

Scotland's International **Policy Statement**



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Introduction from Cabinet Secretary

Our refreshed International Framework and this accompanying International Policy Statement reiterate our focus on increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality, the cornerstones of Scotland's Economic Strategy. They cement the four strategic objectives that underpin our international agenda.

Since the previous iteration of **Scotland's International Policy Statement** in 2015, Scotland has continued to host internationally significant events, and 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh International Festival and the Edinburgh International Fringe and Film Festival, world-renowned flagship events that generate tremendous cultural energy and highlight Scotland on the global stage. This Policy Statement identifies how Scotland continues to capitalise on such opportunities at home and beyond.

As Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs I remain committed to keeping this Policy Statement relevant and ambitious during a period of global unpredictability. This Government will regularly update the Statement as our priorities, and the environment in which we operate, change and evolve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Hyslop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fiona Hyslop MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

December 2017



Introduction



The Scottish Government has a strong and consistent commitment to international engagement. In 2008 we published **Scotland's International Framework**, setting out how our international work supports the Government's central purpose of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth. Indeed, **Scotland's Economic Strategy** places 'internationalisation' at its heart alongside innovation, investing in our people and inclusivity. We are equally proud of, and committed to, Scotland's reputation as a good global citizen, making a unique contribution to the international community.

Over the decade since the International Framework was first published, Scotland has experienced significant social and economic change. No single event has had a greater impact than the result of the United Kingdom's EU Referendum. This now threatens to redefine Scotland's place in Europe and the world, although the people of Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in the European Union. Brexit threatens our future economic and social prosperity and risks our ability to play a full and constructive part in international affairs. It affects many elements of this Policy Statement, but also means that the Statement and the underpinning Framework are more essential than ever to communicate Scotland's open and welcoming approach.

While the referendum outcome and consequential decision to leave the EU have a significant impact on the context of our International Framework, its strategic objectives remain unchanged.

- Strengthen our **external relationships**, partnerships, roles and networks;
- Build our reputation and **international attractiveness**, boosting our trade and investment;
- Enhance our **global outlook** to set the domestic conditions for success; and
- Encourage engagement with the **European Union** and **protecting Scotland's place in Europe**.

These objectives were agreed between the Scottish Government and its partners in 2015. They remain entirely valid. The Framework retains these objectives, ensuring a consistent direction guiding our priorities for specific countries, regions and sectors and ensuring that we embed internationalisation in all that we do. The various policy areas covered within the Framework sit across many of these strategic objectives and are not exclusive to any single outcome.

In June 2017, we published the '**Enterprise & Skills Review: Report on Phase 2**', setting out actions to improve coordination of international activity across the spectrum of policy and in September 2017 we published our programme document '**A Nation with Ambition - The Government's Programme for Scotland 2017-2018**' looking ahead to the next year. As Scotland's ambitions grow, so does the importance of our international reputation and the need to work with others to contribute to the success of the global community.

External relationships

All our international work is founded on partnership: with our people, our institutions and our partners outside Scotland to share knowledge and build long-term relationships and networks.

Network and offices overseas

We will develop our **network** of Government offices in **Brussels, Washington DC, Toronto, Beijing, Dublin** and **London** alongside **Scottish Development International (SDI)** offices spanning key markets. We will keep our collective overseas presence under review to ensure that we are best placed to meet current and future opportunities. This includes the doubling of SDI's presence across Europe and building on our existing innovation and investment hubs in **Dublin** and **London**, opening hubs in **Berlin** and **Paris** and upgrading our presence in **Toronto** and **Brussels**.

These hubs bring together resources and partners to co-ordinate and deliver activity on the ground. They provide a platform for business and academia to access trade and investment opportunities, develop research and innovation collaborations and attract inward investment to Scotland.

In addition, the Government will engage with international partners on specific policy issues, as set out in relevant policy documents and in our **Country Engagement Strategies** for our **five priority countries - the USA, Canada, China, India and Pakistan**. Work in our priority countries is supplemented by increased engagement with **Japan**.

