



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Our ref: MCSL2023/23171

5 December 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 2 November, addressed to the Prime Minister, [\[redacted\]](#), regarding Pope Francis' call for climate action at COP 28. Your correspondence has been passed to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as this matter falls within its remit.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Pope Francis' Laudate Deum, letter to the world, in which he reaffirms that time is running out to tackle the climate crisis and the world's poorest communities are paying the price. Indeed, climate change and nature loss are existential challenges that the world must face together, as a global family.

The science is clear that urgent and rapid progress is needed to avoid the most damaging impacts of climate change. At the same time, the low carbon transition will be an engine for investment, growth, jobs, and exports as industries transform. A record \$1.8trn is expected to be invested in the clean energy transition alone in 2023.

COP28 comes at a crucial moment, involving the first ever Global Stocktake of progress against the Paris Agreement. It must galvanise a step change in action and ambition. A priority for the UK is to ensure that this COP delivers an outcome that puts the world on track to keep temperature rise below 1.5C, halving global emissions by 2030. This year, it is also imperative that countries must deliver on their commitments to mobilise finance for developing economies, to reach \$100bn in 2023.

The UK is playing its part to reach that \$100bn goal. As the Prime Minister set out at COP27, the Government remains committed to spending £11.6 billion on international climate finance from 2021/22 to 2025/26 and we are delivering on that pledge. This includes ensuring a balance between adaptation and mitigation and including at least £3bn on protecting and restoring nature. As part of this, the UK announced a £1.6bn contribution to the Green Climate Fund, representing a 9% increase on the UK's previous contribution.

The Pope acknowledges in Laudate Deum, the agreement at COP27 to establish a Loss and Damage Fund but notes further details on how the fund operates remain imprecise. The UK recognises that the current impacts of climate change are leading to losses and damages, and this is likely to increase in frequency and severity. As such, more needs to be done at global, regional and local levels to help countries and communities avert, minimise and address loss and damage.

Progress requires sustained effort, innovation and integration across a range of areas, including mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and improving responses following climate shocks and disasters. At COP27 all parties agreed to establish new funding arrangements to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change, including a fund for responding to loss and damage. A Transitional Committee (TC) was also established to progress the operationalisation of the funding arrangements and the fund, and the UK is a full member of this committee.

Following a year-long process and five TC meetings, the UNFCCC's Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage has now fulfilled its mandate. The final TC meeting in November closed with a decision to send a package of recommendations to COP28, covering the establishment of a new Fund and Funding Arrangements to support 'Developing Countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change'. The UK will work with others to agree this package at COP28 and will also be pushing for a host to be chosen for the Santiago Network.

Pope Francis makes it clear that the necessary transition towards clean energy sources is not progressing at the necessary speed. Another of the UK's priorities at COP28 is securing a clean energy package including clear commitments to move beyond fossil fuels, with commitments spanning three areas:

- Setting an ambitious 1.5 aligned clean energy pledge to triple the installed renewable generation capacity by 2030 (at least 11TW) and doubling global annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030 – whilst supporting key enablers such as scaling up electricity grids. This should be combined with a commitment to end new unabated coal power generation. We are also prioritising accelerating the phase out of unabated coal power generation. These objectives are in support of the Power Breakthrough goal to make clean power the most affordable and reliable option for all countries by 2030. This can provide the real-world commitments to back up and provide impetus for commitments in COP28 decision text.
- New Powering Past Coal Alliance, UN No New Coal Compact and Clean Energy Transition Partnership signatories.
- A clear demonstration that the oil and gas industry is ready to play a full part in the transition to a low carbon economy globally.

Finally, on 23 November, Minister Stuart, the Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, held a roundtable meeting with a wide representation of non-Governmental organisations, including the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, to discuss the UK's COP28 plans.

I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RT HON CLAIRE COUTINHO MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero