

Submission by the Green Party to the Vote Global Manifesto

- April 2010 –

This document outlines how the Green Party matches UK civil society demands on international development as outlined in the [Vote Global Manifesto](#). The text was submitted by the Green Party to [Bond](#), the UK membership body of international development NGOs, on 6 April 2010.

This submission will be used to inform election campaigning by UK NGOs in 2010 and will be shared with campaigners and supporters. It can also be found online on the [vote global website](#).

More details about Green Party international development policies can also be found on the [Green Party's website](#).

The Vote Global Manifesto

Bond together with members and partner networks produced a joint [International Development Vote Global Manifesto](#) asking all political parties to commit to fighting poverty worldwide. The Manifesto has been signed by more than [160 organisations](#).

Bond invited political parties to respond to the Manifesto and outline how they match the key demands. The Green Party submission can be found below.

[Read the submissions by other parties.](#)

The submission

Please click on the links below to see how the Green Party matches the demands in the Vote Global Manifesto in certain areas.

1. Key principles of international development

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- [Human rights and gender equality](#)

2. More and better aid and debt relief

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4. Making the global economy work for the poor

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5. Good governance and addressing corruption

- [Citizens engagement with state and governments' accountability](#)
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6. Responding to conflict situations

- [International humanitarian and human rights agreements](#)
- [Cross-Government strategy for preventing violent conflict](#)
- [Humanitarian assistance separate from political interests](#)
- [No diversion of development aid for military purposes](#)

Full submission:

Vote Global Manifesto Recommendations	Green Party Response
Key principles of international development	
<p>Promote and support a strong voice on development within government through an independent Department for International Development represented by a Secretary of State.</p>	<p>The Green Party is committed to keeping an International Aid Department separate from the Foreign Office with its own Secretary of State, so as to separate foreign policy interests from humanitarian assistance.</p>
<p>Promote human rights by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the fundamental rights of all people to food, decent work, incomes, health, shelter, water and sanitation, education, social protection and political freedom; • Upholding the rights of women and promoting gender equality; 	<p>The Green Party thinks that aid projects sustained by British Government bodies or development agencies should observe the following real aid rules: aid should be aimed at the poorest; should mobilise the poor; should be locally designed and managed; should be subject to local oversight and scrutiny; and should be specific to local communities and environments.</p> <p>Tied aid should remain illegal.</p> <p>We think too that all aid programmes and projects should be based on robust socio-political and environmental analysis and should be designed to ensure social and ecological sustainability. Gender equality and protecting the most marginalised in society are core elements of this kind of approach. The UK should take the lead on developing expertise in these areas and should actively</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the most marginalised in society, including women, children, disabled and older people, minority and indigenous groups 	<p>promote their mainstreaming into both the policy and practice of the global aid system.</p>
<p>More and better aid and debt relief</p>	
<p>Spending at least 0.7% of national income on effective aid by 2013 at the latest and cancelling all illegitimate and unpayable developing country debt through the creation of a democratic and transparent debt tribunal.</p>	<p>The Green Party's general election manifesto includes a clear commitment to increase aid. We will exceed the UN's 0.7% target and allocate at least 1% of UK Gross National Product for aid by 2011, adding an extra £4.5bn pa. We also argue that aid should be targeted for the poorest, not involve economic policy conditions, respect gender equality and not be diverted to equipping security forces. These targets should also not include climate financing, emergency aid or debt relief.</p> <p>The Green Party calls for a reassessment of the nature of debt itself by acknowledging the historical ecological debt owed by rich to poor countries.</p> <p>A 2008 study by the University of California, Berkeley, found that the rich world's ecological debt to the poor world outstrips the traditional debt owed by poor countries to rich ones.</p> <p>For example, greenhouse emissions from low-income countries have imposed \$740 billion of damage on rich countries, while in return rich countries have imposed \$2300 billion of damage on poorer countries.</p> <p>The ecological debt has been built up by: the extraction of natural resources without proper payment, the use of local and indigenous knowledge for the development of products - eg medicines - without proper recompense, the use of local land for mono-crop export rather than for feeding the local population, and the appropriation of the atmosphere for the disproportionate emission of climate change gases.</p> <p>Ecological debt needs to be acknowledged and paid for. Simultaneously, the Green Party wants to</p>

	see the cancellation of all unjust and unsustainable traditional debt 'owed' by the developing world to richer countries.
Targeting aid for the poorest, most marginalised and vulnerable, particularly women and children, to tackle hunger, ensure food security and improve publicly provided services such as health (including HIV/AIDS and other services), education, water and sanitation and build effective social protection schemes.	As stated above we want aid to be directed at the poorest and at delivering genuine social and ecological sustainability. This includes a focus on priorities such as those identified in the gold standard.
Delivering aid effectively in coordinated and transparent ways, including through civil society organisations, without economic policy conditions attached (such as trade liberalisation and privatisation) and ensuring strong country ownership of development strategies.	We are opposed to tied aid. The Green Party position is also that poorer countries are entitled to protect their people and their markets from un-regulated competition, and we would seek to turn the World Trade Organisation into a General Agreement on Sustainable Trade, which together with a reformed International Monetary Fund, would better reflect the interests of smaller countries. Our manifesto includes a specific commitment to ensure that trade deals, whether global or with the European Union, allow developing countries to retain control over their economies and do not force through deregulation and liberalisation.
Maximising the potential of innovative financing	The Green Party back an international Financial Transactions Tax (a Robin Hood Tax) on transactions between financial institutions, and would introduce unilaterally a small levy on foreign

<p>mechanisms to generate additional resources to fill current gaps of sufficient volume to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</p>	<p>currency transactions involving the £ sterling. We also support exploring other innovative financing mechanisms to help provide resources for development.</p>
<p>Tackling Climate Change</p>	
<p>Delivering on an ambitious, fair and binding global deal to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.</p>	<p>The Green Party is fully committed to legally binding climate commitments to avoid warming exceeding 2 deg C.</p>
<p>Making deep cuts in our own carbon dioxide emissions of at least 40% by 2020 and more than 80% by 2050, without resorting to offsets, and in addition supporting developing countries towards low-carbon development and a green economy.</p>	<p>Our manifesto states that the UK needs to adopt an initial annual carbon dioxide emissions reduction target of around 10% with the aim of reducing emissions by 90% from 1990 levels by 2030 and 65% by 2020 - starting now. It also makes clear that these cuts should not be met by offsetting and that promoting green development should be an integral part of any development policies.</p>
<p>Taking a lead within the European Union to provide sufficient and verifiable new funding and technology transfer to the developing world,</p>	<p>The Green Party thinks that any global climate change treaty must involve a transfer of resources of well over US\$150bn a year from rich countries to poorer countries channelled through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to pay for the development of renewable energy technologies, climate change adaptation and to help resist deforestation. We favour dedicating the revenues from an international financial transactions tax to this purpose and to wider</p>

<p>bearing in mind that the EU should be responsible for at least one third of the minimum \$150 billion needed annually by developing countries by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<p>global sustainable development. If that does not prove successful the UK must pay its fair contribution from other resources.</p> <p>We think too that no Clean Development Mechanism credits should be given for agro-forestry sectors linked to deforestation, peat drainage, biodiversity loss, human rights abuses or evictions. Low biodiversity tree plantations (as opposed to old growth forests and other original ecosystems) should not qualify as carbon sinks as they are generally not considered to be ecologically self-sustaining.</p> <p>Finally, we want the EU to honour the European Parliament's resolution that calls for EU governments to provide at least EUR30bn per annum (by 2020) for mitigation and adaptation efforts. It specifies that this funding should be new, guaranteed and additional to existing overseas development aid - and not dependent on annual budgetary procedures in EU member states.</p>
<p>Ensuring that this funding is additional to official development assistance (ODA) and channelled through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) supporting the poorest countries to adapt to and mitigate against climate change, ensuring adequate governance arrangements and taking into account social and political impacts.</p>	
<p>Making the global economy work for the poor</p>	
<p>Ensuring that trade deals - whether at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or through the EU - allow developing</p>	<p>The Green Party has clearly stated its commitment to ensuring that trade deals, whether global or with the European Union, allow developing countries to retain control over their economies and do not force through deregulation and liberalisation. We are opposed to the overall direction of Global Europe and our MEPs have been active in pressing for a fundamental review of the EU's trade</p>

<p>countries to retain control over their economies, and do not force through deregulation and liberalisation which would undermine development objectives.</p>	<p>agenda. We advocate the EU seeking trading relations, particularly with poor people in poor countries, that give them a fair price for their products within a stable and sustainable pattern of trade. We agree too that the EPA negotiations need to fully respect ACP country positions on key issues and that the EU has to remain flexible and not impose any conditional deadlining.</p>
<p>Insisting on fundamental reform of global financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), to ensure that they engage all developing countries more equitably in their governance and decision-making structures, are made fully transparent and accountable and do not insist on economic conditions that could, for example, undermine social protection systems.</p>	<p>We support abolition of the World Bank unless reformed so that membership and decision-making are democratic as between member states, such that a majority always resides with the majority of the world's people and countries, in other words the developing countries. Operations should be made subservient to sustainability principles and to all international conventions on human and labour rights, and environmental protection. The Presidency of the Bank, hitherto always a US citizen and a position in the gift of the US President, should be opened up to people of all countries according to merit.</p> <p>The IMF should return to its original role of overseeing the international monetary system, and no more than that. It should aim to limit surpluses in member countries' foreign payment, as well as deficits. The IMF has neither the skills nor the public legitimacy to interfere in countries' domestic policies, and all policy conditions on its loans and standby agreements should be brought to an end without delay.</p> <p>The IMF should be reformed so that membership and decision-making are democratic as between member states, such that a majority always resides with the majority of the world's people and countries, in other words the developing countries. No country should have an effective right of veto on any decisions of the Fund, as the USA has had on all decisions since the beginning. The position of Managing Director of the Fund, hitherto always a European citizen, should be opened up to people of all countries according to merit.</p>
<p>Requiring greater transparency and automatic information exchange for tax havens, and pushing for a</p>	<p>The Green Party has a specific policy commitment to crack down on tax havens and other methods of tax evasion and avoidance. In particular we will press for a transparent international accounting standard that requires companies to report on a country by country basis so that their profits can be located and taxed.</p>

<p>transparent international accounting standard that requires companies to report their financial activities on a country-by-country basis with a clear breakdown of economic activity.</p>	
<p>Introducing a UK Commission for Business, Human Rights and the Environment mandated to ensure adherence of UK companies to environmental and human rights standards.</p>	<p>The Green Party has pledged to ensure that UK companies operating abroad adhere to environmental and human rights standards. We also actively support the decent work agenda and would encourage developing countries with which we work to implement core International Labour Organisation standards.</p>
<p>Supporting the decent work agenda by adequately funding the International Labour Organisation (ILO), encouraging all developing countries with which the UK works to have Decent Work Country Programmes and ratifying and implementing the core labour conventions of the ILO.</p>	

Good Governance and addressing corruption

Using its aid to contribute to expanding the space for citizens and state engagement and increased accountability, including support to parliamentary committees, national human rights institutions, independent auditing, the freedom of the press, civil society organisations, anti-corruption groups and academia.

The Green Party thinks that British aid should aim to strengthen the capacity of affected countries and local communities to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to humanitarian crises. Its goals should be consistent with global sustainability, both social and environmental. Aid agreements should facilitate local ownership and control over policy, while also promoting parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of aid expenditures in recipient countries. British development aid flows should be predictable and timely over the long term in order to enable planning and to ensure sufficient time to achieve objectives.

British aid expenditures should be coordinated with those of other major donors. Where appropriate, a significant portion of aid should be channelled through a small number of accountable multilateral organisations in order both to reduce the management burden on recipient countries and to enable better coordination and greater transparency of overall global aid flows.

Special attention must be paid to the dangers posed by the expansion of direct budget support, especially where it is coordinated and shared among several donors. The nature of this support, and the content of any accompanying advice to recipient governments, needs to be just as transparent as is the case with traditional project aid. Where a coordinated bloc of donors acts in concert, they should be extra-careful not to abuse the dominant position over a recipient government that this affords them.

