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Sarah Champion
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

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My Dear Sarah,

International Climate Finance for the Small Island Developing States

I promised to write to the Committee to set out the UK's climate finance spending in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), following the session on the UK SIDS Strategy on 23 January.

The UK is committed to providing £11.6 billion International Climate Finance (ICF) between financial years 2021/22 and 2025/26. **We estimate the UK disbursed approximately £120 million of ICF to SIDS in financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23, 4% of the £3.2 billion UK ICF spent in this period.** This includes UK bilateral and centrally managed programmes, and the UK share of funding delivered through multilateral climate funds.

Bilateral and Centrally Managed Programmes dedicated to SIDS include:

- The **UK Caribbean Infrastructure and Reconstruction Fund (UKCIF)**. The UKCIF is delivered in partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). UKCIF is building climate resilient economic infrastructure such as roads, ports, sea defences and water supply. The fund is operational in Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Montserrat. The spend in Financial Years 2021/22 and 2022/23 was £39 million.

- **Small Island Developing State Capacity and Resilience (SIDAR) programme.** This aims to improve the capacity of SIDS to draw down climate and wider concessional finance. The spend in Financial Year 2022/23 was £3.4 million (no spend in 2021/22). Some of the initiatives we are committed to are:
 - A £4 million contribution to the Global Environment Facility's SIDS climate adaptation support funding window. The June 2023 Council Meeting approved its first project - Climate change adaptation of Cabo Verde's agri-food systems for improved food security and livelihood.
 - A £1.8 million project with the Global Green Growth Initiative to increase climate finance resource in the Pacific. This funding includes 6 climate finance advisers in the region.
 - A £2.7 million project with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre aimed at scaling up access to climate finance.
- **Sustainable Blue Economies (SBE) programme. (Part of the Blue Planet Fund).** This supports SIDS with ocean management and nature-based solutions. The largest initiative to date is a commitment to support the Asian Development Bank's Blue Pacific Finance Hub, this has a focus on increasing ocean investments to help build resilient blue economies.
- **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS).** This programme, launched at COP26 during the World Leaders Summit, is a dedicated initiative to promote resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS. The first phase of projects has been approved.

Climate Funds that the UK funded in the period in question are:

- The **Green Climate Fund (GCF).** The UK is one of the largest donors to the GCF, which helps reduce emissions and build climate resilience. As of 22 December 2023, the Green Climate Fund has approved 62 projects in SIDS for a total of £1.3 billion of funding (over 12% of its total portfolio of £10.9 billion).
- The **Global Environment Facility.** The GEF has strong and growing engagement with SIDS. As part of GEF8, an Adaptation Strategy was agreed creating a new SIDS-only funding window under the GEF's Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) to support SIDS' climate adaptation needs. (information on the UK's contribution is provided in SIDAR above).

The **Blue Planet Fund (BPF)** is a joint FCDO and DEFRA fund and an important part of the UK's global leadership on marine issues. In addition to Sustainable Blue Economies, other multi-country projects that SIDS benefit from include: the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP); the Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature (OCEAN); and Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST).

This is not an exhaustive list of programmes and climate funds but gives the Committee an idea of the wide-ranging support the SIDS have received from the UK and the support they can expect in the future.

During the Committee meeting we discussed Gender Equality in our work with SIDS. In view of the Committee's interest, I am sharing a report we commissioned on women's economic empowerment in the blue economy in Small Island Developing States.

With warm regards,
John
Andrew

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