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GROUP



Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Sincere condolences to our friend from Nepal. Friends, Ambassador, and thank you, Prime Minister Mottley, for your chairmanship and leadership.

You once summed up international cooperation in two simple words: togetherness and fairness. That captures what we are here to do today. Fairness, because the countries that have done least to cause the climate crisis are often experiencing some of its most severe consequences. Togetherness, because none of us can tackle those consequences alone.

As the UK's Climate Minister, my message is simple: we want to work with you in a way that is practical, equal, and shaped by the realities you face. What happens in one part of the world does not stay there. A failed harvest can push up food prices thousands of miles away. Extreme weather disrupts supply chains, damages infrastructure, and puts pressure on public finances.

So our approach has to start with listening. Countries and leaders in this room have been clear about what they need: finance that is easier to access, responds quickly, and backs the priorities you set for yourselves. We know what a difference that can make. When Cyclone Remal approached Bangladesh, a UK- and Canada-supported forecasting program identified 30 points where coastal embankments were at risk. That meant local people could act before the storm arrived and strengthen those defences. That is resilience in practice.

The UK supports reform of the international financial system so that institutions like the World Bank and the IMF can unlock more investment in adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development. That is why the Foreign Secretary has taken on the role of UK Governor to the World Bank. And partnership means backing.

MS. KATIE WHITE

Minister of State in the Department for Energy Security
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