

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sustainable Development Action Plan 2008-09



Foreword by Rt. Hon David Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The management of our natural resources is fundamental to sustaining and indeed improving the quality of life of all individuals on the planet. To maintain peace and stability we must ensure that our natural resources are used equitably and that opportunities for prosperity are available to all. Good governance is fundamental to achieving this.

The FCO plays a key role in encouraging political and economic transparency and openness. The promotion of a low carbon high growth global economy will require us to address the management of natural resources through our work on climate and energy security. Working to prevent and resolve conflict will help to maintain peace and stability to allow vulnerable countries to develop in a sustainable and equitable manner. And ensuring that international institutions are working effectively helps foster good governance at national and international levels to which will foster sustainable growth, and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Sustainability is embedded in the FCO's corporate policies. I am determined that all aspects of our operations at home and overseas should be managed sustainably. Consideration of the impact on the environment, the people we work with, and on local society overseas must be at the heart of the way the FCO is run. As a minimum this means managing our own UK estate operations to meet HMG's targets as set out in Sustainable Operations for the Government Estate (SOGE), and extending the implementation of environmental management system principles overseas. We have made good progress in improving the sustainability of our operations since our last Sustainable Development Action Plan and will continue to improve our performance in this and coming years through pursuit of this year's plan.

In line with Her Majesty's Government policy I am committed to ensuring that sustainable development underpins our work at the FCO. This action plan aims to pull together the different ways in which we will achieve this and I commend it to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Miliband'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Milliband

Box 1

About the FCO Sustainable Development Action Plan.

The UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*¹, sets out the UK's international sustainable development (SD) priorities. In June 2006 the Government published new targets for Sustainable Operations on The Government Estate (SOGE)², and in March 2007 published the UK Sustainable Procurement Action Plan³. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to playing its part to implement all these elements by embedding sustainable development strategies into its operations, procurement and policy work.

This Sustainable Development Action Plan explains significant changes in the strategic direction of the FCO from 1 April 2008, how these changes impact on its activities and what actions the FCO will take to support the aims of *Securing the Future* to March 2009 and beyond. It has been developed working with FCO staff in the UK, staff in our overseas posts, Whitehall Partners, and with other external stakeholders.

The Sustainable Development Commission will carry out an assessment of our progress to date during 2008/09. Their report will be made available on the [FCO's website](#).

References

¹ HMG 2005 *Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy*.

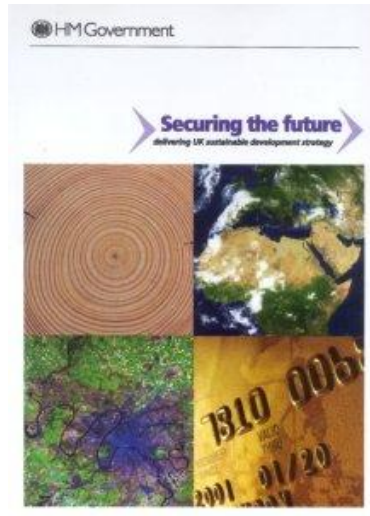
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm>

² HMG 2006 *UK Govt Sustainable Development - Sustainable operations on the Government estate*

³ HMG 2007 <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/pdf/SustainableProcurementActionPlan.pdf>

Benefits of Sustainable Development.

The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development, "[Securing the Future](#)", published in 2005 set out five guiding principles to form the basis for policy in the UK, and set out four shared priorities for immediate UK action.



Principles:	Priorities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living within environmental limits Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society Achieving a sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable consumption and production Climate Change and Energy Natural Resource Protection and Environmental enhancement Sustainable Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Good Governance Using sound science responsibly 	

It also set out the Government's priorities for Sustainable Development internationally, principally to support multilateral and national institutions that can ensure effective integration of social, environmental, and economic objectives to deliver sustainable development, especially for the poorest members of society.

Since 2005 these principles and priorities have quickly come to underpin both the policy development processes within the FCO. They have become embedded in, and increasingly influence the operational activities of the FCO, in line with later HMG policy initiatives such as the revised targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE), and the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. The integration of policy work and operations reflects the underpinning principle theme of sustainable development in "Securing our Future". If we are to successfully meet the goals outlined in the Principles and Priorities of "Securing our Future", the scale of response needed requires not only a deep commitment at a national level, but in many areas a co-ordinated commitment at an international level, cutting across multiple disciplines and policy strands. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working to position the UK at the forefront of this international effort.

The FCO Strategic Review and Sustainable Development

Better World, Better Britain - Sustainable Development and the new FCO Strategy

In January 2008, the Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, announced that to give a sharper and more strategic focus to the work of the FCO, the [Departmental Strategic Objectives](#) (*Box 2 below*) would be revised from April 2008, coinciding with the changes brought about by the [Comprehensive Spending Review](#). Where the lead for some work strands was held by other government departments, the FCO would continue to provide support to the experts in those government departments, but step back and allow those colleagues to take full responsibility for the delivery of that work. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs leads on the policy of sustainable development and it therefore no longer features specifically in the FCO's Strategic Objectives. However, our network of Embassies and High Commissions overseas continues to provide a platform for [DEFRA](#) and other Whitehall Partners by promoting HMG's policy, and influencing and lobbying on behalf of HMG's sustainable development aims to both governmental and non-governmental audiences worldwide.