Overseas visits

We will use our diplomatic and cultural capital to build strong international bilateral relationships. This will be supported by a programme of Ministerial activity and **overseas visits** focused on those organisations, individuals and platforms that can make a real difference to achieving our ambitions.



Visits, such as those undertaken by the First Minister to the United States in April 2017 and the Minister for International Development and Europe to Norway in February 2017 and Latvia in September 2017, showcased Scotland's innovative technologies and our climate change and renewable energy credentials. They also deepen Ministerial engagement with priority countries such as India, China and Japan and build on previous in-country programmes. As always, future visits will be tailored to strengthen our links on trade, investment, education and culture. We will seek to pool resources and work jointly inside and outside government when developing overseas trade missions and visits.

Nordic-Baltic

We published our updated **Nordic Baltic Policy Statement** in September 2017. Since the Statement was launched in 2014, we have built our relations, focusing on knowledge exchange, for example our 'Baby Box' Policy inspired by the Finnish model. The Minister for International Development and Europe visited Estonia in November 2016 and Norway in February 2017. To encourage policy exchange within broader civic society, we have continued our support of the **Nordic Horizons** group and VisitScotland agreed in 2016 to share information and best practice with the Icelandic Tourist Board.

We continue to develop Scotland's relationship with the Arctic Region. In March 2017, we submitted evidence to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee on Scotland and the High North and the First Minister visited Iceland in October 2016 and 2017, delivering keynote speeches at the Arctic Circle Assembly. In November 2017 we hosted an Arctic Circle Forum entitled '**Scotland and the New North**' in Edinburgh to further develop relations between Scottish organisations and international partnerships on economic issues.



Priority Countries

North America

North America's economic scale, relative ease of market access and role in inward and capital investment make it key to Scotland's trade and investment future. Following on from the First Minister's visits to the USA in 2015 and April 2017 and the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work's visit to North America in October 2017, future visits programmes will seek to capitalise on this opportunity.

Our refreshed **US** and **Canada Engagement Strategies** make the most of existing connections while broadening relationships in emerging areas of cooperation. In our engagement with both the US and Canada, we will focus on key areas identified in our **Trade & Investment Strategy**. This engagement will be part of a wider effort to develop stronger relationships throughout the Americas, assessing where the most productive long-term opportunities for Scotland lie.

China

China is the world's most populous country and is undergoing rapid social change, with increasing influence on the global stage. It is Scotland's 14th largest export market and recently became a top five source of inward investment to Scotland.

Our **China Engagement Strategy**, due to be revised in Spring 2018, builds on the great progress in our bilateral relationship across government and with the business, education and cultural communities and civil society. Respect for human rights and the rule of law remains one of the four guiding principles of that Strategy.

Almost all higher education institutes have links to Chinese institutions and we welcome a growing number of Chinese students – the **Scottish Qualifications Authority's** diploma programme is the largest foreign higher education programme in China.

In July 2015 the First Minister renewed our commitment to greater collaboration across the arts, creative industries, heritage and national collections. Both China and Scotland recognise innovation is key to a strong, sustainable and inclusive economy and we relish the opportunity for mutual learning as we move towards low carbon energy and environmental protection.



Priority Countries

India

India is the world's largest democracy and possesses an unrivalled youth demographic. Scotland has expertise in areas of priority for India, such as education, skills, data, energy and water.

Our **India Engagement Strategy** commits us to a partnership with mutual benefit – allowing both countries to achieve their goals, whilst reducing inequality. Engagement with Indian national and state governments, the academic, business and cultural communities and civil society can strengthen sustainable and inclusive economic growth for both parties. Crucially, we want to connect with young Indians to show them what contemporary Scotland has to offer and, in doing so, open equivalent opportunities for Scottish students.

