

Submission by the Labour Party to the Vote Global Manifesto
- March 2010-

This document outlines how the Labour Party matches UK civil society demands on international development as outlined in the [Vote Global Manifesto](#). The text was submitted by the Labour Party International Development Team to [Bond](#), the UK membership body of international development NGOs, on 15 February 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 Labour's development policies can be found on the [Labour website](#) and at [globalpovertypromise.com](#).

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 fight 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 Labour Party submission can be found below.

[Read the submissions by the Liberal Democrats and the Conservative Party.](#)

The Vision of the Labour Party for International Development

I am proud that it was Labour who established a dedicated Department for International Development in 1997, untied our aid, and focussed our aid firmly on poverty eradication as its primary purpose. Since then we have helped tackle poverty and make life better for millions worldwide, and have been recognised as a world leader in our aid effectiveness. Our commitment to international development at the highest levels of our party – both as a moral cause and because it is in our common interest will continue. Change happens by choice – not chance.

It was Labour who chose to make one of the key focuses of our G8 summit in 2005 tackling global poverty, and Labour who has continued to keep our promises, despite the recent global economic crisis.

We have trebled our aid since 1997 to reach the highest level since 1970, are on track to meet our 0.7% aid promise from 2013, and are now also committed to enshrining this in law. (NB You can back the 0.7% law at www.globalpovertypromise.com) This sits in stark contrast with how the Tories halved the aid budget – and how they refuse to commit to introduce a law.

Our priorities over the next five years will continue to be ensuring that our aid makes a difference globally: ensuring more children go to school; more mothers and children are able to access free public health care; fewer people go hungry; more people have access to water and sanitation; and that fewer people die from killer diseases like HIV/Aids and malaria. We will also show new resolve and focus in tackling conflict and insecurity; climate change and its impacts; and reforming our international institutions like the UN and World Bank.

And we will take action on the wider international development agenda, by continuing our commitment to debt relief – including clamping down on vulture funds; taking action on tax havens and tax transparency; and exploring new innovative financing mechanisms.

Labour will also remain firmly committed to promoting gender equality and women's rights, and supporting the most excluded.

Despite the warm words – there is no consensus on international development between the main parties. There is instead a world of difference – whether it is on 0.7%; climate finance; the definitions and purpose of our aid; or the appropriate role for the private sector in providing services like health and education.

Campaigners are faced with a big choice at the coming election - I urge them to think carefully about how they use their vote.

Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander MP, Secretary of State for International Development, Labour Party

The submission

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

1. Key principles of international development

- [Independent DFID with Cabinet seat](#)
- [Human rights](#) and [gender equality](#)

2. More and better aid and debt relief

- [0.7 by 2013](#)
- [Debt relief](#)
- [Targeting aid effectively](#)
- [Effective aid delivery](#)
- [Innovative financing mechanisms and FTT](#)

3. Tackling Climate Change

- [An ambitious, fair and binding global deal](#)
- [Cutting UK emissions](#)
- [Providing sufficient funding and technology to developing countries](#)
- [Funding needs to be additional and channelled through the UNFCCC](#)

4. Making the global economy work for the poor

- [Trade](#)
- [Reform of Global Financial Institutions](#) (World Bank, International Monetary Fund)
- [Tax reforms](#)
- [UK Commission for Business, Human Rights and the Environment](#)

- [Decent work agenda](#)

5. **Good governance and addressing corruption**

- [Citizens engagement with state and governments' accountability](#)
- [Complying with UN Convention Against Corruption \(UNCAC\) and OECD Anti Bribery Convention](#)
- [Cross-Whitehall strategy to tackle corruption](#)

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:

<i>Vote Global Manifesto recommendation</i>	Labour Party response
Key principles	
<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>Labour created the Department for International Development in 1997 and only Labour will protect its unique record of global leadership and delivery.</p> <p>Labour therefore remains totally committed to retaining an independent Department for International Development headed by a Secretary of State with a seat in Cabinet.</p> <p>Labour believes that the vast majority of UK official development assistance (ODA) should be spent by DFID, and should continue to be regulated by both the International Development Acts and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) guidelines.</p> <p>Labour believes that there are legitimate reasons where ODA can be spent by other government departments - for example to ensure a coherent and joined up approach to our work in countries of insecurity and instability - and on global challenges like climate change.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Labour is committed to ensuring that DFID should play a key role in overseeing or advising on spending of ODA by other departments, such as the joint DFID-DECC Environmental Transformation Fund, which has oversight by a board comprised of senior officials from both departments.</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 	<p>Labour will remain firmly committed to a rights-based approach to development and will continue to put this at the heart of our policies.</p> <p>Our approach is based on three core principles of participation, inclusion and fulfilling obligations, as outlined in two key strategies "<i>Realising Human Rights for Poor People</i>" (2000) and the updated "<i>Human Rights Policy Summary</i>" (2008).</p>

<p>and sanitation, education, social protection and political freedom;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholding the rights of women and promoting gender equality; • Protecting the most marginalised in society, including women, children, disabled and older people, minority and indigenous groups. 	<p>Labour has prioritised gender equality across its development policy and will continue to do so – whether it is in increasing the enrolment of girls into school in Nigeria; supporting the provision of microfinance and financial services to over 650,000 women in Afghanistan, Tanzania and Pakistan; or providing women’s rights training to South African peacekeepers. Labour believes that gender equality and gender justice should sit at the core of all that we do in development.</p> <p>Labour has already committed to ensure that <u>all</u> of our aid programmes monitor and report the impact on women and girls, and we commit that this will continue.</p> <p>The Labour government has been at forefront of the campaign for a single UN women's agency with a strong leader – and will continue to engage and support the new body as it is established. Labour will continue in our commitment to at least double our core funding for the new agency.</p> <p>Labour will continue to take significant steps towards ending violence against women. Labour’s 2009 White Paper committed to ensuring that all new security and access to justice programmes will include measures to support women and girls affected by violence. Labour already has two Ministers appointed with responsibility for this issue - one each in DFID and the FCO.</p> <p>Labour remains committed to protecting the most marginalised in society, including women, children, disabled and older people, minority, and indigenous groups. Labour established a Social Exclusion Policy in 2005 to focus on these issues. Our commitment in practise has meant, for example: increasing the enrolment of Dalit schoolchildren in India; improving access to education for disabled children in Vietnam; funding disability rights organisations across the world; and, supporting Action Aid’s work with indigenous women in Latin America.</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</p>	<p>Labour remains strongly committed to meeting the 0.7% aid target by 2013 and will enshrine this in law.</p> <p>Labour has trebled our aid since 1997 in order to remain firmly on track to meeting that target – after the previous government halved our aid budget between 1979 and 1997. Our aid is now the highest it has been since 1970.</p>

<p>all illegitimate and unpayable developing country debt through the creation of a democratic and transparent debt tribunal.</p>	<p>Labour has introduced a groundbreaking draft bill to enshrine the 0.7% aid target commitment in law from 2013 – and is the first country in the G8/G20 to do so.</p> <p>Following pre-legislative scrutiny in this parliament, Labour would seek the re-introduction of this as a full programme bill in the session of parliament immediately following a general election.</p> <p>Labour believes that the definition of ODA should continue to be determined by the international guidelines set out by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), although we have chosen to exceed these definitions in some areas.</p> <p>The Labour government, thanks to the personal leadership of Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, led the world in campaigning for debt relief.</p> <p>\$117 billion of debt relief has now been delivered internationally since 2000 under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).</p> <p>As a result of our leadership and our own cancellation - 28 countries (22 in Africa) have received 100% debt cancellation including Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Cameroon and Sierra Leone.</p> <p>Debt relief has made a life changing difference for poor people - for example 1 million more children are now at school in Mozambique.</p> <p>We will legislate to clamp down on the activities of vulture funds – after the Conservative MPs torpedoed the Private Members Bill on this vitally important issue.</p> <p>Labour remains committed to delivering on the debt relief agenda, and believes that existing systems are the most appropriate and effective way to tackle poor countries' debt problems – in a fair, thorough and transparent method.</p>
<p>Targeting aid for the poorest, most marginalised and vulnerable, particularly women and children, to tackle hunger, ensure food security and improve publicly</p>	<p>Labour has ensured that we already focus 90% of our bilateral aid programme in Low Income Countries (LICs) – and that there is a significant focus on women and girls across our programming. Labour is committed to ensuring this continues.</p> <p>Labour has also driven efforts to ensure the same in our multilateral funding - 90% of our World Bank funding and 95% of our African Development Bank funding reaches low income countries. We have also led calls in Europe to do the same. More than 90% of EU European Development Fund resources are allocated to LICs, and our efforts have also helped increase the proportion of EC aid going to LICs – although more must be done in this area.</p> <p>Labour remains focussed on a range of key development priorities in our spending. We have committed to:</p>

<p>provided services such as health (including HIV/AIDS and other services), education, water and sanitation and build effective social protection schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spend £1.1bn on food security and agriculture from 2009-11 to reduce the number of people living in hunger; - spend £6bn on health from 2008-15 to deliver better healthcare – for example for women and children - spend £1bn via the Global Fund for TB, AIDS and Malaria to tackle these killer diseases; - spend £8.5bn on education from 2006/7 to 2015/16 to ensure children, especially girls are able to go to school; - spend £1 billion on water and sanitation in Africa over the five years from 2008 to for example ensure people have access to clean water; - build social protection systems to get help to 50 million people over three years, and spend over £200 million to support social protection programmes from 2008/9 to 2010/11 in our HIV/Aids strategy. <p>Labour would continue a similar level of commitment to these key priorities in the future.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Labour has led efforts to ensure better global aid effectiveness and co-ordination by being fully committed to the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, and our leadership of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).</p> <p>Labour remains firmly committed to strong country-ownership of development strategies – and set out our principles on conditionality in 2005. These include the effective use of aid for poverty reduction; partner country leadership of development; increasing predictability of aid; strong safeguards on the use of tax-payers money, and; adherence to human rights.</p> <p>Labour remains committed to these principles of poverty reduction, human rights and sound financial management. Labour has and will continue to suspend aid to governments and channel it through alternative sources where it is clear these principles have been breached.</p> <p>Labour does not support the imposition of policy conditions - and we will not use privatisation and trade liberalisation policies as conditions.</p> <p>Labour has and will continue to put pressure on the World Bank, IMF and other international bodies to not impose any policy conditions such as privatisation and trade liberalisation.</p> <p>Labour remains firmly committed to working with civil society both overseas and here in the UK in the cause of development. We will double central support to civil society organisations to £300 million a year by 2013; have launched a new development innovation fund for smaller UK based organisations; will double funding for faith based groups; and will expand our work with Trade Unions.</p>
<p>Maximising the</p>	<p>Labour believes that innovative financing mechanisms have a key role to play in generating new resources to meet the Millennium</p>

<p>potential of innovative financing mechanisms to generate additional resources to fill current gaps of sufficient volume to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</p>	<p>Development Goals.</p> <p>Labour has led the world in pushing for the rebalancing of risk and reward between the financial sector and the public – and have already called on the IMF to investigate the feasibility of a range of mechanisms including a Financial Transaction Tax and global levies.</p> <p>Labour will remain committed to taking forward this agenda and working with international partners to find consensus.</p> <p>Labour is committed to continuing to lead the way in exploring other innovative financing mechanisms to provide resources for development. We were instrumental in the setting up of IFFim, supporting Advanced Market Commitments (AMCs), and have supported the efforts of other countries, such as the French air ticket levy. We have led global discussions around innovative financing for health.</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>Labour is committed to ambitious global and UK action to tackle climate change, keeping global temperature increases within 2 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>Labour will continue to work actively for a fair and legally binding international climate change deal to be agreed under the UN.</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>Labour remains committed to achieving UK emissions cuts of at least 80% by 2050. We have led the world in passing a Climate Change Act to ensure this happens.</p> <p>Under Labour's carbon budgets the UK is committed by law to a 34% cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020. In concert with high ambition from other developed countries we want the EU to move from a 20% to a 30% reduction by 2020, under which Labour is committed to a UK cut of around 42%.</p> <p>Labour supports carbon market mechanisms which allow developed countries to achieve part of their targeted reductions overseas. Such mechanisms provide a vital flow of investment for developing countries. However Labour supports limits on the extent to which carbon credits can be used, to ensure that these cannot be used as an excuse for inaction at home.</p> <p>Labour is already committed to promoting sustainable and low-carbon development policies throughout its work. Labour put these at the heart of our 2009 White Paper on International Development - for example in our support for countries through a range of</p>

	mechanisms to help value natural capital and plan for low carbon and environmentally sustainable growth.
<p>Taking a lead within the European Union to provide sufficient and verifiable new funding and technology transfer to the developing world, 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>Labour remains committed to the UK, as part of the EU, providing significant funding for mitigation and adaptation measures – including technology transfer.</p> <p>Labour will commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing our fair share towards the global goal agreed in the Copenhagen Accord to mobilise public and private finance flows of least \$100bn per year by 2020, including finance which is additional to our 0.7% aid commitment - working to push for a fair EU contribution in this regard, including on new and additional finance.
<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</p>	<p>Labour remains committed to providing funding for adaptation and mitigation which is additional to our existing 0.7% aid commitment from 2013, and that no more than 10% of our ODA commitment should be counted as climate finance.</p> <p>Labour believes that climate financing should be provided consistent with the principles in the Bali Action Plan, including through dedicated climate funds which deliver the objectives of the Copenhagen Accord.</p> <p>We believe that the ‘Green Fund’ listed in the Copenhagen Accord should be under the guidance of, and accountable to the UNFCCC, governed by a balanced board of developed and developing countries; that it could be administered by a multilateral development bank or banks, and should deliver support based on country owned and led plans through national agencies.</p> <p>Labour will only support mechanisms which ensure that funds are disbursed equitably and efficiently - and have maximum impact on the ground.</p>

<p>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 countries to retain control over their economies, and do not force through deregulation and liberalisation which would undermine development objectives.</p>	<p>Labour remains fully committed to concluding a pro-development WTO Doha Round. We believe that the right deal could deliver real benefits for the world's poorest countries, reform world agriculture markets and help tackle protectionist sentiment.</p> <p>Labour is committed to pushing for policy coherence in relation to trade policy in the EU across the board. We established a joint DFID-BIS trade unit to put development at the heart of our approach to trade policy within the EU – and our Secretary of State for International Development chairs the Cabinet Committee on Trade.</p> <p>Labour believes that all new EU agreements and regulations should, where relevant, take development and environmental sustainability concerns into account. We will continue to push in this regard.</p> <p>Labour is committed to ensuring EPAs are negotiated flexibly, with priority placed on the development needs of the ACP countries – including the securing of duty and quota free access to EU markets; long transition periods; and safeguards that allow countries to protect vital products.</p> <p>Labour does not believe poor countries should be forced to liberalise and does not believe countries should be forced into agreements on intellectual property or Singapore issues.</p> <p>Labour is committed to allowing countries to sequence trade reforms appropriately, so that they can build the capacity to compete globally.</p> <p>Labour remains committed to radical reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy – and will continue to push EU partners in this regard.</p>

