

# LOBBY FOR THE UN 2008-09



## What is Lobby for the UN?

An annual campaign, led by the UN Association of the UK and partner Action for UN Renewal, to promote dialogue between voters and parliamentarians about the United Nations and the UK's contribution to its work.

## What are the goals of Lobby for the UN 2008-09?

In September world leaders convened to renew the push to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. In December the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights will turn 60. The end of 2009 marks the deadline for the UN to broker a new global deal to rein in climate change. And between now and 2010, states will be preparing for a major conference at the UN on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which commits states to the ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

Lobby for the UN 2008-09 is a chance for you to tell your MP about these challenges, their solutions and their impact on the UK.

## What is contained in this pack?

- four briefings – on the MDGs, nuclear disarmament, human rights and climate change – plus ideas for questions you can put to your MP
- the UN Secretary-General's official message on UN Day (24 October), the day on which the UN Charter came into force in 1945
- FCO Minister for the UN Lord Malloch-Brown's UN Day message



# A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Prepared by MARK RUSLING, UNA-UK Campaigns & Education Officer

## What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight time-bound targets for eradicating poverty and for lending greater cohesion to international development policy. The MDGs – which aim to reduce hunger, inequality and disease, combat illiteracy as well as child and maternal mortality, and promote environmental sustainability – also underpin progress in peace and security and human rights. The MDGs were formally agreed at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. The deadline for reaching the goals is 2015.

## What progress has been made?

Progress against many MDG-related indicators has been enhanced since 2000, suggesting that the goals have made a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people:

- Since 1990, 1.6 billion people have gained sustainable access to safe drinking water, taking the world closer to the MDG target of halving the number of people lacking this basic right.
- In all but two regions of the world, primary school enrolment is at least 90 per cent – bringing us very close to achieving the MDG of universal enrolment by 2015.
- The number of people newly infected with AIDS fell from 3.0 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2007, giving hope for the MDG calling for the halt and reversal of the spread of AIDS by 2015.

Yet global advances mask regional shortcomings. While there have been successes in East Asia, Northern Africa and Latin America, conditions in sub-Saharan Africa have in many cases stagnated or even regressed. For instance, the goal of reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day is within reach for the world as a whole, but unless radical action is taken, sub-Saharan Africa is unlikely to meet this target. Another stark discrepancy is illustrated in figures for maternal mortality: while women in some rich countries have a 1 in 8,700 chance of dying in childbirth, women in some poor countries face a 1 in 10 chance.

That the international development environment may be becoming more difficult is a serious concern. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has warned, the 'largely benign development environment' of recent years is now threatened by a global economic slowdown, the food security crisis and the increasingly apparent effects of global warming. The Secretary-General has called on leaders not to allow these challenges to affect efforts to achieve the MDGs: 'our strategy must be to keep the focus on the MDGs as we confront these new challenges'.

## Global partnership for the Millennium Development Goals

The eighth MDG calls for the creation of a global partnership between developed and developing countries. Developing countries must take steps to root out corruption and ensure that national strategies and public spending are responsible and geared towards sustainable development. But developed countries have to uphold their part of the bargain too: economic justice in the areas of trade, aid and debt relief. Evidence shows that delivery on these commitments has been deficient.

### Trade

MDG 8 sets a goal of 'developing further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system' and providing 'tariff- and quota-free access for the least developed countries' exports'. Developing country exports to rich country markets face trade barriers four times greater than those encountered by other rich countries, costing \$100 billion a year (twice as much as developing countries receive in aid). The Doha round of trade negotiations initiated in 2001 aimed to address the needs of developing countries, yet negotiations collapsed this year without a deal being concluded. Such a deal, prioritising market access for developing countries, remains a key requirement for achieving the MDGs.

At the 2005 UN World Summit, rich countries stated that 97 per cent of imports from developing countries would be permitted tariff- and quota-free access to their markets. The current level is 79 per cent. Even if the 97 per cent target were achieved, tariffs and

quotas could still persist in sectors of crucial importance to developing countries, such as clothing and agriculture. The EU's trade policies on imports from poor countries are the most restrictive in the developed world.

