

UK INTEGRATED REVIEW: 10-POINT PLAN FOR A CLIMATE-CENTRED FOREIGN POLICY



E3G

The Integrated Review is the biggest overhaul of British foreign policy in a generation.

The role of UK foreign policy is to safeguard the country's security and prosperity. Climate change threatens both – amplifying existing security flashpoints such as migration and resource-related conflict, and disrupting geopolitical relationships and the global economic system.

The Integrated Review is an essential opportunity for the UK to manage this risk by mainstreaming climate action across its diplomacy, covering everything from development and security to trade and all bilateral and multilateral relationships.

This checklist outlines what the Integrated Review should achieve if the UK is to successfully build on its leadership of COP26 this year and make climate change a central mission of UK foreign policy in the next decade.

Priorities & Principles

- 1. Set out a proactive strategy to shape global climate action to ensure a credible pathway for 1.5°C** – by recognising climate as a top foreign policy issue; by developing a whole of government approach to delivery, including an assessment of threats and opportunities; and by defining areas where the UK can broker international action post-COP26 – such as financial system reform for sustainability, climate risk management & climate security, and building on UK coal phase out leadership towards socially just phasing out of oil and gas production.
- 2. Build coalitions & diplomatic strategy that strengthen the rules-based international economic and political system** – a resilient global order with open and dynamic markets based on international standards will be the foundation for multilateral climate action, and essential for managing the security and stability threats caused by climate impacts and the climate transition.

Relationships

- 3. Prioritise diplomatic alignment with the USA, EU, France, Germany & Italy** – to turn the G7 and partnerships with key emerging powers like China & India into engines of climate action, and show solidarity with climate vulnerable countries, all of whom are critical players on the climate crisis.
- 4. Invest in alliances with other medium-sized powers including Japan, South Korea, Canada & Australia** – to drive action through multilateral spaces (e.g. building on the UK's leadership of the Powering Past Coal Alliance; reforming multilateral organisations such as the IEA to support orderly fossil fuel transition), strengthen leverage on climate laggards, & level out great power rivalries (e.g. US-China) that risk disrupting climate action.

Capacity & Capabilities

- 5. Reorganise the FCDO** – to focus on driving action to address cross-cutting issues like climate change rather than organising around geographies.
- 6. Establish a National Resilience Office** – to oversee monitoring and response to national and global threats to resilience including climate-related impacts.
- 7. Greater parliamentary scrutiny of foreign policy** – to hold government to account on its climate diplomacy.

Prioritise Systemic Change

- 8. Mainstream climate action within international trade & development** – by overturning outdated paradigms that pit climate against development and scaling up climate finance through the UK's own public finance while driving Paris-alignment of global development finance; and by setting stringent climate requirements on trade deals (e.g. excluding ISDS) and championing WTO reform for sustainability.
- 9. Work with partners to invest in fossil fuel free energy systems in the Indo-Pacific** – by working in concert with the US, the EU and other G7 partners to offer non-fossil infrastructure investment in developing countries towards a shift from coal to clean energy and help realign China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- 10. Lead green finance transformation** – acting in line with the urgency and scale of COVID-19 response by: coordinating on the development of harmonised international standards with key global markets (USA, Europe, China, India); working with allies to drive systemic financial reforms for sustainability (e.g. through the IMF); giving the new National Infrastructure Bank an international arm to accelerate clean development overseas; and encouraging other major economies to follow the UK's lead and commit to overseas fossil fuel finance phaseout.