

# We want the UK to lead the way

LAST month Southampton United Nations Association met to hear about progress on the UN Millennium Development Goals and prospects for improving health worldwide.

We at Southampton UNA Branch are proud that the UK is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of national income on overseas aid, which is also an investment in our future.

Faced with cross-border challenges such as Ebola, refugee migration and climate change, Britain's national interests increasingly dovetail with

our global responsibilities.

This year, the UK has the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues. Countries will come together at the UN to adopt new global goals to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. We want the UK to work hard for goals that are not just ambitious, but inclusive and well-resourced.

We also want the UK to set an example at home. This includes pressing ahead with enshrining the 0.7 per cent target into law, outlining how the UK will support the new

goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a difference to the most vulnerable people.

As UK citizens, and global citizens, we all have a stake in international development. We don't just want the UK to do its bit, we want it to lead the way. At our next meeting on March 21 Dr Catherine Royce will speak on Making Clinical Research Work in Africa. For details phone 023 8055 7334 or e-mail [memat11@phonecoop.coop](mailto:memat11@phonecoop.coop).

**MARGARET MATTHEWS,  
Southampton UNA Branch.**