Significant elements of sustainable development related policy work remain priorities within the new FCO Strategic Objectives, and are embedded into overall FCO policymaking. For example, 'Securing the Future' noted that climate change and the use of fossil fuels for energy are one of the greatest threats to sustainable development. One of the four key policy goals of the FCO's Strategic Objectives is to [promote a low carbon, high growth global economy](#). As a result of the Strategy Refresh the FCO has therefore been able to increase the resources available for its work on promoting a low carbon high growth global economy. There has been an increase of 18 members of staff, across the network, dealing with climate change. The reprioritisation towards promotion of low carbon policies internationally resulted in no net loss in the resources that the FCO is devoting to sustainable development issues. We also continue to provide funding from our Strategic Priority Fund, targeted at our priority areas for sustainable development projects around the world. It is intended to support locally sustainable improvements and changes in approaches to sustainability.



The FCO continues to promote sustainable development through our own sustainable operations, procurement and people policies. Significant achievements have already been made in these areas. The FCO is committed to continuing to further integrate sustainable developmental actions across FCO corporate activity in the UK, in line with HMG's SOGE and Sustainable Procurement Action Plan targets. While sustainable estate operations in the UK are further advanced than overseas, where the diverse nature of locations, climates, security requirements and buildings provide greater challenges, we are, following successful pilot projects (identified in our 2007-08 SDAP) expanding significantly our sustainable estate management models to a much larger number of overseas posts during the period of this Plan. As these new working patterns are established in more of our missions overseas, we will be well placed to achieve the "lead by example" model which is our and HMG's goal in sustainable operations. All new-build and refurbishment projects incorporate sustainable measures appropriate to

our operational requirements: and our [recently opened award winning High Commission in Kampala](#) is a good example of this.



This document – the FCO’s Sustainable Development Action Plan – highlights the actions the FCO will take to support the aims of Securing the Future to March 2009 and beyond. It has been developed with colleagues from across the FCO in the UK and overseas, Whitehall Partners and other external stakeholders. The Director-General Finance, Keith Luck acts as the sustainable development champion on the FCO Main Board.

Box 2

The FCO’s Strategic Framework

From 1 April 2008 the FCO refocused its work establishing 8 Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs):

Provide a flexible Global Network serving the whole of the British Government

(3 Essential Services:)

Support the British economy
Support British Nationals Abroad
Support managed migration for Britain

(4 Policy Goals:)

Promote a low carbon, high growth, global economy
Develop effective international institutions, above all the UN and EU
Prevent and resolve conflict
Counter terrorism, weapons proliferation, and their causes

A flexible Global Network serving the whole of the British Government (DSO 1)

Under the new strategic framework, the strength, importance and flexibility of our [global network](#) of missions is recognised as a national asset, and its role serving the whole of Government overseas is emphasised. The FCO in London will focus on delivery of its Departmental Strategic Objectives (2-8) while the network overseas will focus on the delivery of those same objectives, but also be a platform for other government departments to deliver objectives, including their Sustainable Development priorities.



Supporting the whole of the British Government

FCO Posts are working with [DEFRA](#) and [DfID](#) to achieve deeper bilateral engagement on sustainable development with the rapidly emerging economies of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, by furthering work on our agreed [Sustainable Development Dialogues](#) with these countries¹. The Dialogues provide a mechanism to support achievement of the HMG's sustainable development aims, in particular through: improving climate security; promoting good environmental governance and sustainable management of natural resources; strengthening international governance for sustainable development; and supporting the private sector as a driver for sustainable development. The FCO will identify and achieve clear work plans for each SD Dialogue with specific initiatives under key themes. It will support DEFRA to use the SD Dialogues as a framework for sharing expertise, working on joint initiatives, learning from partner countries, and as a platform for raising the profile of SD with the governments of these countries.

The sustainable operations of the network itself are addressed later in this plan under FCO Operations, but detailed below (*Box 3*) are the outcomes with sustainable goals the FCO will pursue in support of DSO 1.

¹ The SD Dialogues are led by DEFRA with support from across Government, particularly the FCO and DFID. They are a mechanism for engaging the rapidly emerging economies (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) in a partnership with the UK, and provide a framework for sharing good practice and working on joint initiatives to address SD challenges such as natural resource management, sustainable consumption and production, sustainable communities, poverty reduction and urban development. More information on the Dialogues (including copies of the joint statements signed so far) is available at www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/international/dialogues

Box 3

Outcome DSO 1.1

We seek 5 outcomes in 2008-09. Of these, the key outcome supporting the sustainable aims of *Securing the Future* we aim to achieve is:

- The network delivers the key priorities of Whitehall Partners.

The Director General for Change and Delivery James Bevan is the owner of DSO1 and of delivering its outcomes.

Box 3

Delivery DSO 1.1

The performance of the FCO Network will be measured within the FCO by the delivery of individual objectives detailed in each Post's Annual Country Business Plans. (Country Business Plans reflect what each post will do for HMG as a whole each year: i.e. how the post will help deliver the key objectives of relevant Whitehall partners as well as the FCO). It will also be measured at a network level on the same basis.

Whitehall Partners' assessment of the network's success in helping deliver their own priorities, will be measured through an Annual Stakeholder Survey which will measure their satisfaction with services they receive from FCO posts.

Promote a low carbon, high growth, global economy (DSO7)

The [Stern Review](#) demonstrated that an unstable climate will undermine the conditions necessary for economic growth in both the developed and developing worlds and make it impossible to achieve the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#). It is clear from the International Energy Agency's (IEA) [World Energy Outlook](#) that the existing high carbon global economic model is unsustainable.