The UK must work within the EU to ensure free market access for all exports from developing countries and to reform the subsidies permitted under the Common Agricultural Policy. The UK should push for a renewed development round of trade negotiations and must resist the premature opening of developing countries' markets to rich countries' exports. The UK should ensure that bilateral and regional trade deals are not seen as substitutes for multilateral agreements.

## Aid

Donor countries, including the UK, have pledged to increase development aid to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015. Only five states have achieved this target. In 2006, UK aid represented 0.52 per cent of GNI. Although total global official development assistance climbed steadily from 1997 to 2005, it fell in 2005 and 2006. Much of this aid is tied to having to buy services from donor countries. Support for core development programmes has increased by over 50 per cent since 1997, but the pace of this increase has slowed since 2005.

The UK should meet its commitment to increase development aid to 0.7 per cent of GNI, and should use its influential position within the EU and UN to persuade other states to meet their own commitments. The UK should also work towards improving the predictability of aid, as well as its coordination, and should reduce the degree to which aid is tied to the purchase of goods and services from donor countries. Aid flows should also be aligned more closely with recipient countries' national budgets.

## Debt relief

In 2005, the total debt of the world's 56 poorest countries was \$412 billion. Ten developing countries spent more on debt servicing than on public education and, in 52 countries, debt servicing amounted to more than the public health budget. In 2005, the G8 launched the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) to reduce the debts of highly indebted countries and free up additional resources to help them meet the MDGs. Under the MDRI, 100 per cent debt relief is provided to eligible debts of countries that have completed the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative process. The HIPC scheme grants debt relief to countries which have shown progress in implementing IMF-approved economic programmes, which often entail privatisation, public services spending cuts and trade liberalisation.

By 2008, 23 of the 41 HIPC countries had met all HIPC conditions and been granted debt relief, although 14 of these are considered to be at moderate-to-high risk of falling back into debt distress. Studies have shown that 107 countries need debt cancellation (including 54 countries needing total cancellation) in order to guarantee an 'ethical' poverty line of \$3 a day for each person, together with the provision of basic services.

The UK should use its influence through international organisations such as the World Bank, IMF, Paris Club and G8 to press for multilateral debt relief for all countries which need it. The UK should also continue to dissuade the World Bank and IMF from attaching conditions to debt relief, if necessary withholding funding and in the meantime passing on funds to poor countries by other means.

## ASK YOUR MP

- How is the government working to bring about tariff- and quota-free access to rich country markets for developing country imports?
- How is the government working within the EU to reform the Common Agricultural Policy in order to prevent the subsidising of agricultural over-production and export dumping in poor countries?
- How is the government working to ensure that IMF and World Bank loans to developing countries are not tied to conditions of privatisation, public spending cuts and trade liberalisation?
- Will the government speed up its timetable for increasing its overseas development aid to 0.7 per cent of GNI so that this target is reached before 2013?
- Will the government regulate the activities of 'vulture funds' operating in UK jurisdictions, which buy discounted poor country debts and then litigate for the nominal amount, interest and penalties?
- Will the government use its influence in international organisations to push for debt relief for all countries that need it in order to achieve the MDGs and guarantee an 'ethical' poverty line of \$3 a day for each person, and to prevent debts being sold to aggressive creditors?

# REVIVING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Prepared by TIM KELLOW, UNA-UK Peace & Security Programme Officer

## The urgent need for action

Nuclear weapons pose a grave threat to human survival. Current geopolitical circumstances make the need to address this risk more urgent than at any time since the Cold War. The nuclear threat is no longer a stand-alone issue confined to superpower relations – it touches the interests of all states, as it is bound up in wider systemic issues of energy security, regional power balances and global terrorism. Managing the threat requires a concerted international approach and the adoption of a strategy that is as wide-ranging and complex as the risks faced.

