

## **Submission by the Plaid Cymru to the Vote Global Manifesto**

- April 2010 –

This document outlines how Plaid Cymru matches UK civil society demands on international development as outlined in the [Vote Global Manifesto](#). The text was submitted by Plaid Cymru to [Bond](#), the UK membership body of international development NGOs, on 9 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 Plaid Cymru policies can also be found on the [Plaid Cymru 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 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 Plaid Cymru submission can be found below.

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

## The submission

Please click on the links below to see how the Plaid Cymru 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](#)
- [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:**

<b><i>Vote Global</i> Manifesto Recommendations</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru Response</b>
<b>Key principles of international development</b>	
<p><b>Promote and support a strong voice on development within government through an independent Department for International Development represented by a Secretary of State.</b></p>	<p>We have no policy on this.</p>
<p><b>Promote human rights by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Realising the fundamental rights of all people to food, decent work, incomes, health, shelter, water and sanitation, education, social protection and political freedom;</b></li> <li>• <b>Upholding the rights of women and promoting gender equality;</b></li> </ul>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>As a welcoming nation, Plaid Cymru recognises the invaluable contribution that migrants have made to Wales. Our civic nationalism celebrates tolerance, mutual understanding and difference. We condemn the point-scoring used by other parties and the pandering to unfounded xenophobic prejudices in the debate on immigration. Plaid Cymru also supports the right of asylum seekers to work in the UK while they wait for status decisions to be made and we call for the speeding up of the unnecessarily complicated asylum system. We condemn the practice of housing recently-arrived asylum seekers, especially children, in "detention" or "removal" centres as punitive and cruel.</p> <p>We will continue to campaign for the rights of minority nations and minority language speakers in Europe and in future possible accession countries such as Turkey.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protecting the most marginalised in society, including women, children, disabled and older people, minority and indigenous groups</b></li> </ul>	
<b>More and better aid and debt relief</b>	
<b>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.</b>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>Plaid will press the UK government to honour the commitment to delivering 0.7% of GDP as international aid and we will continue to campaign for the cancellation of developing countries' unaffordable debts. We call for increased resources for the UN Adaptation Fund, to help developing countries adapt to the effects of climate change. We demand equal representation for developing countries in the decision-making process on climate change action. We also reaffirm our support for the international Fair Trade movement.</p>
<b>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</b>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>We believe that women must play an equal role in society, as politicians, as professionals and as activists. We will campaign for equality on pay, working conditions, pensions, in representation and in societal attitudes. It is unacceptable that in the 21st century, women around the world are still far more likely than men to live in poverty.</p>

<p>services), education, water and sanitation and build effective social protection schemes.</p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>We insist on essential governance reform of international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to ensure that they take into account human rights, the environment and workers' rights.</p>
<p><b>Maximising the potential of innovative financing mechanisms to generate additional resources to fill current gaps of sufficient volume to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>Plaid Cymru has supported a tax on foreign exchange transactions for years. We support its use for development and environmental purposes.</p>
<p><b>Tackling Climate Change</b></p>	
<p><b>Delivering on an ambitious, fair and binding global deal to</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>The climate crisis facing the world is one of the most pressing political challenges that society faces.</p>

<p><b>keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.</b></p>	<p>The future of our planet depends on urgent action to reduce emissions and adopt a different, more sustainable lifestyle. Plaid Cymru puts the environmental crisis and sustainable development at the heart of its policies. The world faces a triple crunch of peak oil, climate crisis and global economic recession.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>The Welsh Assembly government has committed Wales to annual carbon reduction-equivalent emissions of 3% per year by 2011 in areas of devolved competence. We now recognise that climate change is more severe than previously realised. The National Assembly has agreed, with cross party support, to reduce emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. Plaid will work to ensure that this decision is turned into meaningful and effective action to achieve the full reduction, and calls on the government in Westminster to follow Wales' lead.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>The poorest people in the world are being hit hard and we must help them. We call for immediate vastly increased international resources for the UN Adaptation Fund to help developing countries adapt to the effects of climate change. It is also crucial that this adaptation and mitigation finance be genuinely additional to development funding already committed. We also demand equal representation for developing countries in the decision making on climate change action.</p>
<p><b>Ensuring that this funding is additional to official development</b></p>	

<p>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><b>Making the global economy work for the poor</b></p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>We insist on essential governance reform of international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to ensure that they take into account human rights, the environment and workers' rights.</p> <p>We strongly believe that basic services, such as health, education and social care, should be provided by the state.</p>
<p><b>Insisting on fundamental reform of global financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>We insist on essential governance reform of international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to ensure that they take into account human rights, the environment</p>

<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>and workers' rights.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>Plaid Cymru believes it is time that everyone in society takes an active part in the recovery of UK finances – that said, we note that over fifteen times as much revenue is lost through tax avoidance by the highest earners as to benefit fraud by the unemployed. We therefore call on the UK Chancellor to prioritise closing in on tax avoidance and tax loopholes. We call for greater tax justice, a new definition of 'tax residence', and more thorough regulation for all UK-controlled tax havens, requiring tax havens to disclose information fully. These reforms could raise at least £10 billion annually. We also want to see corporate profits taxed in the country where they are earned.</p>
<p><b>Introducing a UK Commission for Business, Human Rights and the Environment</b></p>	<p>We have no policy on this.</p>

<p><b>mandated to ensure adherence of UK companies to environmental and human rights standards.</b></p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>Plaid calls for stringent implementation of labour laws for all workers, including enforcement of the legal minimum wage to address the iniquity of poor pay and unfair working conditions. We have consistently called on the Labour government in Westminster to adopt European standards on employment rights and will continue to call for a binding Charter of Fundamental Rights. Recognising that we also need to ensure equality in the workplace, Plaid Cymru calls for all companies with more than 500 members of staff to be obliged to have employee representation on the Board of Directors.</p>
<p><b>Good Governance and addressing corruption</b></p>	
<p><b>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</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p>

<p>the press, civil society organisations, anti-corruption groups and academia.</p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p>
<p><b>Developing a cross-Whitehall strategy for tackling corruption and work closely with other donors and states to tackle the underlying factors which fuel and facilitate corruption.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p>
<p><b>Responding to conflict situations</b></p>	
<p><b>Promoting human security by upholding international</b></p>	<p>We support these aims. We will continue to press for an ethical foreign policy which emphasises conflict prevention and we call</p>

<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>for real, effective action to curtail the international arms trade. This should include a new treaty and a binding code of conduct restricting arms exports, as well as a complete ban on land mines, cluster bombs and white phosphorous, and an immediate international ban on the military use of uranium.</p>
<p><b>Developing a cross-Government strategy for preventing violent conflict and working to joint country strategies across relevant departments, particularly in conflict-affected countries.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p>
<p><b>Ensuring that political and foreign policy interests are clearly separated from the</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p>

<p><b>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.</b></p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>We support these aims.</p> <p>Plaid Cymru MPs voted against the illegal war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Plaid supports a phased exit strategy from Afghanistan by the end of 2011 at the latest.</p>