If we are to avoid dangerous climate change, much of the \$22 trillion of investment in global energy infrastructure foreseen over the next 30 years must be directed away from carbon intensive to low carbon solutions. Much of this investment will be in the major emerging economies. Investment in other infrastructure, such as building and transport, must reflect the latest energy efficient technology. Achieving this will depend to a large extent on securing an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable agreement in the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) negotiations on the Post-2012 Framework. This agreement will need to place tighter, binding caps on emissions from developed countries, as well as providing for middle income countries to make measureable commitments reflecting their circumstances and legitimate development ambitions. And it must address the concerns of poor countries most at risk from the impacts of climate change. Agreement needs to be struck at the [UNFCCC meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009](#).



The political conditions are not yet in place either to deliver the necessary shift in investment or achieve the required political agreement. The FCO, working with EU, Whitehall and other partners will work to create those political conditions, underpinned by evidence-based economic and policy analysis, to ensure that the EU delivers on its own ambitious 2020 targets (*Box 4*).



Only an open global economy and effective economic governance in key countries will generate the growth to fund the required shift to low carbon investment and enable it to be achieved at lowest cost. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will also depend on international commitment to an open economy, notably in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations, and ensuring that poor countries are able to benefit. The FCO will contribute to these by working with business, NGOs and others to make the case for open and equitable international trade arrangements, for a concerted international drive to achieve the MDGs and for donors to deliver on their Overseas Development Assistance commitments (*Box 4*).

Over the next three years, the Government's key objectives are to:

- **Secure international agreement to a realistic, robust, durable and fair framework of commitments for the Post-2012 period.**
- **Bring about global investment in low carbon technologies that will deliver a transition to a low carbon economy, including through an effective carbon market.**

Much of our work under this Departmental Strategic Objective is directly linked to achieving rapid progress towards these key aims.



Box 4

The FCO seeks to achieve 4 sustainable outcomes under this Strategic Objective – some of which will take longer than the period of the current plan to deliver, but are urgent and require inputs during the current period.

The Directors for Global Economic Issues, Deborah Bronnert and Vicky Bowman, are the owners of DSO7 and responsible for achieving its outcomes.

Outcome DS07.1

A visible and accelerated shift in investment initiated in the major economies towards low carbon

Delivery DSO 7.1

2008 – Push for ambitious emissions and low carbon technology implementation package during French Presidency of EU; ensure 2008 EU/China summit agrees measures to increase two way flow of low carbon investment

2009 - Ensure EU agreement on financing of European Carbon Capture Demonstration plants in place by end March and, ensure decisions taken on EU Emissions Trading Scheme conducive to the development of a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

By 2011 - Ensure EU is on fast track to a low carbon economy implementing an ambitious package of targets for emissions and trade and investment mechanisms and carbon markets are delivering significant investment shifts to low carbon technologies. EU leading a global plan for universal deployment of carbon capture

Outcome DS07.2

Political conditions created for an equitable post-2012 agreement at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) in Copenhagen in December 2009, of sufficient ambition to avoid dangerous climate change

Delivery DSO7.2

By mid-2009 ensure national leaders see a stable climate as essential for their national security and prosperity and publicly support the case for an ambitious framework ensuring developing countries have determined what they need from it; achieve close co-operation between them and the EU on post-2012 influencing strategy.

Achieve early engagement on a framework that includes variable commitments for developed countries, emerging economies and Least Developed Countries, and ensure other multilateral processes (MEM, G8 Gleneagles Dialogue) play a constructive role, supplementing post-2012 negotiations with cooperation among major emitters on technology and financial flows.

By March 2011, ensure ratifications on track for an agreement specifying precise commitment levels to enter into force by the end of 2012.

Outcome DS07.3

UK and EU energy security managed through more diverse external sources of supply and more efficient global consumption

Delivery DSO7.3

By March 2009 work to ensure governments in key producer states are implementing improvements to physical energy infrastructure security through targeted use of HMG assistance.

Achieve increasingly effective implementation of the EU's External Energy Policy.

Support French EU Presidency in advancing development of External Energy Policy.

Ensure Energy Charter Treaty principles are included in the EU negotiating position for new EU/Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and negotiations are begun, ensure international architecture increasingly used to increase dialogue between consumers and producers.

Reach agreement in principle to negotiate policy frameworks and investment plans to deliver 25% reduction in gas flaring, and improved energy efficiency in priority countries, ensuring same countries accept the need to implement IEA global energy efficiency standards through effective domestic policies.

Use Strategic Programme Funds to support development of energy efficiency efforts in same countries.

Outcome DS07.4

Increased international commitment to an open, stable and equitable low carbon global economy delivering higher standards of living

Delivery DS07.4

By end of 2009 secure the expansion and development of multilateral trade and investment through accessions of key countries to the WTO, and the evolution of multilateral fora to protect and promote open markets. Ensure key countries take a constructive approach to trade and investment, especially in the WTO leading to the conclusion of an ambitious, pro-development Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Ensure all existing and new Free Trade Agreements build on the WTO (e.g. EU-Republic of Korea by end 2008, EU-India by end 2009).

Deploy FCO strategic programme funds and influence to support stable, low carbon and equitable economic growth in key emerging economies by supporting economic reforms, better economic governance and sound macro-economic policies in line with IFI recommendations allowing them to benefit from a global carbon market. These funds should be deployed to achieve a positive impact on consensus in key economies towards an open and stable global economy.

