

Submission to UK COP26 Presidency for the July Ministerial

President Designate Alok Sharma rightly notes in his letter dated 15 July 2021 that the July Ministerial is a critical moment for ministers to discuss the overall package of political outcomes for Glasgow.

Thank you for the opportunity to input and Practical Action would like to propose that the following priorities be duly considered at the ministerial.

The global ambition at COP26

- 2021 has brought us the devastating heat dome in North America, the unpredicted ferocity of flooding in Germany, Belgium and China. Climate science is catching up with attribution studies clearly linking these extreme weather events unequivocally to human induced climate change.
- We are entering a new normal. Without effective climate leadership delivering concrete outcomes at COP26 we will see these records broken every month somewhere on the planet and each year will see more severe impacts than the year before.

Increase climate finance, *particularly* for Adaptation and Loss and Damage

- **Ensure 50% of all climate finance is dedicated to adaptation.** Champion the scale up and access is improved for poor and vulnerable countries and communities and ensure adaptation finance is in the form of grants not loans. At COP26 negotiate a new global adaptation finance goal and support the scale up of locally-led adaptation and support that is accessible and responsive to the needs and rights of women, children, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups.
- At COP26, get concrete agreements from key donors to deliver the promised \$100bn, and begin the **negotiations on the subsequent and more ambitious post-2025 finance goal**. This climate finance increase must not come at the expense of Official Development Assistance and for adaptation and loss and damage should be in the form of grants and not loans

Prioritise action to address Loss and Damage

- **Scaling up finance to address loss and damage.** The July ministerial is the last chance to begin a constructive dialogue to identify concrete sources of finance to pay for the costs of loss and damage. We need a shift in the narrative to ensure addressing loss and damage is on par with mitigation and adaptation and this can be done under a paradigm of global solidarity without the need to invoke liability or claim compensation.
- At COP26, Parties should reach agreement on a political signal recognising increasing losses and damages from climate change, **agree a permanent agenda item for loss and damage in the UNFCCC COP/CMA negotiations**

and adopt “a reduction in loss and damage” as an indicator of progress for the Paris Agreement on par with greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

- The agreement at COP25 to **operationalise the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage** (SNLD) needs to be further developed as a functional and effective entity, not just another website, we already have the Fiji Clearing House. The SNLD to remain accountable for climate induced impacts the SNLD must operate under the aegis of the UNFCCC, and not outside it.
- Finally **appoint a Loss and Damage champion** in the COP26 Presidency team before it's too late. With less than 100 days to go until COP26 this agenda which is of the utmost priority to the most climate impacted peoples, communities and countries needs a massive upscale of diplomatic efforts to ensure the scale and depth of discussions can take place before the COP starts in November 2021.

Scale up high quality nature-based solutions

- Now is the time to outline what the incorporation of **ambitious and rigorous Nature Based Solutions**, how ecosystem protection, restoration, and sustainable management will look like. The COP26 will continue negotiations for enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDC), long-term strategies (LTS), and adaptation plans of all countries, and this must be done in a way that recognises the potential of nature in a way that supports poverty alleviation and the protection of human rights and biodiversity.

Scale up the just energy transition

- The extreme events experienced during the last few weeks are manifest at only 1°C above pre industrial levels, we must limit warming urgently and this requires **accelerating emissions reductions within this decade to achieve the 1.5°C pathway**.
- At COP26 parties should reach agreement to recognise and use the latest climate science and assessments of the gap in mitigation ambition (including the IPCC AR6 WG1 and UNFCCC NDC synthesis reports) to guide their actions and thus **commit to assess their performance to deliver on their 2030 NDCs by the 2023 Global Stocktake** and extending the mandate for long-term strategies, they are not only about mitigation but must include adaptation and loss and damage (thus preserving the integrity of Paris Agreement in the finalised rulebook).

Ensure everyone is heard

- COP26 is a critical moment for the world to come together to secure a more sustainable, just, and resilient future for all. **This is the decade when we must take drastic action to limit climate change**, restore nature, and make our societies more equal and just. To achieve this it **is** vital that the COP is as inclusive and representative as possible. The July ministerial is a good

opportunity to test how representative the COP can be in the face of the continuing global pandemic and come up with contingency plans if any stakeholders particularly from the most climate impacted countries or communities feel their representation will be impaired in any way.

- It is also imperative that the **integrity and ambition of the Paris Agreement** is retained through any agreements made on negotiating agenda items including carbon markets, transparency and common timeframes.
- **Ensure that COP26 inclusive and representative** and is accessible and responds to the needs and rights of women, children, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups.

Practical Action fully supports the more detailed calls outlined in the [Glasgow Action Plan](#) issued by over 105 organisations and agreed by three major UK coalitions (CAN-UK, The Climate Coalition and Bond).