Nigeria to leverage technology for the creation and development of learning content for their students, with particular emphasis on the use of digital tools to support virtual learning. Applications opened in October 2020, with 742 received – of these, 300 were shortlisted based on their statement of intent, subject and class taught. Preference was given to teachers from educationally less developed states (ELDS). Of these, 261 teachers joined the training programme.

The 6 week capacity building programme was delivered November through December 2020, and made use of various digital tools in its delivery. Training sessions focused on inquiry-based methodology for teaching and learning, digital platforms to support learning, and online safety amongst other topics. The programme also featured industry immersion sessions which offered participant teachers a holistic learning experience by exposing them to real-life applications of the concepts being taught, and enabling them to engage with edtech solutions.

The teachers enjoyed a graduation ceremony at which Valedictorians were announced, and all participants received certificates of participation by the Tai Solarin University in Nigeria.

The knowledge I've gained on the use of digital learning tools has improved my capacity as a teacher in delivering my lessons to meet global standards. The knowledge I've acquired on culture of error has helped me to support my students to develop the habit of voicing their opinions and thoughts freely without being afraid

Tech Hub leadership

The UK-Nigeria Tech Hub sponsored 261 places for teachers to participate in this programme.

Through this partnership, the UK-Nigeria Tech Hub has equipped teachers with the requisite digital skills to adapt to the new challenges prompted by Covid19, thereby preventing a slowdown in the education sector. This upskilling catalyses growth of the local market, which strengthens economic growth.

Looking to the future

Following the programme, 89% of participants reported an increase in their digital skills and feeling more confident to make use of digital tools in delivering virtual learning.

For more information

Read local media coverage of the partnership:

[TechCabal](#): UK-Nigeria Tech Hub in partnership with CcHUB is empowering Teachers for a technology-driven future in education

More about the Innovative Teachers Fellowship and the UK-Nigeria Tech Hub

To learn more about the Innovative Teachers Fellowship and the UK-Nigeria Tech Hub, please contact: UK.Nigeria.Techhub@fco.gov.uk

UK-Nigeria Tech Hub can be found on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

The UK government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) is building a global network of Tech Hubs. The International Tech Hub Network aims to forge innovation partnerships between the UK and international tech sectors, stimulate local digital economies; and build high-end digital skills to drive sustainable jobs and growth.

Contact the network at: international-tech-hub-network@dcms.gov.uk

[Children's social care survey results published](#)

News story

Ofsted's annual survey captures the views of children and adults about

children's social care settings.



Today we publish our latest [children's social care survey results](#) which explores the views of children in residential care and living away from home, and those of their carers. This year's survey had more than 49,000 responses, with over 7,000 of those from children – the largest number we've ever had.

We use the responses along with other information, such as previous inspection findings or concerns we receive, to decide when to inspect and what to focus on when we do. If any responses to the survey raise serious concerns, we take the appropriate action immediately.

This year, for the second time, we asked children if they felt safe where they live or stay. Over 95% of children said that they felt safe 'always' or 'most of the time'. While positive, this also means that nearly 1 in 20 children regularly feel unsafe where they live or stay.

This year's survey also asked children about their experiences of the pandemic, and how they felt about the care they were given. And we asked parents whether the restrictions had affected the contact they'd had with their children.

A lot of children said that they would like COVID-19 to 'go away', but they also said that they had been helped to adjust to the restrictions by the people who cared for them.

Other findings from this year's surveys include:

- 99% of children in foster care who responded to the survey felt safe where they live
- there was an increase in the number of children in boarding school and in residential accommodation in further education (FE) who felt they were not helped to do well with their school or college work
- children frequently said that they wished they could stay where they were for longer and that they would not have to move on when they were 18
- a lower proportion of children in boarding schools and in FE residential accommodation felt they were well cared for compared with the children who lived or stayed elsewhere

Yvette Stanley, Ofsted's National Director for Social Care, said:

These surveys are really important, and I want to thank everyone who gave us their views. It's important to know how children and young people feel about those who support them, and brilliant to see that so many children are happy where they live and with the care that they receive. There is always room for improvement though. We will use this feedback to help us focus our inspections on the things that matter to children.

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