The spread of nuclear weapons, knowledge and material has brought the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – the cornerstone of the international nuclear regime – to near breaking point. Key sources of stress have been an increasingly polarised and uncertain global security environment; the existence of non-signatory nuclear-weapon states (India, Pakistan and Israel); the first withdrawal of a state party (North Korea in 2003); growing strain on the treaty's verification and enforcement procedures (particularly with regard to Iran); and states bypassing the NPT to pursue nuclear objectives by bilateral or unilateral means.

The imperative to confront these risks is climbing up the agendas of governments around the world. There is also an emerging consensus in the West that practical steps must be taken towards disarmament in order to achieve progress in the area of non-proliferation. In the US, four leading statesmen – Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn – are fronting the Nuclear Security Project, an initiative calling for a fresh drive towards multilateral nuclear disarmament. Their approach has been endorsed by both presidential candidates and, more recently, by senior politicians in the UK. What is urgently needed now is to transform intentions into actions.

## The UN's role

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stated that achieving progress towards nuclear disarmament is one of the most pressing global challenges faced today. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) serves as the global focal point for nuclear cooperation, and is the UN body responsible for verifying and overseeing the nuclear activity of all NPT states parties. The NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, regulate access to technology associated with their development and achieve eventual global nuclear disarmament.

The erosion of confidence in the NPT was most evident at its Review Conference in 2005, when states failed to achieve any progress towards strengthening the regime and implementing agreed objectives. The key sticking point was disagreement between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon states on whether to emphasise non-proliferation or disarmament. There is therefore an urgent need to achieve tangible progress at the next NPT Review Conference in 2010. This means taking meaningful steps towards nuclear disarmament, while shoring up the international non-proliferation regime. Here are some of the steps required:

### Disarmament

- restate the commitment to a world free from nuclear weapons
- resume implementation of the 13 steps to which recognised nuclear-weapon states committed themselves in 2000
- press all nuclear-weapon states to de-alert their existing weapons and their means of delivery
- build strong and sustained pressure to bring into effect the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- re-negotiate the major disarmament treaties between the US and Russia, which will soon expire

### Non-proliferation

- secure agreement on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, an international ban on the further production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium
- strengthen the safeguards and inspections system by increasing the IAEA's capacity and budget
- ratify, in all states, the Additional Protocol, which gives the IAEA extra inspection powers
- agree a standard response when a state breaches the NPT or withdraws from it altogether

- assist states to meet their obligations under UN non-proliferation resolutions
- agree a mechanism guaranteeing access to the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology

## The UK government's contribution

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK has particular responsibility for maintaining international peace and security by strengthening the NPT. The UK is also well placed to take a diplomatic lead in efforts to overcome these challenges as it has demonstrated the greatest commitment to disarmament of the five recognised nuclear-weapon states.

The UK should act on the wide support in the UK for the Nuclear Security Project, which has been endorsed by four formerly ardent British supporters of nuclear deterrence as well as by leading members of the UK government and senior opposition MPs. There are a number of other immediate steps that the government should take to achieve this:

### Engage in concerted advocacy and action to further nuclear disarmament

- secure cross-party recognition that tackling the issue is not a party political issue but a vital and urgent national interest which needs a common purpose
- take forward existing proposals to use British nuclear weapons expertise to conduct research into the technical challenges and requirements of nuclear disarmament
- work closely with the new US administration towards the shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons – for instance by urging the new US President to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

### Ensure the greatest chance of success at the 2010 NPT Review Conference

- convene a conference of the recognised nuclear-weapon states to facilitate discussion and agreement on progress towards disarmament commitments in a way that strengthens the NPT
- use the UK government's support for US-Indian nuclear cooperation as a means of bringing India and the other non-NPT nuclear-weapon states into discussions about joining the NPT
- initiate dialogue between the nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon states over the need to make adoption and ratification of the Additional Protocol a requirement for all NPT signatories
- continue working towards establishing a standard response when a state breaches or leaves the NPT
- prioritise the securing of an agreement for a mechanism to bring the nuclear fuel cycle under international control by establishing a nuclear 'fuel bank' overseen by the IAEA