	<p>Labour has pledged to increase our funding for fair and ethical trade four-fold over the next four years, including £12m committed to the global Fairtrade Labelling system (FLO) for 2010-13 – allowing the Fairtrade movement to expand both products and opportunities.</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>Labour has led international efforts to reform both the World Bank and IMF, and will continue to take strong negotiating positions. Labour believes that our support for multilateral institutions must be matched by reform.</p> <p>Labour believes that that the President of both the IMF and World Bank should be determined on merit. Labour has already successfully fought for an additional African seat on the World Bank board.</p> <p>Labour believes that World Bank decision making should be a partnership and has pushed for reform of voting shares and voice at the World Bank. We will continue to do so. We believe that there needs to be a robust formula for voting – which gives more say to both those who receive assistance and borrow, and those who provide financing. This should be dynamic and reviewed every five years.</p> <p>Labour is committed to extensive reform of the IMF to ensure that it can undertake its role and be effective, accountable and legitimate in the modern global economy. As part of the ongoing review, Labour believes that the Fund's voting procedures should be examined to ensure that the board reflects the wide variety of views for its members. This should include a review of voting majority thresholds, as well as the possible use of double majorities - where appropriate - to increase the legitimacy of decisions.</p> <p>Labour has consistently pushed with others for greater transparency at the World Bank. We believe the Bank could go further and share key policy documents and analysis with recipient countries and key stakeholders, at an earlier stage, to allow for informed and constructive debate.</p> <p>At the World Bank, Labour will continue to fight for stronger political leadership and accountability: a clearer division of labour between Bank and shareholders. We will also fight for strengthened performance and effectiveness as well as reforms to make lending faster, more flexible, and for more decisions to be decentralised.</p> <p>Labour believes that the IFIs should aspire to the same standards which we set in our bilateral policy on social and environmental issues. We will push for example for the Bank to promote free services in health and education, reduce its investments in high carbon projects, and increase them in new low carbon projects.</p> <p>Labour does not believe that policy conditions such as deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation should be imposed as a condition of accepting grants or loans from the IFIs. We will continue to hold the IFIs to account in this regard.</p>

<p>Requiring greater transparency and automatic information exchange for tax havens, and pushing for a 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>Labour has led efforts internationally to secure progress on tax havens and taxation - following our pushing of this issue at the London G20 summit in 2009. We commit to drive forward this agenda.</p> <p>Labour has welcomed the work of the IASB in exploring country by country reporting. We have also examined the OECD's initial work in this area and will continue to call on the OECD to look at the feasibility of introducing multinational guidelines on Country-by-Country Reporting through a full and open consultation with Governments, multinationals and Civil Society partners.</p> <p>Labour has already launched a process to be one of the first countries to sign a multilateral tax information exchange agreement (MTIEA) - enabling developing countries and developed countries a more low cost means of securing tax information exchange. We aim to have this in place by end of 2010 – and will encourage other countries to do the same.</p> <p>Labour acknowledges that the future of tax information exchange will need to be automatic exchange. We have urged the OECD tax & development committee to seek progress on automatic exchange and the beneficial ownership of accounts and trust funds.</p> <p>Labour has supported initiatives like the African Tax Forum and is committed to host a conference in 2010 to make progress on capacity building in developing countries. We have also significantly contributed towards supporting developing countries to improve their own taxation arrangements and ability to raise revenue.</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>Labour has shown significant leadership internationally on the relationship between business, human rights and the environment. We were instrumental both in the establishment of the UN Special Representative's mandate and in the establishment of a number of international initiatives designed to promote higher standards of business accountability and responsibility with regard to human rights, such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.</p> <p>Labour's former Prime Minister Tony Blair launched the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2002. Since then similar transparency and accountability initiatives on pharmaceuticals (Medicines Transparency Alliance - MeTA) and construction (Construction Sector Transparency Initiative) have been launched.</p> <p>Labour is committed to further strengthening of these regimes, and will raise awareness and encourage wider use of tools such as the OECD guidelines for multinationals which provide standards for corporate responsibility. Our "Business Call to Action" has engaged senior corporate leaders in promoting positive behaviour by the private sector in development and ethical/sustainable business practise.</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>	<p>Labour believes that ILO conventions are vital in setting the global standard for decent and safe work.</p> <p>We have already ratified all of the eight ILO 'core' Conventions which cover forced labour, child labour, discrimination in employment, and trade union rights.</p> <p>We report on our compliance with each of these Conventions every two years, and Labour commits to encourage others to do the same.</p> <p>Labour will remain committed to the Decent Work Agenda. We have for example negotiated favourable references in last year's Resolution on the Global Jobs Pact, and promoted the Pact in the G20.</p> <p>Labour will support Decent Country Work Programmes, which are country-led, working with the ILO and representative employer and worker organisations.</p> <p>We will continue to support the work of Co-operatives in Africa through our commitments of funding to the ILO.</p>
<p>Good Governance and addressing corruption</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>Labour promotes good governance through both the application of the “partnership principles”, our significant support to governance improvement through our bilateral programmes, through our funding of anti-corruption measures, and through the funding of civil society organisations. We remain committed to take forward work in all of these areas.</p> <p>The Labour government already provides significant funding to women's groups, anti-corruption groups and academia to help hold governments to account. We have for example supported over 30 specific parliamentary strengthening projects in the past ten years. We also provide significant support to human rights institutions, parliaments and auditing mechanisms throughout the developing world.</p> <p>Where we were not already doing so – Labour has committed to spend at least 5% of our bilateral funding to all poor countries to promote accountability and transparency through parliaments, audit mechanisms and civil society.</p> <p>Labour has supported the development of a free press and the ability of media to hold authorities to account through a range of our programmes – including our ongoing support for the BBC World Service Trust.</p>

