

Information sheet: The UK Government's Global Partnerships Conference

Updated 25 February

What is the conference about?

The Government has announced that it will host a 'Global Partnerships Conference' to discuss the future of international development. At the time of writing, this is planned for 19-20 May 2026. The conference will involve a wide range of organisations including over 50 countries, as well as NGOs, philanthropists, tech companies, financial institutions and international organisations. It is being planned by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) under the direction of the Foreign Secretary and the Development Minister.

What topics will the conference address?

We understand that it will address three key themes of technology; sustainable finance; and shifting power. It will also have 5 sub-themes: 1. global health; 2. humanitarianism; 3. climate; 4. violence against women and girls; and 5. migration.

What is it intended to achieve?

The conference will aim to reset what we mean by 'development cooperation', seeing this as a partnership between countries, rather than an unequal relationship of dependency between donors and recipients of 'aid'. It will result in a non-binding 'compact' that partners can sign up to, being drafted in advance, setting out a statement of intent to cooperate and organise in support of a country's own development plans.

Why now?

The world is changing fast. Donor countries like the UK have [reduced their financial support](#) to global poverty reduction, as economic and geopolitical insecurity has risen and the legitimacy of multilateralism is increasingly challenged. This is contributing to a slow-down or reversal in progress, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be achieved by 2030. A new model of development cooperation is therefore needed that addresses how

countries should work together on issues such as global poverty, climate change and sustainability.

What is important?

A new model of international cooperation based on respectful partnerships between countries is very welcome. But it is essential that any new approach does not let wealthy countries walk away from their responsibilities to help end global poverty and inequality, and that it tackles the [systematic barriers to development](#) such as unfair economic systems, debt, tax evasion, and global trade practices, which deprive lower-income countries of far more financial resources than they receive in 'aid'.

Why should politicians engage with the conference?

International 'aid' has been increasingly controversial in recent years, and it is important that there should be public support for how the UK goes about its international development cooperation efforts. Members of Parliament have a significant role in holding the Government to account and shaping policy on matters of public concern. In a rapidly changing world, it is vital that they bring public concerns to political discussions and ensure democratic accountability.

What can parliamentarians do?

- Learn about the development conference and the issues being discussed, listen to their constituents, and form their own views on how international cooperation for development should happen in the future.
- Engage with the Government on the topic, for example, through asking Parliamentary Questions, or writing to the Development Minister or the Foreign Secretary about the planned conference. So far we are not aware of any specific mechanisms that aim to engage MPs.
- Consider publishing their own views on these topics, such as on websites, in the media, or engaging in discussions with their constituents.

Further reading

- Results UK's [principles of effective and equitable international development](#)
- Bond's analysis on the urgency of the FCDO setting out a [strategic agenda on development](#)
- Wilton Park dialogue on [reimagining international development cooperation](#)
- Government [press release](#) about the Conference.