



**UNA-UK**

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Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Energy and Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
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*Sent via email to: sos.rudd@decc.gsi.gov.uk*

19 November 2015

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you on behalf of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) to call for UK leadership to help secure the strongest possible deal at the UN climate talks in Paris, and to raise the level of ambition thereafter.

By introducing the Climate Change Act, Britain became a global pioneer as the first country to adopt a legally-binding framework with long-term emissions targets and carbon budgets. More recently the UK has shown leadership in its commitment to phase out coal power stations by 2025. Such initiatives constitute compelling examples that have inspired and will continue to inspire states around the world to adopt similar measures.

Despite this progress, UNA-UK's supporters and local groups around the UK are worried that aspects of the UK's energy policies could undermine this legacy. The Committee on Climate Change has expressed concern over what will replace the "green deal". The UN Environment Programme has said that cuts in renewable subsidies, coupled with tax breaks for fossil fuels, were "disappointing". Paris is an opportunity for the UK to rekindle its role as a leader on climate change.

UNA-UK is pleased that the approach of seeking Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) looks likely to deliver agreement at Paris. However, we are deeply concerned by the UNFCCC Secretariat's assessment that the INDCs submitted to date do not put us on course to limiting global temperature rise to 2°C (and even this target would have devastating consequences for millions of people across the world).

We urge the UK to do all it can to raise the level of ambition at the conference, in particular on robust measures for monitoring progress and for closing the "emissions gap" by progressively building up INDCs. Such mechanisms will help the current patchwork of national actions to develop into a coherent and effective global framework. We also hope that the UK will display leadership – in Paris and at the World Humanitarian Summit next year – by calling for action to address climate-induced cross-border displacement, which will significantly exacerbate what is already the largest displacement crisis since records began.

But action after Paris is equally, if not more important. Efforts to strengthen the UNFCCC process will be bolstered if, through strong UK leadership, similar commitments on the phasing out of coal can be secured from the major polluting states, and if the UK is able to demonstrate best practice through the other strands of its domestic policies. We hope that when the conference concludes and the world is watching Paris, you will use that opportunity to set out the actions the Government will take to build on the outcomes agreed and to reaffirm the UK at the forefront of action – at home and internationally – to tackle the biggest challenge facing humanity.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Jeremy Greenstock  
Chairman, UNA-UK

Natalie Samarasinghe  
Executive Director, UNA-UK