<p>society organisations, anti-corruption groups and academia.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Labour remains firmly committed to tackling corruption and bribery – including on the supply side. British taxpayers and the world's poorest people need to be assured that we will work to ensure every pound of our aid budget is spent effectively – and that we have a zero-tolerance approach to corruption.</p> <p>Investment by the Labour government through DFID has already led to the recovery of £20 million of stolen assets and the freezing of a further £131 million. We will go further in this regard by tripling funding to support developing countries to recover stolen assets, increasing funding to the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Metropolitan Police's Proceeds of Corruption Unit, and Interpol. We are also committed to providing new funding to the CPS to enable them to take tough action against those who steal and seek to hide proceeds in the UK.</p> <p>Labour is fully committed to the OECD Bribery Convention. We will continue to take the OECD's reviews of UK's implementation very seriously.</p> <p>Labour has also led the way by introducing a new ground-breaking Bribery Bill which is now going through Parliament. The Bill has been welcomed by the OECD Secretary-General and others.</p> <p>Labour has also launched a new UK Foreign Bribery Strategy. This aims to minimise the involvement of UK nationals and companies in foreign bribery.</p> <p>Labour is committed to the full and effective implementation of UNCAC. We were a leading voice during the negotiations on ensuring that the Convention addressed all aspects of anti-corruption – criminal law enforcement (prosecutions); prevention (good governance); and international co-operation (combating money laundering & tracing and returning stolen assets).</p> <p>In December 2009, the Labour government along with other convention members agreed a review mechanism that will enable effective monitoring of each country's implementation of UNCAC provisions.</p>
<p>Developing a cross-Whitehall strategy for tackling corruption and work closely</p>	<p>Labour is already committed to ensuring close co-operation between Whitehall departments, police and judicial agencies – as well as internationally - to tackle supply-side and other forms of corruption as evidenced above.</p> <p>Labour commits to keeping the nature of this cooperation under review and look at whether a strategy would help strengthen</p>