Achieve high level recognition by key economies that climate change mitigation and adaptation forms part of a long-term growth policy.

We will support a global approach to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) balancing promotion of innovation and growth world- wide with technology diffusion to developing countries. We aim to secure G8+5 agreement on an objective of a more effective WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), leading to a reformed WIPO becoming a credible body for regulating global IPR by March 2011. We aim to ensure internal EU debate on IPR is contributing constructively to multilateral policy-making, and that UK Intellectual Property Office dialogues with key economies are facilitated each year, influencing their development of policies and practices on IPR.

Increased international commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



The FCO recognizes that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved unless the economic, social, governance, scientific and environmental principles of "Securing the Future" are fully integrated.

With many of the MDGs still off-track at the halfway point to the target year of 2015, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, along with the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, successfully launched the [MDG "Call to Action"](#) with the support of 14 heads of state/government and 21 private sector leaders in New York in July 2007.



The Call to Action seeks to accelerate progress on meeting the 2015 target by:

- building a common vision about what needs to be done
- scaling up successes and identifying and addressing gaps in current work
- harnessing efforts and mobilizing not just governments but also business, faith groups, NGOs, cities and professional groups to deliver the MDGs
- identifying milestones to both measure international progress towards the MDGs and inspire greater action to achieve them

The FCO with DFID will encourage all those countries that support the Call to Action objectives to press for progress on the MDGs and agree to concrete actions designed to accelerate progress towards the goals in all relevant high-level meetings this year, ensuring for example, that the MDGs are at the top of the EU agenda at the June 2008 European Council and at the G8 summit in Japan in July 2008. DFID leads on the MDGs with the FCO playing a supporting role.

<p>Outcome DSO7D.1</p> <p>Global Partnership for development created between developed and developing countries and non-state actors.</p>	<p>Delivery DSO7D.1</p> <p>1.1 FCO and DfID seek to create conditions for realizing MDGs through more countries signing up to initiatives such as the MDG Call to Action, the International Health Partnership, and the Education For All Initiative. Hold with UNDP, a Business Call to Action meeting in May 2008, to focus on the actions that the private sector can take.</p> <p>1.2 Momentum for these partnerships is maintained up to the UN High-level Event on MDGs in September 2008 and beyond, measured by engagement at Head of State/Government level at EU Council, G8 and the UN, and through specific action-oriented commitments made at these meetings.</p> <p>1.3 Intrinsic link between climate change and development established internationally, measured by UN system, IFIs and G8 mainstreaming climate change risks into development work by end 2009</p> <p>1.4 By end 2009, major emerging economies demonstrating greater appreciation of DAC principles on aid effectiveness through statements on, and actions in Africa</p>
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Outcome DSO7D.2

ODA Commitments realised within the G8 and EU by 2010 and aid made more effective, and HMG's commitments on health and development are delivered

Delivery DSO7D.2

2.1 EU reaches an average of 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010. By March 2009 EU Member States set out pathways to deliver commitments

2.2 G8 ODA reaches \$130 billion by 2010, and aid to Africa doubles

2.3 Donors honour their commitments under the Paris Declaration and meet 2010 milestones.

2.4 Agendas of the G8 and other multilateral for a include action to reduce global health inequalities and improve the social determinants of health.

2.5 Commitment to providing universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment increases in our priority countries.

2.6 Support for the International Health Partnership compact increases, measured by commitments made at the WHO and new signatures.

Develop effective international institutions, above all the UN and EU (DSO 8)

Strengthening international governance for sustainable development

Globalisation, supranational issues and the shift in political and economic powers present new challenges that require global responses and change. This means that multilateral approaches to issues such as climate change, development, trade, terrorism, weapons proliferation and conflict are increasingly important. As this importance grows, so does the need to ensure that our multilateral institutions keep pace with change so they can continue to deliver effective, credible and efficient action and responses. Effective multilateral institutions are essential for the delivery of UK Sustainable Development objectives (*Box 5*).



The FCO shares responsibility with DEFRA for delivering on one of the Government's World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) commitments; improving International Sustainable Development Governance. The Prime Minister referred to the need to strengthen the international architecture to address the linked challenges of development and the environment in his speech in New Delhi in January 2008. (See paragraph 137 of the Johannesburg plan of Implementation at www.un.org/esa/sustdev).

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) should have real authority as the "environment pillar" of the UN system, focussed on its original mandate to provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the UN. This needs to be backed by scientific and analytical capacity, and with responsibility to review progress towards improving the global



environment. To achieve this goal, the FCO is supporting DEFRA's lead both directly with UNEP in Nairobi, through the Council of Permanent Representatives and the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP, and via the FCO's multilateral missions UKMIS Nairobi and UKMIS New York on the New York Working Group on Reform of the UN's environmental activities. We also seek to improve international environmental governance through the overall reform of UNEP by strengthening co-ordination across the UN System and more widely in the field of sustainable development. UKMIS Mission in Nairobi maintains constant contact with UNEP and disseminates ideas to our partners in environmental reform.

The FCO will continue to support DfID and HM Treasury efforts to embed sustainable development criteria in the policies and lending decisions of the International Financial Institutions, with the revenues generated in an enlarged carbon market helping the poorest countries build climate resilience into their development plans.



The EU provides a vital platform for promoting sustainable development and building international consensus on actions to tackle issues such as climate change. We support the integration of sustainable development into all EU decision making, in relation to both internal and external action. We also work to promote sustainable development in the European neighbourhood through our network of posts.



The FCO's network of Posts will continue to support DEFRA in its work within the International Whaling Commission to maintain the international moratorium on commercial whaling.

In advancing HMG's sustainable development priorities at an international level, the FCO and its posts overseas are working to ensure that those international institutions whose work impacts on the broader principles of Sustainable Development are developing/evolving in a manner which supports HMG's sustainable development priorities.

Outcome DSO8.2

International institutions which are more representative of the modern world, more effective, efficient, responsive and coherent.

Delivery 2

2.1. Support reform of UN Security Council, IFIs, G8 and OECD; Promote cohesion across UN system, and between UN, IFIs and other international organisations; Ensure OECD enlargement proceeds. Ensure Institutions, notably the UN, NATO, OECD, Commonwealth, OSCE, CoE, IFIs governed transparently and efficiently. Work to achieve improved inter-institutional cooperation and coordination, at headquarters levels and in operations

2.2. Achieve an appropriate Security Council response to emerging threats to international peace and security

2.3. By mid 2009 achieve progress towards implementation of the agreement on improved financial resource management, more robust internal oversight mechanisms, improved procurement procedures and strengthened human resources management (e.g. improved dispute settlement procedures) throughout the UN system. Ensure reform of the UN Funding mechanism remains on track for end 2009.

Outcome DSO8.3

Greater international institutional effectiveness in promoting respect for human rights, justice, rule of law, democracy, open markets, environmental sustainability and the reduction of poverty and inequality

Delivery DSO8.3

3.1. Work to ensure that Multilateral bodies are increasingly able and willing to address collectively key global human rights challenges, in particular the UN and EU; ensure Human Rights Council completes first reviews in line with Universal Periodic Review timetable; work to ensure key regional organisations are better able to tackle serious democratic weaknesses in member countries, and that human rights and democracy are factored into the policy making of international bodies, including OSCE, Commonwealth, Council of Europe, African Union and other regional institutions.

3.2. Encourage increased ratification of core human rights treaties, and their key protocols, coupled with more effective implementation of their standards, with timetabled commitments to ratify International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) from at least six additional countries by end 2009.

3.3. Support International Criminal Court (ICC) and international criminal tribunals to deliver concrete advances in combating impunity. Aim to strengthen European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) through implementation of ECHR Protocol 14.

3.4. Ensure multilateral fora deliver further trade and investment liberalisation in key economies and successfully counter calls for protectionism (Doha Development Agenda (DDA) completed: spread of OECD best practice on open investment climate); EU policy on flexible labour markets and competition: G8/OECD/UN discussions focus on priorities of skills, flexible labour markets and structural reform; international action addresses potential distorting aspects of climate security and environmental protection policies and are compatible with responsible arms trade concerns.

3.5. Ensure UN MDG meeting in September 2008 leverages Head of State commitment to achieve the MDGs, including Global Partnership for Development between developed and developing countries and non-state actors.

Outcome DSO8.4

An EU that responds effectively to global challenges by (i) delivering an open and competitive European economy, (ii) promoting stability and growth in its neighbourhood and (iii) working for sustainability, openness and security in the wider world.

Delivery DSO8.4

4.1. Work to ensure the EU is focused firmly on a forward-looking delivery agenda including: effective and timely adoption of the Lisbon Treaty reforms; pursuit of economic reforms that succeed in enhancing economic growth and job creation as envisaged by the Lisbon process; a hard-headed assessment of the EU budget to ensure value-added, proportionality and financial discipline; Work to ensure the EU delivers on its commitment to further enlargement, and promotes stability and reform in its neighbourhood

4.2. Support an effective EU showing leadership in the wider world, including an External Action Service; European Security and Defence Policy operations effectively joined up with Community programmes; EU policy towards China, Russia, India and other major partners guided by coherent strategic objectives.

Preventing and Resolving Conflict (DSO 6)

Conflict, and its ability to generate instability, societal breakdown, forced migration, socio-economic collapse and lawlessness, remains one of the biggest challenges for the international community. Whatever the causes, preventing violent conflict, bringing it to a rapid end, and supporting immediate stabilisation and long term and sustainable development to prevent it from recurring, are key interests.



The UK National Security Strategy places a strong emphasis on early engagement to prevent conflict developing or spreading and to tackling threats to our national security. Our response to global instability, conflict and failed and fragile states brings together a wide range of government activity, from diplomacy to development to overseas military operations. Public Service Agreement 30 (PSA 30) sets out a cross-Whitehall vision for reducing the impact of conflict through enhanced UK and international efforts. This PSA provides the strategic framework for conflict work conducted by the FCO, DFID and MOD. It is underpinned by new Whitehall conflict architecture and funding arrangements (Conflict Prevention Pool and Stabilisation Aid Fund).

The FCO leads on PSA30. Conflict prevention and resolution are central to the FCO's core business and play to the organisation's strengths (*Box 6*). It is a common thread across the FCO's policy goals, service delivery areas and one of the primary reasons for maintaining a global network.

The most effective way to reduce conflict is to support good governance, development and security capabilities and to improve the capacity of the international community to act. Resource scarcity, inequality and perceptions of injustice have clear potential to interact in ways that may lead to conflict. In addition poor governance of natural resources and commodity production in conflict-afflicted countries can hinder development and may lead to the resurgence of violence. This reinforces the need for the transparent accounting of commodity revenues and strong institutional frameworks to ensure that state commodity earnings are used responsibly and effectively.



Box 6

The FCO will work for the following 3 sustainable outcomes.

The Director for International Security, Paul Johnston is the owner of DS06 and responsible for achieving its outcomes

Outcome DSO6.1

Increased national and international capabilities to tackle conflict, including conflict mediation and resolution. Better early warning and early action to prevent conflict and its recurrence. Better-integrated national and international approach to Peace Support Operations, stabilization and sustained post-conflict peace-building.

Delivery DSO6.1

We will seek to deliver these outcomes by:

- 1.1 A more systematic focus in FCO political work on early warning and policy options informing Whitehall analysis and decision-making measured by achievement of PSA targets. Effective early warning and early action developed and in use at the UN and in regional organisations by using benchmarks/triggers to determine when and how the international community might intervene; systematic dialogues held with civil society organisations present on the ground, especially human rights monitors. Building a consensus around conflict prevention to support intervention in the international community's collective security, economic and political interests.
- 1.2 Harnessing the momentum of the priority accorded by the UN Secretary-General, to build a shared understanding, on the established principles of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and genocide prevention;
- 1.3 Target FCO Strategic Programme Funds towards upstream preventative work - tackling early risks factors, poor governance, lack of justice, human rights abuses, failing security institutions (and wider Security Sector Reform) and
- 1.4 progress towards creation of African Standby Force (ASF) that integrates military, civilian and police capacity and planning. Achieving properly integrated post-conflict operations (integrated sequencing and prioritisation of activities in all sectors), particularly between UN agencies where the Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP) has been instigated
- 1.5 Develop effective and where necessary new peace building mechanisms, including the Peace Building Commission, to aid local government political, social and economic capacity on the ground, enhance prospects for democracy, tolerance and prosperity, and serve as an effective link between peace building and peacekeeping strategies .

Outcome DSO6.2

Improved capability to tackle the long-term and structural causes of conflict e.g. political inequality, human rights abuses, weak governance and natural resources

Delivery DSO6.2

- 2.1 Encourage greater investment by partners in agreed capability shortfall areas, focusing on deployability and sustainability, allowing burden and risk-sharing in operations and in training and proper leadership/management. Greater and mutually reinforcing engagement by UN, regional organisations regional leaders and civil society in active conflict/crisis resolution and mediation and justice efforts. Support increased observance of minority rights, reduced political inequality (including gender) and firmer tackling of human rights abuses, addressed multilaterally and bilaterally.
- 2.2 Achieve better conditions for accountable government (including entrenched rule of law) and meaningful elections - addressed multilaterally and bilaterally, with Strategic Programme Fund assistance (including through the EU) directed in support of electoral processes; country governance analysis; freedom of expression. Improved governance of natural resource revenues promoting the beneficial use of resource wealth and exploring the scope for a new norm for natural resource governance.

Outcome DSO6.3

Reduced impact of conflict and acceleration towards resolution, primarily through political and diplomatic efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Middle East and Sudan, and progress in addressing long-term, "frozen" or otherwise intractable conflicts

Delivery DSO6.3

Progress towards resolving long-term, "frozen" or otherwise intractable conflicts in Cyprus, the Great Lakes region¹, the Mano River region¹, the Horn of Africa¹ and the Caucasus

The UK's National Security Strategy published in March 2008 stated that "climate change is potentially the greatest challenge to global stability and security....Tackling its causes, mitigating its risks and preparing for and dealing with its consequences are critical to our future security, as well as protecting global prosperity and avoiding humanitarian disaster". It is clear that the impacts of climate change may act as a "threat multiplier" along with other threats such as weak governance, crop decline, population increases and migration. It is less clear to what extent, where and when, the impacts of climate change will directly or indirectly cause conflict.



The FCO will explore the impact of climate change as a potential cause of conflict and work with other Government Departments to further develop the government's thinking and policy. The FCO will look to broaden international support and improve institutional coherence on climate change and security by developing capacity, increasing awareness and deepening understanding working closely with international partners.

The FCO will build resilience through managing impacts and encouraging adaptation to climate change. With DFID and other stakeholders including civil society and the private sector, we will develop ways to work more closely together to promote sustainable management and use of natural resources in support of livelihoods and environmental protection, with a particular focus on sustainable forestry and the global timber trade.

Counter terrorism, Weapons proliferation and their causes (DSO5)

The nexus of WMD proliferation and terrorism remains one of the biggest threats to regional/global security. Significant conventional threats – including to innocent civilians - also undermine the Millennium Development Goals. Our focus is on building international norms, legally-binding and verifiable where possible, which constrain what states develop, what they transfer, and what capabilities they hold themselves. That offers the best chance of constraining those states which want to become WMD-armed, or may arm terrorist organisations; of delivering the Prime Minister's vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, and of removing those capabilities that pose unacceptable humanitarian risks. The threatened proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction is compounded by the continuing proliferation of conventional weapons, which have an enormous effect in terms of lost human lives, broken communities, environmental impact and damage to economic prosperity and sustainable development goals. The Prime Minister has made clear his aim to secure an Arms Trade Treaty to help address this problem. The Prime Minister took a personal role in securing agreement to an international instrument that bans cluster munitions. The proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destructions (WMD) has an impact on the economy and the environment both nationally and globally, and can undermine strong, healthy and just societies.



All UK export licences for military equipment are assessed on a case by case basis against "The Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, including criteria on Human Rights and Sustainable Development. We are also currently engaged in a UN process to bring about an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) – a legally binding instrument establishing globally agreed high standards the trade and transfer of conventional arms. The UK wants to see Sustainable Development, international human rights law and international humanitarian law included as internationally agreed criteria in an ATT. We work closely with NGOs and our international partners to ensure these important topics are included in the debate about what an ATT should comprise and to generate international support for their inclusion in an ATT.

Work that the UK continues to undertake with our partners on Cluster Munitions, Landmines and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) also helps promote sustainable development by achieving a more sustainable economy. It is by monitoring this type of equipment that we can assess the possible environmental and social costs of their usage and therefore incentivise a more efficient use of resources

We were delighted to support the adoption of a strong Convention banning cluster munitions at The Dublin Conference (May 2008). We will sign the Convention in Oslo in December and aim to ratify it as soon as feasible. The UK will continue to support projects that aim to clear landmines from former conflict zones so that land can be used productively for farming and other uses. Through DfID the UK contributes around £10 million a year to mine clearance operations and building capacity to deal with clearance themselves in the worst affected developing countries.

Box 7

We seek to achieve the following 3 sustainable outcomes on Weapons proliferation

The Director of Defence and Strategic Threats, Simon Manley is the owner of DSO5 and responsible for achieving its outcomes.

Outcome DSO5.1

Address the threat from WMD by preventing States from acquiring or developing WMD capabilities (including their delivery) and by reinvigorating the global commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Outcome DSO5.2

Preventing terrorists or criminals from acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

Outcome DSO5.3

Tackling the threat posed by conventional weapons to humanitarian, regional and global stability and sustainable development

Delivery DSO5 (weapons proliferation) includes:

- Work towards achieving a positive outcome from the 2010 Non Proliferation Treaty Review conference
- Push hard for early agreement on a new IAEA-led system to help states secure fuel for new civil nuclear power programs, including through a uranium enrichment bond
- Start negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and secure the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- Work with domestic and international partners to reduce the risk from nuclear terrorism
- Work to maintain the effectiveness of the Chemical Weapons Convention
- Ensure that no export license applications are issued contrary to the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and other announced policy. This includes the refusal of export licenses for goods that might be used for internal repression (Criterion 2 of the Criteria) or that would seriously hamper the sustainable development of the recipient country (Criterion 8).
- Continue work on the UN program of Action to Prevent Combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects.
- Continue work within the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to secure an additional Protocol to the Convention on Cluster munitions that includes the major users and producers.

FCO OPERATIONS

Promoting sustainable development through our corporate activities and operations



We are committed to integrating sustainable development into all FCO corporate activity and to lead by example by working towards the Government's sustainable operations targets issued in June 2006². Not only is this necessary to provide support and credibility to our policy goal of promoting a low carbon, high growth economy, but is also essential if we are to meet our legal obligations and wider government targets on the sustainability of the government estate. We are committed to continual improvement in our environmental performance, preventing pollution and minimising to the extent reasonably practicable, adverse environmental impacts. The breadth of impact on our activities of our sustainable operations agenda continues to grow, having achieved some significant advances in 2007-08. We plan to escalate the scope and pace of our activities in 2008-9 and beyond. With the rollout of new IT systems we expect more flexible-working opportunities, which will have social and environmental benefits as more people choose home working over commuting.



The FCO manages its environmental impacts on its UK estate through an Environmental Management System (EMS) accredited to ISO 14001. Following a pilot scheme of first 9, then 20 of our overseas posts overseas, the principles of the EMS will be rolled out to a further 80 posts in 2008-09 and 60 more in 2009-10.



²In June 2006, the Prime Minister launched new targets for [Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate](#).

The EMS for the UK estate includes an Environmental Management Plan, which sets objectives and targets, and activities to achieve those targets. These are grouped into 5 main areas in support of HMG's sustainable operations targets:

Energy

In 2008/9 the FCO will assess the feasibility of installing a range of renewable technologies on its UK and overseas estate. We will install more energy efficiency equipment and conduct good housekeeping campaigns. The FCO will gain a deeper understanding of its energy consumption and scope for improvements, by installing additional electricity meters and assessing its properties for Display Energy Certificates.



We continue to work towards receiving an excellent BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating³ for our major refurbishments and new builds in the UK and overseas.

Travel



We will continue to offset irreducible carbon emissions generated by the official air travel of Ministers and from air travel originating in the UK by FCO staff. We will encourage staff to use public transport and low emission vehicles wherever possible. We are exploiting new IT and other technologies, as far as is practicable, including tele- and video-conferencing, to reduce air travel.

Procurement

FCO procurement activities support sustainable development within the framework of the Government's procurement policy, and EU procurement policy. The FCO contributes to the Office of Government Commerce Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Procurement and is a pilot contributor to the Carbon Disclosure Projects Public Procurement Leadership Collaboration project. The FCO plans to embed sustainable procurement in our purchasing activities during 2008. Consideration of sustainability will be built in throughout the procurement process (business case, specification and award stages). We judge this approach will help both the FCO and its suppliers to improve their performance sustainably. Corporate Procurement Group is responsible for managing our purchasing policy.



³The Building research Establishment (BRE) carries out consultancy, certification, testing, training and research into buildings and building design. BREEAM is the world's most widely used means of reviewing and improving the environmental performance of buildings and is regarded by the UK's construction and property sectors as the standard for best practice in environmental design and management.

Waste



Managing the waste generated by our global operations sustainably can be a challenge particularly in countries where the sustainable development agenda has yet to gather momentum. Nonetheless, many of our posts overseas have identified and implemented local re-cycling initiatives, delivering sustainable benefits to the post, and also to the local communities. As part of our internal promotion of sustainable activities, these are highlighted as best practice and publicised to other posts to adapt or copy through our intranet and in house magazine. We are

currently exceeding HMG sustainability targets for waste and recycling. In 2008/09 we will investigate measures to improve our performance further.

Water



We operate in many of the countries in which water scarcity is a real issue. Our staff are already highly sensitised to the importance of conserving and reducing water consumption from this first hand experience. We aim to meet Government Estate Sustainable targets at home by eliminating leaks, conducting a water audit and installing more water efficient equipment. Overseas, we are providing guidance to posts, on how to reduce their water consumption, including through usage of fitments that reduce water consumption (e.g pressure release taps, dual flush toilet systems) and use of rain and grey water.

Director General – Finance, Keith Luck is responsible for delivering our sustainable operations targets

Sustainable Operations Delivery

- We will deliver sustainable operations "vision" for the organisation in partnership with the Carbon Trust with greater clarity on targets by September 2008
- We will establish an initial measurement for the FCO's global carbon footprint by December 2008.
- Sustainable operations will be highlighted in a revision of our High Level Change Plan (more Foreign Less Office) in 2008;
- We will commit fully our budgetary resources for achieving sustainability by November 2008
- We will roll out our EMS principles to 80 posts in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (approx 60) resulting in approximately 150 posts operating an EMS by end 2010.
- We will revise and expand formal guidance on the sustainable operation of our estate within Estates Management Guidance (Chapter 21) and on our intranet to embed a sustainable management approach into our operations
- We will ask all posts to set up a "Green Team" in 2008 to encourage novel sustainable operations ideas locally, and to coordinate the implementation of a basic list of ten things every post should be doing in support of our sustainable operations agenda.
- We will extend the Sustainable Operations Challenge Fund from matching funds only to provide instead whole project costs to support initial costs for posts to implement significant sustainable operations projects
- We will revise our sustainable operations pages on our intranet, and promote our "Greening the FCO" programme among staff. We will increase promotion of a recycling culture within the organisation, from procuring e.g. re-cycled paper to disposing of "used" items at home and overseas
- We will operate a sustainable procurement policy where this meets Government and EU procurement policies and achieves value for money. We will integrate this policy into our standing purchasing instructions and operations in 2008.
- We will end the use of bottled still water for meetings and events hosted by the FCO in the UK by September 2008
- We will move some operations into a new Information Communication Technology building in Hanslope Park by June 2008 – This building takes advantage of several renewable technologies such as solar hot water heating, grey-water uses, and heat transference to mitigate energy use in a building which houses very energy intensive processes.

We continue to build the awareness of FCO staff at home and overseas of the contribution they can make to sustainable operations and also develop their capacity to deliver innovative local solutions to

make their work more sustainable. We will continue to use the FCO intranet; the FCO's in-house magazine - *News and Views*; and related campaigns, to increase awareness of sustainable development issues among FCO staff. A prize will be awarded for "Greening the FCO" will be awarded at the Leadership Conference.

The FCO's Executive Agency, Wilton Park will:

Continue to be sustainably managed, reducing its environmental impact by sourcing products and resources sustainably, minimising waste, increasing recycling, promoting energy efficiency, and providing fair trade products to its conference participants.

Seek planning permission and funding to implement a biomass heating solution to meet the large majority of its heating needs from fuel sourced from surrounding sustainably managed woodlands by the end of 2007.

Overseas Territories (OT's)

Importance of Sustainable Development for the OT's

The UK has 14 Overseas Territories (OTs). The UK is committed to promoting good governance in the OTs and to help their economic and sustainable development and future security and prosperity. Many of the Territories have a diverse natural environment, but this is often under threat (e.g. personnel capacity and financial constraints, uncontrolled development, the introduction of new species of animals and plants, and changing conditions and sea temperature, linked to global warming which, in itself, presents a potentially serious threat to the future of some of the OTs).

To help address sustainable development and environmental issues in the OT's the FCO developed individual Environment Charters with each of the OTs. In December 2003, to support the implementation of the Charters and environmental management more generally in the OTs the FCO and DFID launched a joint funding programme – the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP).

OTEP funding priorities fall under four themes:

- Implementing the Environment Charters
- Meeting the Territory's obligations under those Multilateral Environment Agreements extended to it and preparing for possible future extensions
- Building environmental management capacity in the Territory
- Raising awareness of environmental issues; promoting participation by civil society in decisions affecting the environment and supporting environmental education in the territory

We aim to:

1. Maintain the security, governance, stability and prosperity of the Overseas Territories within an SD framework.
2. Enhance the quality of life and livelihood opportunities for the inhabitants of the UK's Overseas Territories (OTs).
3. Deliver co-funded SD projects in the OTs with a particular focus on biodiversity

We will deliver this by:

1. Use the Overseas Territories Programme Fund
2. Working in partnership with DFID, use the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), achieve enhanced quality of life through the sustainable use, or protection where necessary, of environmental and natural resources, while securing global environmental benefits within the scope of the core principles of the relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its 2010 biodiversity target.
3. Work with DEFRA, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), as well as other stakeholders including civil society and the conservation community, to (e.g. recent projects with DEFRA's Darwin Initiative and Flagship Species Fund).