## ASK YOUR MP

- Will you sign EDM 2053, calling on the government to support developments which enhance the prospects for non-proliferation and a fresh drive for nuclear disarmament?
- Will you sign EDM 1959, calling on the government to support a new international nuclear weapons convention – a treaty prohibiting the production, stockpiling, transfer, or use of nuclear weapons?
- Will the government push for the start of negotiations without pre-conditions on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty at the UN Conference on Disarmament?
- Will the government maintain high staff levels at the office of the UK permanent mission to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in the lead-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference?
- Will the government facilitate productive dialogue between states ahead of the 2010 NPT Review Conference to increase the likelihood of a successful outcome?
- Will the government launch a joint initiative with the new US administration to work towards the shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons?
- Will the government call on the new US President to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty?
- Will the government prioritise its efforts towards securing agreement for the establishment of a nuclear 'fuel bank' overseen by the IAEA?
- Will the government engage with states in the Middle East, and work with the EU, the IAEA, UNIDIR and other relevant bodies to formulate proposals towards a Middle East nuclear-weapons-free zone?

# THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: MAKING IT A REALITY

Prepared by NATALIE SAMARASINGHE, UNA-UK Executive Assistant and human rights coordinator

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms to which we are all entitled. They aim to meet our whole spectrum of needs, from basic survival – food, shelter and physical protection – to full development as a person – education, work, and freedom of expression. Human rights are especially important to those who are most vulnerable, but we all benefit from their protection.

## What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how does it protect our rights?

The UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Developed by a diverse group of authors following the Second World War, it is the cornerstone of international human rights protection. The UDHR states that human rights are universal, interdependent and inalienable.

Like all declarations, the UDHR is a statement of values and is not legally binding; but it has inspired more than 80 international and regional human rights treaties which *are* binding. Governments ratifying any of these treaties pledge to make a reality of the rights contained in them, by taking all necessary legislative and administrative measures to incorporate the rights into domestic law and national policy. This obliges public bodies and service providers to respect rights, and also enables people whose rights have been violated to seek help, if necessary via the courts. The UK has signed all of the main UN human rights treaties except the migrant workers convention.

## How does the UN monitor the performance of states?

The UDHR enjoys global support. Yet, as we approach its 60th anniversary, it is clear that the vision of its drafters is still a long way from becoming a reality.

The implementation of human rights is monitored in several ways. Every UN human rights treaty has a committee of independent experts that monitors the performance of its signatories. States are required to submit regular reports to these 'treaty monitoring bodies' and receive recommendations on how to improve. If a state does not submit a report, treaty monitoring bodies may examine reports produced by civil society or other parts of the UN system.

The newest monitoring mechanism is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the UN Human Rights Council. The Council was established in 2006 to replace the Commission on Human Rights, which had been criticised heavily for politicisation and selectivity. UPR was created to prevent such selectivity in the new Council: under UPR the human rights records of all UN member states are regularly scrutinised. Reviews are based on a short report prepared by the state, a summary of comments made by treaty monitoring bodies, and information provided by relevant stakeholders such as NGOs or academics.

## How well are rights protected in the UK?

The UK was in the first group of countries to be reviewed under UPR. Within the past two years, it has also reported under the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment; and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. During its UPR session, the UK was praised for its overall commitment to international human rights standards and for the positive measures it is taking to protect rights in the UK. But several issues of concern were also raised. The following two areas were identified as needing particular attention.

### Trapped in the protection gap: trafficking and discrimination affect too many children

It is tempting to think that human rights violations occur only 'elsewhere'; trafficking is one issue that belies this misperception. Child trafficking is especially pernicious. Boys and girls are used not only in the sex trade in the UK, but also as domestic servants, forced labourers and even child spouses or 'foster/adoptive' children. Despite the successes of initiatives like Operation Pentameter 2 (a six-month campaign that resulted in 154 women and 13 girls being rescued from traffickers) the UK still needs to implement its stated commitment to treat trafficked persons as victims and not criminals. In particular, the UK has drawn repeated criticism for its continued

failure to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the sale of children, and for its wide-ranging reservation to the CRC on immigration, which the treaty's monitoring committee has described as being 'against [the treaty's] object and purpose'. In mid-September of this year, the government announced its intention to withdraw this reservation – a vital step towards ensuring that immigration controls do not continue to take precedence over safeguarding trafficked children.