<p>with other donors and states to tackle the underlying factors which fuel and facilitate corruption.</p>	<p>existing arrangements.</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</p>	<p>Labour has shown significant international leadership on humanitarian reform, and in responding to humanitarian crises. Labour will continue to press for the upholding of humanitarian principles globally.</p> <p>Labour will continue to push strongly within the EU and the UN to tackle human rights abuses and conflict globally – including by implementing the groundbreaking commitment made by states in 2005 to the 'Responsibility to Protect' (R2P) doctrine.</p> <p>We remain determined that Britain will play a key role in international efforts to give practical effect to the Responsibility to Protect consistently across the world. Labour welcomes the the UNSG's report on how to implement R2P and stands ready to play a part in this process. We have provided funding for civil society advocacy, awareness-raising, research and analysis work including for the Global Centre for R2P, and the office of the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.</p> <p>The Labour government ensured the UK was one of the first 60 countries to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC to bring it into force, and remains a strong supporter, in principle and in practice, of the ICC. We support a strong global membership and jurisdiction that can help bring an end to the culture of impunity for the most serious crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Along with our EU partners, we regularly lobby other countries to promote wider ratification of the Rome Statute.</p> <p>We believe the best solution is for those alleged to be responsible to be brought to justice in the place where the crimes took place. We have however also legislated through the 2001 International Criminal Court Act to ensure that we can prosecute those who are UK nationals or residents in the UK accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. We also introduced an amendment to the ICC Act in 2009 to make the effect of the Act retrospective to 1991, and to bring greater certainty to who is covered.</p> <p>Labour remains committed to achieving a comprehensive, robust and legally binding International Arms Trade Treaty in 2012 in line with our previous manifesto commitments, as a priority objective for both our foreign and development policy. We commit to continue to show high-level global leadership, working with partners across the world, including civil society – to deliver on this commitment.</p>

<p>children affected by armed conflict.</p>	<p>Labour has helped the international community take steps towards agreeing a new Convention on Cluster Munitions, one of the most significant new arms control agreements in recent years, banning the use, development, production, acquisition, retention, transfer and stockpiling of these weapons. We are already introducing a Cluster Munitions Prohibitions Bill to pave the way for the UK's ratification of the Convention.</p> <p>Labour already supports National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820. We were one of the first countries to devise a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in 2006 and the plan is currently under revision in consultation with civil society.</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>Labour has committed in our 2009 White Paper to establishing cross-Whitehall strategies for all fragile and conflict-affected states where one does not already exist.</p> <p>Labour has driven innovations in cross-Whitehall working, including through inter-governmental structures on countries like Sudan and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Labour is committed to close working in a comprehensive approach between DFID, FCO, MOD and other departments in our work in conflict-affected countries. Close working in the field is matched by high level discussion and agreement at the National Security, International Relations and Development Committee of the Cabinet (NSID).</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</p>	<p>Labour believes that humanitarian space must be respected and protected as a key international principle.</p> <p>Labour will continue to work with the United Nations, including UN OCHA, leading humanitarian NGOs and organisations such as the ICRC in this regard.</p> <p>Labour has led significant international efforts on humanitarian reform – including leading efforts to establish the CERF at the UN, and providing significant funding in this regard.</p>

<p>conflict are assured access to impartial and independent assistance.</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>Labour recognises that there cannot be poverty eradication where conflict exists, and that conflict and fragility are both causes and consequences of poverty.</p> <p>Labour therefore remains committed to allocate at least half of our new bilateral aid to fragile and conflict-affected countries.</p> <p>Labour remains firmly committed that the primary purpose of our aid should be poverty eradication – and remains committed to the principles set out in the International Development Act 2002.</p> <p>Labour remains firmly committed to the protection of civilians and the humanitarian imperative, as well as ensuring the independence of UN agencies and others such as the IFRC.</p> <p>Labour believes that close co-operation in a comprehensive approach between our development, diplomatic and defence efforts is crucial – particularly in the most complex conflict situations and stabilisation efforts - but in a way which respects distinct and complementary objectives. Labour believes that close and constructive working is the right approach – not for example subordinating our aid spending to military control.</p> <p>Labour is committed to placing a greater focus on delivering security and justice as a basic service for poor people, recognising the needs and concerns of citizens and ensuring their voices are heard in delivering these services.</p> <p>Labour will place a particular focus on ensuring security and justice for women and girls, and ending gender-based violence.</p>