

# RECOVER



## Build Back Better

The Rt. Honourable Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

9 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Building a better future through the COVID-19 recovery programmes**

As the Government plans for the UK's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the signatories of this letter write to ask that the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are used to consolidate and future-proof these plans.

We recognise that we must work together to recover from the pandemic and build a better future where all people in the country have a good life on a healthy planet. The SDGs can help us to do this and there is already widespread support across UK society, including the business community, for the future the global goals define.

We welcome your recent statement that we need a 'fairer, greener and more resilient' global economy' and to 'build back better' after the coronavirus crisis. We acknowledge the letters you have already received that ask for this. However, we also support the statement you made on the 28<sup>th</sup> May that 'there is a need for us to work together to get our shared goals back on track including [...] the Sustainable Development Goals'. As you said, we do not need to reinvent frameworks or agreements, we can instead use the global goals as the basis for a socially just and green recovery in the UK and abroad.

Together the 17 Goals provide us with an internationally agreed framework, which also works at national, regional and local levels, alongside and reinforcing existing plans and commitments. They enable Government to work cross-departmentally and with stakeholders to create programmes and policies that are coherent with the needs of our economy, society and environment both domestically and internationally.

We therefore recommend that the Government:

**1. Use the SDGs to unite all sectors behind a plan to build a stronger and more resilient economy**

It is clear that many aspects of our lives will never be the same again. Some industries may never recover from this crisis. We must use this challenging situation as an opportunity to work together with our global and national partners alike, to build a stronger and more resilient economy with the SDGs at its heart.

**2. Use the SDGs to prioritise the most vulnerable in our society and level-up regional and societal inequalities.**

COVID-19 has exposed the depth of inequalities and risks exposing more families to income deprivation and its consequences. We welcome the Government's commitment to levelling up prosperity across the UK and urge a similar focus to overcome wider societal inequalities. The SDGs provide us with a framework which can help us prioritise health and wellbeing, alongside prosperity and GDP, as a measure of the nation's success. We need to ensure that our recovery from the pandemic leaves no one behind and puts the health and wellbeing of current and future generations first.

**3. Use the SDGs to build coherent policies for a healthy planet and to aid the transition to net zero**

COVID-19 has highlighted the risks our society faces because of biodiversity and habitat loss, and climate change. We must balance social and economic needs with the needs of our planet, protecting and managing nature and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. These goals do not have to be in conflict. The SDGs provide a way to create co-benefits through the Government's commitment to net zero by 2050 and coherent policy design.

We recognise that the scale of recovery will pose many challenges for the Government. But the COVID-19 crisis has shown that businesses, government, and civil society can and will work together to create lasting and positive change. We believe the SDGs should be used to establish the level of ambition for the UK's pandemic-recovery and a future that ensures all people in our country live a good life, prospering on a healthy planet.

We want to build the future we want with the Government and are ready to support you in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely

Individuals

**Baroness Northover**

**Baroness Sheehan**

**Joe Anderson, Mayor of Liverpool**

**Lord Harris of Haringey**

**Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale, Co-chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development**

**Lord McNicol of West Kilbride**

**Lord Bird of Notting Hill**

**Lord Purvis of Tweed**

**Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol** - the first UK city to develop a Voluntary Local Review

**Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE**, Bishop of Bedford

**Sir Mark Moody-Stewart KCMG**

**The Earl of Sandwich**

### Organisations

Jonathan Pell, CEO, **Adam Smith International**

Gary Waite, Portfolio Manager, **Alpha: r2 Ltd**

Peter Simpson, CEO, **Anglian Water**

Stuart McLachlan, CEO, **Anthesis Group**

Jane Fiona Cumming, Director and Co-founder, **Article 13**

Dervilla Mitchell, Chair, UKIMEA Region Board, **Arup**

Harriet Lamb, CEO, **Ashden**

Ben Moore, Managing Director, **Attollo Offshore**

Mike Hanson, Director of Sustainability, **BaxterStorey**

Colin MacIsaac, CEO, **FH Bertling International GmbH**

Sue Riddlestone OBE, Chief Executive and Co-founder, **Bioregional**

Dr Mya-Rose Craig, President and Patron, **Black2Nature and the Global Goals Centre**

Stephanie Draper, CEO, **Bond**

Will Travers OBE, Executive President, **Born Free Foundation**

Peter Mather, Group Regional President, Europe, and Head of Country, UK, **BP plc**

Lizzi Testani, Chief Operating Officer, **Bristol Green Capital Partnership**

Richard Griffiths, Chief Executive, **British Poultry Council**

Helen Ashworth, National President, **Business and Professional Women UK**

Yusuke Mizoguchi, Senior Managing Director, **Canon UK & Ireland**

Professor Tim Jackson, Director, **Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity, University of Surrey**

Lexie Jones, CEO, **Change Agents UK**

Terry Fuller, Chief Executive, **CIWEM**

Matthew Layton, Global Managing Partner, **Clifford Chance**

Jeroen Ouwehand, Global Senior Partner, **Clifford Chance**

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Federico Tonetti, Group Safety & Sustainability Director, **Compass Group**

Mark Roberts, CEO, **Conscious Creatives**

Caroline Norbury, Chief Executive, **Creative Industries Federation and Creative England**

Albert Maasland, CEO, **Crown Agents Bank**

Simon Wyatt, Partner, **Cundall**

Dan Mobley, Corporate Relations Director, **Diageo**

Kamran Mallick, CEO, **Disability Rights UK**

Liam Cowell, UK Managing Partner, **DLA Piper UK**

Sir Nigel Knowles, Group CEO, **DWF**

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Steven Andrews, CEO, **Earthwatch Europe**

Iain Patton, CEO, **EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education**

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Sue Pritchard, Chief Executive, **Food, Farming and Countryside Commission**

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Amanda Powell-Smith, CEO, **Forster Communications**

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Jo Hand, Co-founder, **Giki**

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Sarah Mitchell, Director, **Heart of the City**

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**Local Government Association**

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Pat Black, Chair, **National Alliance of Women's Organisations**

Alison Rose, Chief Executive, **NatWest Group**

Sarah Welsh, CEO of Retail, **N Brown Group**

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Steve Butterworth, CEO, **Neighbourly**

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Keith Skeoch, Chief Executive Officer, **Standard Life Aberdeen**

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Nichola Hughes, Director, **Sustainable NI**

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Nick Hampton, Chief Executive Officer, **Tate & Lyle PLC**

Alex Cresswell, Chief Executive and Chairman, **Thales UK**

Christopher Davis, International Director of Sustainability, **The Body Shop**

Andrew Harding, Chief Executive - Management Accounting, **The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants**

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Andrew Terry, Director of Conservation & Policy, **ZSL - Zoological Society London**

**This letter has been coordinated by the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development and the UN Global Compact Network UK**



**UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development**

Through collaboration and access to new insights, UKSSD brings organisations together to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the UK. UKSSD was launched in April 2016 and has grown to more than 1,000 network members, representing most sectors and industries in the UK, from grass-roots community organisations to multinational business.



**UN Global Compact Network UK**

We are a member-based organisation and official Local Network, representing UK organisations that are Participants and Signatories of the UN Global Compact. Through an extensive programme of activity, the UK Network supports its members to implement the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles, which cover human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.