



# Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Meeting Global Challenges and Making a Difference  
Response to Scottish Government consultation, May 2016

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## Introduction

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. With new UN Sustainable Development Goals, which Scotland has signed up to, as well as the new global agreement on climate change, the Paris Agreement, now is an excellent time to review how Scottish Government action can best help deliver these considerable global challenges.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a diverse coalition of faith, development and environment organisations, trade and student unions and community groups working together for climate action.

The science of climate change has grown stronger and the impacts more evident. We now have a clearer picture of the toll that rising global temperatures are having on the places and people we care about, affecting many of the world's most vulnerable communities and impacting habitats and nature on every continent and in every ocean on earth.

The links between climate change and international development are very clear – climate change is one of the main threats to tackling global poverty. This is reflected by the high priority afforded to addressing both the causes and the effects of climate change by the major international development organisations that make up a significant part of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's membership.

## An integrated approach to sustainable development

The 'Global Goals' referred to in this consultation are UN 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) and go beyond tackling poverty and inequality. The overarching purpose of the goals is to set a 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The majority of the SDGs, and certainly not only Goal 13, but for example 7, 9, 11 and 12 are indivisibly tied to action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. It can easily be argued that every SDG is significantly impacted by our collective response to climate change.

In line with the UN approach to 'simultaneously reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development that leads to transformational change', the Scottish Government should take an integrated approach to both its International Development Fund and Climate Justice Fund, but also to its policy action to reduce Scottish emissions in line with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

## Scotland's best practice in climate justice work

Scotland is often cited as a pioneer in climate justice work, with ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and overseas adaptation work done through the Climate Justice Fund. It is crucial that Scotland continues to increase and deliver on its ambition, to promote its good example on international platforms and to support developing nations to lead the global effort to tackle climate change.

Scotland also boasts a significant renewable energy industry, which has managed to grow even in a difficult UK climate for the sector. Scotland could provide expertise and support to developing countries seeking to expand their renewable industry.

However, SCCS urges the Scottish Government to ensure that where private sector actors are involved in development work, projects remain focused on achieving public benefit in the partner

country. It is also crucial that rigorous accountability and transparency mechanisms are applied to the selection and operation of private sector partners. SCCS recognises the growing emphasis on the role of the private sector in international development, but we believe more comprehensive consideration must be given to Scotland's approach to working with private companies to achieve development goals. We would welcome the opportunity to hear in more detail about how the Scottish Government plans to engage the private sector in its development approach.

### **Reducing Scottish emissions to deliver climate justice**

We welcome the Scottish Government's acknowledgment of the need to practice policy coherence across its decision-making, and commend its commitment to climate justice work.

The emissions reduction targets in the Scottish Climate Change Act are the minimum required of rich countries like Scotland, if we are to avoid the worst effects of global warming. Indeed with Governments committing in the Paris Agreement to 'pursue efforts' to keep average global temperature rise below 1.5°C, it is likely even more ambitious emissions reduction targets are required.

The Scottish Government must ensure that its policies across all sectors are coherent with its climate commitments. Policy coherence can ensure all government departments consider the wider impacts of their policies through a climate justice lens, avoiding contradictory policies that could have a negative impact on carbon emissions. For example, coherence would mean not just funding climate justice adaptation work in sub-Saharan Africa, but also meeting all of Scotland's carbon reduction targets. Both mitigation and adaptation must be achieved in line with science in order to truly deliver climate justice to those worst affected by climate impacts.

We strongly urge the Scottish Government to increase its climate change efforts and deliver emission reductions in line with the Scottish Climate Change Act, potentially increasing that ambition inline with the global commitment made in the Paris Agreement. Mechanisms to ensure all government policies are in line with these targets are vital and we would welcome the opportunity to work with the Scottish Government to ensure policy coherence is implemented across departments.

### **Supporting those affected by climate impacts overseas**

Millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the impact of climate change right now through, for example, more extreme and unpredictable weather events, like flooding and drought. They are suffering first and worst from the consequences, and yet they are least to blame for the problem.

Scotland, as one of the world's first industrialised nations, has a key role to play in addressing this injustice that has accrued over generations. In addition to delivering on Scotland's targets to cut emissions, there is a need to address the unavoidable impacts of climate change from which the poorest are already suffering in other parts of the world.

We welcome the commitment to climate justice the Scottish Government has made through its Climate Justice Fund, and were pleased to see the fund increased last December 2015. We believe the funds apportioned to the Scottish Climate Justice Fund must remain explicitly additional to the International Development Fund – an important example to other countries. Given the scale of the impact of climate change on developing countries, we urge the Scottish Government to match the latter in monetary terms by the end of the forthcoming parliamentary term.

While recognising the importance of the Scottish Climate Justice Fund, it is also important to acknowledge that climate change impacts on a wide variety of development projects. To date, the Scottish Government has adopted a flexible approach, with some projects funded under the

International Development Fund containing a climate element. The cross-cutting nature of climate change should continue to be reflected within the Scottish Government's international development programme.

In addition, helping people in developing countries to adapt to climate impacts will enable them to build their resilience to extreme weather. That, in turn, should reduce the need for emergency funding, which is always more costly than preventative spend.

For more information, please contact:

Gail Wilson, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PR  
Tel: 0131 243 2701 Email: [info@stopclimatechaosscotland.org](mailto:info@stopclimatechaosscotland.org) Twitter: @sccscot  
Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a coalition of organisations campaigning on climate change, including environment, faith and development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups.  
**Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a charity, registered in Scotland**