### Left out of the spotlight: violence against women is rife across all segments of society

Trafficking is just one facet of violence against women. According to UK government statistics, an average of 167 women are raped every day, and domestic violence accounts for nearly a quarter of all recorded violent crime in England and Wales. On average, a woman is assaulted 35 times before her first call to the police and two women die each week as a result of domestic violence. A recent study by Amnesty International UK suggested that 74 per cent of British men would report a dog being beaten to the RSPCA or police, but only 53 per cent would report domestic violence. And of those cases that do make it to court, just over 5 per cent result in convictions.

During its UPR session, the UK was praised for adopting measures such as the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) and for dedicating £14 million to this issue. Nonetheless, the continued lack of adequate support and services for victims, including shelters (which are still primarily provided by the voluntary sector), was noted. Moreover, there is little monitoring of the national plan of action on violence against women, and implementation at local levels remains sporadic.

## ASK YOUR MP

### To put the best interests of the child first

- UNA-UK congratulates the UK government for undertaking a thorough review of its obligations under the CRC, and especially on its decision to withdraw the reservation on immigration. What is the timetable for the official withdrawal of the reservation and when will the resulting changes take effect? Will the government publish new guidelines on the protection, care and proper treatment of trafficked children in light of these changes? Are there plans to include all government services and agencies, particularly those dealing with immigration, within Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, which safeguards and promotes child welfare?
- The UK announced plans to ratify both the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Council of Europe's Convention Against Trafficking some time ago – is there a timetable for ratification and implementation?
- The UK has been praised for the appointment of Children's Commissioners. Will the government either appoint an independent child trafficking rapporteur or reinforce the role of the existing Commissioners so that the best interests of all children are taken into account in all initiatives to fight trafficking?
- How is the government supporting the UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking?
- How is the government supporting the monitoring bodies currently being developed for the Council of Europe's Convention Against Trafficking?

### To give violence against women the attention it deserves

- What is the UK's strategy for strengthening its existing domestic violence strategy in the following areas: reviewing legislation and policies; improving data collection; ensuring core funding for services to end the 'postcode lottery' for victims; and targeting awareness programmes at all sectors of society?
- Is the Equality and Human Rights Commission sufficiently supported so that it can serve as a robust oversight body?
- Will the government commit extra funds to black, minority ethnic and refugee women's services, which currently suffer from chronic under-funding?
- Will the government reconsider its current policy of 'no recourse to public funds', which prevents many non-British victims of domestic violence (and trafficking) from seeking and receiving help? And if not, could the government put in place a system by which applications to remain in the UK can be fast-tracked if there is prima facie evidence of domestic violence?
- What progress has been made on implementing the UK's national action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security? Will the UK extend its excellent provision of pre-deployment gender training (including on sexual exploitation and abuse) to troops other than those from NATO or EU countries?
- What ongoing support is the UK government providing to the UNIFEM Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women?

# THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Prepared by MARK RUSLING, UNA-UK Campaigns & Education Officer

## The climate challenge

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing humankind. The earth is warming faster than at any time in the last 10,000 years and 11 of the last 12 years were among the 12 warmest in the last 150 years. This has led to more frequent and severe extreme weather events and a likely increase in the frequency and severity of floods and droughts in many regions, which will negatively impact on development. This may also lead to an increased risk of violent conflict – drought is an important factor in the crisis in Darfur, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is exacerbated by disputes over access to fresh water. Current climate trends could leave over 3 billion people in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia facing acute water shortages, leading to political instability.

Between 1970 and 2004, greenhouse gas emissions increased by 70 per cent. Scientists believe that the average global temperature increase must be kept under 2 degrees Celsius in order to avoid catastrophic climate change. To keep below this threshold, global greenhouse gas emissions must peak and be falling irreversibly by 2015. Even if this occurs, the world will still be committed to decades of an unstable climate because of already-emitted greenhouse gases. Thus, a global strategy for adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects is needed. This strategy must focus on developing countries, as the world's poorest people are most at risk from climate change impacts, and incorporate both funding and information- and knowledge-sharing.

