

RECEIVED 15 OCT 2009

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP

Secretary of State  
Department of Energy  
and Climate Change

Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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11 October 2009

Dear Tessa,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 September enclosing a copy of an example of an email from your constituents about the Copenhagen conference on climate change.

I want first of all to thank your constituents for writing. It is vital we step up to the challenge – this is a make-or-break moment in the world of climate change. I too am concerned about the impact of climate change on children and young people. They will live longest with the effects of climate change and are amongst those who can do the most to stop it. We continue to listen with attention to their ideas, so that together we can work for a global deal at Copenhagen that is ambitious, effective and fair. We must protect the climate system for the benefit of future generations.

On 26 June we published the *Road to Copenhagen*. This can be found on our website at [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk). It opens up the international discussions to the public, and explains what we are aiming to achieve at Copenhagen, and why.

I note that the UNICEF campaign calls on the UK Government to ensure that at Copenhagen, developed countries commit to emissions cuts of 40 per cent by 2020. The EU has already committed to a 20 per cent reduction in EU emissions by 2020, and if other developed countries make sufficiently ambitious commitments, and developing countries contribute adequately, we will increase this to 30 per cent. The UK has taken a particular lead on this by committing to domestic cuts of 34 per cent by 2020.

At least 50 per cent of the EU's emissions reductions will come from within our borders. However, the Stern Review was clear that market mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism, would also be an essential part of an international agreement on climate change, helping developing countries shift away from high emitting "business as usual" development.

I also note that your constituent asked specifically for \$150 billion of public finance to be made available to help developing countries tackle climate change. Significant progress has been made on climate financing over the past few months, furthered by the Prime Minister's Climate Finance Initiative, launched in a speech on 26 June.

To develop the position that the Prime Minister set out in that speech, we drew on various independent reports on the scale of finance needed to tackle climate change in developing countries. In addition, we distinguished between such estimates, and the international finance that countries will really need for their low carbon and climate resilient growth and development, which at the moment we cannot know for certain. The Prime Minister therefore proposed \$100 billion a year by 2020 as a working figure for the world to focus on, and described some mechanisms – both public and private – which could raise such levels of finance. It will be crucial that the private sector engages in helping tackle climate change.

I realise that developing countries are waiting for developed countries to put money on the table before they will take further action. That's exactly why the Prime Minister launched his initiative – to frame the international debate and encourage high ambition from all countries in the run up to Copenhagen. We are continuing to press for this high ambition, in all international fora.

But we also do encourage everyone, whether individuals, communities or businesses, to play their part. Our Act on CO<sub>2</sub> campaign (<http://campaigns2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2>) provides advice and financial help for people to lower their 'carbon footprint'; and on the international picture your constituents can join the debate and see the full financial plan as well as the latest updates on the road to Copenhagen at:  
[www.ActOnCopenhagen.gov.uk](http://www.ActOnCopenhagen.gov.uk)



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