Ensuring that the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the OECD Anti Bribery Convention are fully incorporated into UK domestic law and establishing an annual, independent audit of the government's implementation of both Conventions; and encouraging other countries to do likewise.

Specifically the Green Party would fully implement and enforce the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

We would recognise the importance of civil society organisations and of a free press worldwide and their role in promoting transparency, democracy, good governance and fighting corruption

Developing a cross-

<p>Whitehall strategy for tackling corruption and work closely with other donors and states to tackle the underlying factors which fuel and facilitate corruption.</p>	
<p>Responding to conflict situations</p>	
<p>Promoting human security by upholding international humanitarian and human rights agreements and laws including the UN 'Responsibility to Protect', supporting the International Criminal Court, pressing for successful negotiations over a robust and comprehensive global Arms Trade Treaty and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions such as those addressing violence against women in conflict and the protection of children affected by armed conflict.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports the existence of an international legal framework, both treaty-based and customary. We believe that this framework should fully provide not only for civil and political rights but also for social and economic rights, including the provision of the basic conditions of human subsistence. The Green Party believes that the international legal framework should include so-called "third generation" rights. These are not individual rights but they concern matters which affect us all. They include the right to a healthy environment and the right to self-determination (which would include judicial scrutiny of global economic activity).</p> <p>The Green Party believes that the international legal framework should apply to private entities as well as public entities and that corporations should not be able to claim human rights. These rights should have effective mechanisms of enforcement. They should not be limited to inter-state supervision and should be capable of vigilance and enforcement by individual victims or by groups which can prove they have a legitimate interest in the matter. In particular, we believe that as a minimum there should be the right of individual petition to the relevant supervisory body and the availability of legal proceedings before an international court in cases involving the most serious breaches.</p>

<p>Developing a cross-Government strategy for preventing violent conflict and working to joint country strategies across relevant departments, particularly in conflict-affected countries.</p>	<p>In accordance with our policy on subsidiarity, we believe that international and national rights and laws should be enforced in the first instance and where possible at national level, then at regional level, and only where appropriate at global level. We would therefore ensure that international law was fully implemented in the United Kingdom. We would also fully recognise the existing principle of extra-territoriality (e.g. jurisdiction over cases of child trafficking abroad). We would reform the UN and other international institutions. We will work to reform the United Nations by abolishing all permanent seats on the Security Council and introducing decision-making by majority vote.</p>
<p>Ensuring that political and foreign policy interests are clearly separated from the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and to make all efforts to protect and promote humanitarian space and humanitarian principles whereby people affected by conflict are assured access to impartial and independent assistance.</p>	<p>Our international policies are designed to help the vulnerable help themselves in a global framework which gives every country a voice in decision-making. We want the UK to take a leading role in preventing conflict, protecting civilians threatened by conflict and promoting human rights and international law. The Green Party would act to reduce arms sales worldwide by ending Government support for and subsidies of arms exports, including through UK Trade & Investment's Defence & Security Organisation and the Export Credits Guarantee Department. As stated earlier we oppose the diversion of any aid for security purposes and are fully committed to developing countries retaining control over their economies and other aspects of their development. Guaranteeing access to justice and the right to security are fundamental to this vision.</p> <p>Our overall objective is to support the establishment and maintenance of ecologically sustainable and democratic communities throughout the world, and progress towards a world in which all people are equal in both their economic potential and their political rights. Development must meet the needs of those alive at present without threatening poverty and vulnerability to those unborn. This means ensuring that everyone on the planet enjoys a livelihood that can be supported by the planet's resources, ecology and atmosphere. Poverty should be defined in terms of people's rights and not their monetary incomes.</p>
<p>Ensuring that whilst development aid aims at poverty eradication, and in conflict situations is used to promote human security and access to justice, it is not diverted to equipping security forces.</p>	<p>Every country must be permitted the political space to make its own decisions about economic policy and strategy, while living within global environmental limits. For most countries, this has not been the case since the 1980s. Successful development cannot be imposed by powerful institutions outside a country but must be a learning process, in which participatory local, regional and national institutions are free to exercise political and economic self-determination. The task of global institutions should be to enable countries to make their own progress, and not prescribe the methods by which they may do so.</p>