## The UN's role

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has made climate change a priority of his leadership: 'Climate change, and how we address it, will define us, our era and ultimately the global legacy we leave for future generations.' A key task for the UN is to galvanise international political will in search of concrete solutions to climate change and to ensure that governments remain committed to solving the problem.

One way the UN has done this is through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established in 1988. The IPCC, considered the world's most authoritative source of information on climate change, its causes and its effects, provides regular assessments of existing peer-reviewed literature on 'the scientific basis of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation'. Since its formation, the IPCC has released four assessment reports. The most recent, in 2007, put to rest any doubts about the human origins of accelerated climate change, concluding that the link was 90 per cent likely. For its work on this report, the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, which it shared with former US Vice President Al Gore.

The 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ratified by 191 countries plus the EU, made the stabilisation of greenhouse gases the ultimate objective of multilateral climate policy. While the UNFCCC set no mandatory limits on countries' emissions, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which entered into force in February 2005, aimed to reduce 36 industrialised countries' emissions by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. It does not prescribe targets for developing countries, in recognition of the fact that emissions have originated disproportionately in industrialised countries.

The Kyoto Protocol was a landmark agreement in establishing the principle of binding targets and setting the stage for a global emissions trading system. Yet it has suffered from a lack of support from important players. Although the US, the world's leading greenhouse gas emitter, has agreed in principle the outline of a successor treaty, it never ratified Kyoto. Australia at first refused to ratify the agreement, although the new Labor government reversed this policy and ratified the protocol in December 2007. China, which as a developing country was exempted from Kyoto targets, has almost caught up with the US in total greenhouse gas emissions, and is the leading producer of the key cause of climate change – CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. A formidable challenge for negotiators of a 'Kyoto II' – which must be in place by 2012 – will be to secure stronger contributions from both the principal developing country emitters and the industrialised states. At Bali in December 2007, states agreed to conclude discussions on this new agreement by the 2009 climate change summit in Copenhagen.

## The UK's contribution

The UK is committed to a number of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets:

- a 12.5 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2012, under the Kyoto Protocol
- an EU target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020

- legally binding targets in the current draft of the Climate Change Bill to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 from 1990 levels (The government has recently stated that aviation and shipping, while not included in the target, will 'play a part' in emissions reduction.)
- a 16 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020 from industries outside the EU emissions trading scheme

Despite already meeting its Kyoto target, the UK, with 1 per cent of the world's population, produces 2.3 per cent of the world's CO<sub>2</sub>, the greenhouse gas most responsible for global warming. The Climate Change Bill targets also look ambitious at this stage: after falling in the late 1990s, the UK's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are now rising, fuelled mostly by rises in power, transport and domestic emissions.

The UK's energy requirements are met mostly by oil, gas and coal. Many of these plants are to be closed in the next decade and the government must replace them with low- and zero-carbon emitting plants. In 2006, only 1.8 per cent of the UK's energy consumption was provided by renewable sources. In order to meet its international and domestic commitments, the UK must focus on:

- Increasing domestic energy efficiency (28 per cent of the UK's total emissions come from energy in domestic homes). Although domestic energy consumption has fallen slightly in recent years, the general trend over the last 30 years is upwards. The government's Carbon Emission Reduction Commitment requires every electricity and gas supplier to install energy efficiency measures in their customers' homes.
- Improving renewable energy capacity (particularly wind). Under EU targets, 15 per cent of the UK's heat, electricity and transport requirements must come from renewable sources by 2020. Critics have claimed that UK planning law prevents the development of many renewable energy projects.
- Developing Carbon Capture and Storage technology, which reduces the amount of carbon emitted from burning fossil fuels.

