



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Philip,

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THE UK'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

I am writing to provide you with additional detail on the UK's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), our 2030 emissions reduction pledge under the Paris Agreement, which the Prime Minister announced on 4 December. On the day of the Climate Ambition Summit, we formally communicated the UK's full NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A copy of this document has been laid in Parliament.

The new NDC commits the UK to reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, the fastest rate of any major economy. This is a decisive step forward in our ambition to tackle climate change over the next ten years as we accelerate towards meeting our legally-binding commitment to net zero by 2050. It is consistent with advice from the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC).

The NDC represents a single, economy-wide emissions reduction target for the whole of the UK. In addition to the headline target, our communication to the UNFCCC includes 'information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding' (ICTU), as required by the Paris Agreement Rulebook. This is provided to aid interpretation of the NDC target and, also aims to support other Parties, particularly developing countries, to understand how to develop and implement quantitative NDCs. The UK has followed best practice expectations for developed countries throughout its NDC and has taken account of best available science and evidence, and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies to account for emissions.

The ICTU includes: i) information to help quantify the NDC target, such as sectors covered, time span, accounting methodologies; and ii) information on how the NDC was created, such as planning processes and national context, how the NDC is 'fair and ambitious' and informed by the aims of the Paris Agreement. In addition, the UK's ICTU explains that:

- Emissions from International Aviation and Shipping (IAS) are not included in the scope of our NDC. This is in line with international expectations and the guidance of the CCC. Although IAS emissions are not included, the UK is committed to action to reduce IAS emissions and has set out proposals to reduce emissions in aviation and shipping in the 10 Point Plan. We intend to

consult next year on our approach to aviation in the context of our net zero ambition.

- We intend to achieve our NDC through domestic action and without using international credits, although we do reserve the right to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. As incoming COP Presidency, we remain firmly committed to working with all UNFCCC Parties to agree Paris Agreement rules on international market cooperation at COP26.
- In line with best available science, we have elected to include emissions from wetlands in our NDC and we are working toward publishing by March 2022 at the latest, an inventory covering emissions from peatlands consistent with the guidelines of the IPCC 2013 Wetland Supplement.
- Emissions and removals from the UK's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories (CDOTs) are not included in the scope of the UK's NDC. We are continuing to consult with UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories on extending UK ratification of the Paris Agreement to them. If they choose to have the Paris Agreement extended to them, they will be included in the UK's NDC target. We continue to report to the UNFCCC the emissions of those CDOTs who have joined that Convention.
- The UK's NDC target aligns with the published pathways from the IPCC for a 1.5°C goal. The NDC demonstrates the UK's highest possible ambition on the path to its long-term target for Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Our NDC represents a significant increase in ambition, requiring action across all sectors of the economy and an all of Government approach. It will be tough to achieve, but it is essential to show ambition and underpins our efforts, as incoming COP26 Presidency, to galvanise global action. Tackling climate change is a priority for this Government and we have cross-government backing to deliver it.

We have also now submitted a formal communication to the UNFCCC on adaptation (under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement) and will publish a finance communication (under Article 9.5) by the end of 2020. This will demonstrate UK ambition and action across all three pillars of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, adaptation and finance.

We also announced at the Climate Ambition Summit that we intend to publish a Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26 next year, which will form the basis of our revised Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to the UNFCCC. I have made a Written Ministerial Statement on the outcomes of the Climate Ambition Summit.

Yours sincerely,



THE RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy