

Oxfam's dream political party manifesto

International Policy

If elected, we commit to continued delivery in the UK to respond to global poverty and inequality, climate change and conflict; we commit to developing and delivering ambitious responses to new global challenges; and we pledge to work tirelessly, leading and encouraging other countries and international institutions to do the same.

1. Continued international leadership

- We will play a leading role in international efforts to deliver on the **Millennium Development Goals** by 2015, and will play a full part in discussions to **agree a post-2015 strategy for development** which tackles the vitally important issues of **inequality and social exclusion**.
- We will use our international position to maintain pressure on other **G8 and EU countries to deliver on their existing promises on development**, including in particular those made at UN Millennium Summit in 2000 and the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit.
- We will retain a strong and separate **Department for International Development**, with separate representation in the UK cabinet.

2. Delivery of resources to end poverty and inequality

- We will deliver on the UK commitment to **achieve 0.7% GNI spent on overseas development assistance by 2013, and earlier if possible**, and take steps to ensure both debt relief and finance for countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change are met from **additional** resources.
- We **recognise and welcome the vital work of international development and humanitarian Civil Society Organisations** both based in the UK and internationally. We will continue to provide predictable and high levels of funding for their work, and will treat them as valued and strategic partners in developing new policies.
- We will deliver **full debt cancellation** for all of those countries that need it to reach the MDGs.
- We will establish a **Commission on Scarcity**, to examine the global impacts of current and future **food, energy and water scarcity**, and propose global solutions, which will address the needs of both developed and developing countries.

3. Delivering health and education for all

- In order to deliver the 6.25 million extra health-workers and teachers needed in poor countries, we will champion and deliver resources for **strong public sectors** as providers of basic health and education for all. To achieve this we will **further increase the proportion of our aid allocated directly to public sector budgets to reach 50% by 2010**.
- In order to end the scandal of women dying in childbirth, **we will lead an international effort** and commit our fair share of resources to ensure that **all women can access free of charge** the essential health care facilities and medicines needed in pregnancy and childbirth by 2015.
- We will support initiatives aimed at increasing **access to medicines** in poor countries.

4. Robust action to tackle climate change and its impact on poor people

- We will play a leading role in **international negotiations on climate change**, pressing for a global agreement by the end of 2009 that keeps global temperature increases below 2 degrees Centigrade and guarantees a path to on-going sustainable human development and poverty eradication for developing countries.

- We will ambitiously **reduce domestic CO2 emissions**, putting the UK on track for domestic reductions of at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least **80% cuts** by 2050. We will ensure that UK domestic policies, such as on energy and transport are coherent with this goal. We will also work to guarantee that equally ambitious targets are met across Europe.

IN SCOTLAND: We will set increasingly ambitious targets for reducing domestic green house gas emissions, ensuring that Scotland is on track for at least 80% cuts below 1990 levels by 2050, including the setting of mandatory annual targets for reducing emissions by at least 3%. We will ensure that other policies, such as on energy and transport, are coherent with this goal.

IN WALES: We will support and complement work by the Welsh Assembly Government to reduce Welsh carbon dioxide emissions, ensuring that they fall by at least 3% annually in order to achieve reductions of at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Other policies, such as those on transport, economic development and energy should be consistent with these targets.

- **We commit to providing the UK's fair share of financing to support poor countries to adapt to the effects of climate change** – estimated to be around an extra £1.25 billion a year on top of, and additional to the existing commitment to meet 0.7% GNI on ODA. We will deliver these resources through UN mechanisms and ensure that they have strong developing country representation and equitable decision-making structures.

5. Reform of international institutions

- We will actively seek **reform of institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF** to democratise the representation and engagement of developing countries in their governance and decision-making structures.
- We will actively seek a **continued and strong voice for International Development in any future reforms to the EU institutions**, including the presence of a separate Development Commissioner.

6. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

- We will demonstrate our commitment to **gender equality** by mainstreaming gender into all aspects of our international development policy as well as supporting a range of specific initiatives aimed at increasing women's empowerment and upholding women's rights.
- We will **increase direct, long-term funding of women's organisations** and other CSOs working to change prevailing attitudes and beliefs about gender relations, and which promote women's political, social and economic leadership. In this regard, we will work with other countries to launch a **Global Investment Fund for Women's Leadership**.
- We recognise the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, and will actively seek the **inclusion of women in all stages of peace negotiations and reconstruction initiatives** as equal agents in the peace process.

7. Promoting just and fair international trade and food security

- In all **global and regional trade negotiations**, we will seek to ensure that developing countries retain sufficient space to pursue their legitimate policy objectives, including food security, rather than being forced into agreements that could undermine their national development plans.
- We will press for **duty-free and quota free access to EU markets** for all products from low-income countries, and for the **elimination of all trade-distorting subsidies** such as the Common Agricultural policy (CAP) by 2013.
- We will press for **increased investment by both donor and national governments in agriculture** that particularly benefits poor small-holders, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- We will provide **further financial support for the expansion of the Fairtrade sector**, and provide tax relief for Fairtrade Small and Medium Enterprises. We will work towards making the **UK a Fair Trade Nation**, complementing existing efforts in the some parts of the UK. This should focus on ensuring public sector procurement is ethical and fair, for example with regard to labour rights and pay in global supply chains.

8. Preventing and resolving conflict, protecting civilians

- We will be proactive in upholding and operationalising the UN agreed '**Responsibility to Protect**' civilians threatened by genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity around the world.
- We will continue to **press for a successful conclusion to negotiations for a robust international Arms Trade Treaty by 2010**, seeking in particular to persuade emerging powers of the benefits of such an international agreement. We will press for its effective implementation to prevent irresponsible arms transfers fuelling human rights abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, or undermining sustainable development.

9. Promoting responsibility and action by the private sector

- We will **provide a regulatory framework and enabling environment that promotes responsible corporate behaviour** by all British companies and investors, including when they operate overseas.
- We will undertake in the next Parliament a **rigorous review of the effectiveness of company reporting requirements** in making transparent the social and environmental impacts of a company's operations. We will also work proactively to encourage governments in other countries to implement more effective policies and mechanisms that promote corporate responsibility.
- We will take tough action to enforce **international corruption conventions**, and prosecute British companies operating corruptly abroad.

10. Educating truly global citizens in the UK

- We **support the principles of Education for Global Citizenship** which gives children and young people the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that they need if they are to participate fully in the world and make a positive contribution both locally and globally.

In England:

- We will take leadership through the Department for Children Schools and Families and other relevant government departments such as DFID to strengthen the recognition that teaching and learning must be set within the global context.
- We will change teacher training and practice, assessment, inspection, testing and curriculum policies to ensure schools develop young people's knowledge, skills and values with respect to development, globalisation, and the challenges and opportunities of our interdependent world.

In Scotland:

- We will work with the Scottish Government to continue to fund and support the mainstreaming of Education for Global Citizenship throughout the Curriculum for Excellence. We will do this by supporting development education centres and their work with schools and in delivering Initial Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development for teachers.

In Wales:

- We will work with the Welsh Assembly Government to further develop and support education for sustainable development and global citizenship (ESDGC).