## ASK YOUR MP

### Reducing emissions and supporting energy efficiency

- What is the government doing to ensure that negotiations towards a post-Kyoto treaty are concluded by the 2009 UN climate change summit in Copenhagen?
- Should the legal planning requirements for new renewable energy projects be relaxed?
- Should new emissions performance standards be imposed for all new power stations, requiring new coal-fired power stations to use Carbon Capture and Storage technology?
- How is the government working towards an EU target of zero emissions vehicles by 2030?
- Should UK airports impose fuel efficiency requirements on aeroplanes passing through them?
- Do you support a council tax rebate in return for taxpayers installing energy efficiency measures in their homes?
- Should purchasers of homes that meet energy efficiency criteria at the time of sale receive a stamp duty rebate?
- Should the government require energy suppliers to finance free cavity wall and loft insulation for suitable homes, particularly those in deprived areas?
- Should the Climate Change Bill be strengthened to include emissions reduction targets from aviation and shipping?

### The impact of climate change on the most vulnerable, particularly women and children

- How is the government supporting the UN Climate Change Adaptation Fund, which helps poor countries adapt to the effects of climate change?
- How is the government helping poor countries to adapt to the effects of natural disasters, which are made worse by the impact of climate change?
- How is the government working to reduce the risk of climate change-induced conflict in developing countries?
- How is the government working to ensure that developing countries adapt to the effects of climate change so that the rights of the most vulnerable people – particularly the poor and women and children – are protected?

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON  
MESSAGE ON UNITED NATIONS DAY  
24 October 2008

On this 63rd anniversary of our Organization, I join you in celebrating UN Day.

This is a crucial year in the life of our United Nations. We have just passed the midpoint in the struggle to reach the Millennium Development Goals – our common vision for building a better world in the 21st century. We can see more clearly than ever that the threats of the 21st century spare no one. Climate change, the spread of disease and deadly weapons, and the scourge of terrorism all cross borders. If we want to advance the global common good, we must secure global public goods.

Many countries are still not on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015. I am also deeply concerned about the impact of the global financial crisis. Never has leadership and partnership been more important.

This makes our success at the high-level MDG event in September all the more remarkable. We brought together a broad coalition for change. Governments, CEOs and civil society. We generated unprecedented commitment in pledges and partnerships to help the world's poor.

The final tally is not in yet, but the total amount pledged at the MDG event may exceed 16 billion dollars. Partnership is the way of the future. Just look at the advances on malaria. Our global malaria effort has brought us within range of containing a disease that kills a child every 30 seconds. It is doing so through focused country planning. Greater funding. Coordinated global management. Top-notch science and technology.

We need models like these to tackle other challenges, including climate change, as we approach the conferences in Poznan and Copenhagen. We need them to achieve all the other Millennium Development Goals.

Let us keep building on this as a way forward. There is no time to lose. The United Nations must deliver results for a safer, healthier, more prosperous world. On this UN Day, I call on all partners and leaders to do their part and keep the promise.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban".



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

FCO MINISTER FOR THE UN LORD MALLOCH-BROWN

UN DAY MESSAGE

24 October 2008

I am delighted to acknowledge and applaud the excellent work of the United Nations on UN Day. Since its establishment, the UN has carried on its shoulders the burden of the hopes of the world. Today the UN continues to add to its impressive achievements across the spectrum of international affairs, including peace and security, development, humanitarian and disaster relief, climate change, and human rights.

Over the past year alone there are many successes to note. The Secretary-General and his staff have galvanised engagement on development: on 25 September UN members announced major commitments to development at a high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals, despite the on-going financial crisis. UNICEF has helped to bring the number of child deaths below 10 million per year for the first time in history. In Africa, UN peacekeeping operations have played a crucial role in the transition of countries like Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Liberia towards a more peaceful and democratic future. And in Bali last December, the UN-sponsored climate talks agreed to launch negotiations on an international climate change agreement by the end of 2009 and a roadmap to get there.

In the next year, the UN will continue to answer the important global questions, from climate change to development and non-proliferation. These twenty-first century challenges will not be met effectively unless the UN continues to reform and strengthen itself. The UK will continue to provide strong support to the UN, and wishes the UN and its staff well in their work over the next 12 months.

*Max Mallock Brown*