Pakistan

Pakistan occupies a geopolitically important location, with an increasing urban and young population. Scotland is home to a large and vibrant Pakistani community, many of whom maintain close links in Pakistan. Their contribution to Scotland – culturally, economically and socially – is significant, and their experience, celebrated through the **Colourful Heritage** project, leads them to play a valued role in public life.

Scotland's new **Pakistan Engagement Strategy** recognises the need for specific, appropriate and collaborative activity focused on trade, investment and enterprise; education and skills; water and energy; and culture and heritage. These reflect Pakistan's priorities and, matched with Scotland's expertise, offer scope for mutual learning and sharing of knowledge.

Japan

Japan is one of the world's largest economies, a leader in science, technology and innovation and home to many of the world's leading global companies. Many Japanese businesses have a long-standing relationship with Scotland, making significant investments in important sectors such as energy, life sciences and manufacturing. We will continue to support their activity and encourage Scottish companies to seek out opportunities in Japan, building on regular Scottish Ministerial visits since 2009. Recent engagement has included increasing collaboration on marine resource development and subsea technologies.

Scotland has strong historical and cultural connections with Japan, collaborating on traditional and contemporary performing arts and the management of industrial heritage. The **Rugby World Cup** in 2019 and the **Tokyo Olympics** in 2020 will be valuable opportunities to showcase Scotland and to encourage Scots to develop their understanding of Japan.

Good Global Citizenship

We are proud of, and committed to, Scotland's reputation as a good global citizen in an increasingly connected world, making a unique contribution to the international community.

Ethical Leadership

Scotland is a country that can have a positive voice, offering ethical leadership on global issues, including human rights, tackling poverty and inequality, sustainable and inclusive development, fair trade, climate change and climate justice.

All of our international engagement is guided by our commitment to the universally-recognised values enshrined in international human rights treaties. We will act in ways that respect, protect and realise human rights and promote equality, fairness and social justice and respect for both human dignity and the rule of law. We recognise that our commitment to progressive values cannot stop at our national borders. Scotland not only accepts, but embraces, our responsibility to act as a good global citizen and to promote and support best practice internationally.

Practical, front-line delivery of our progressive values, including championing human rights, will be matched by participation in international mechanisms, in particular via the **United Nations** and **Council of Europe**. We are committed to reporting via such bodies on Scotland's own performance. As a good global citizen it is incumbent on Scotland to model the standards we ask others to meet.

The **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (the Global Goals)** set the framework for a global approach between now and 2030, applying to all countries equally, including Scotland. In announcing Scotland's intention to sign up for the Global Goals, the First Minister made a dual commitment to tackle poverty and inequality domestically in Scotland and to contribute internationally to help developing countries grow in a fair and sustainable manner. That leadership has been welcomed both in Scotland and overseas.

Our pledge to implement the Global Goals domestically is being fulfilled through the **National Performance Framework (NPF)** and the **Scottish National Action Plan on Human Rights (SNAP)**. Our pledge for Scotland to contribute internationally to implementation of the Global Goals is taken forward through our international development work.

Scotland is considered a world leader in social enterprise and, as a good global citizen, takes this leadership responsibility seriously. The **Social Enterprise World Forum** was first launched in Scotland in 2008 and has since been held across the globe, providing a platform for global conversation and shared learning on best practice in social enterprise practice and policy.

In September 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities travelled to the Social Enterprise World Forum in Christchurch, New Zealand, to talk about Scotland's world leading ecosystem of support for social enterprise, but also to receive the social enterprise 'baton' in advance of the Social Enterprise World Forum returning to Edinburgh in 2018. This event will provide a further opportunity to demonstrate Scotland's excellence in this field on a world stage and share our learning with a global audience.

International Development

International development is a key part of Scotland's global contribution. It embodies our core values of fairness and equality. As a good global citizen, we have much to contribute in tackling poverty, injustice and inequality.

'Global Citizenship: Scotland's International Development Strategy'

was published in December 2016 and will guide Scotland's contribution to the Global Goals between now and 2030. At the forefront of our efforts is our **International Development Fund**, whose main aim is to support and empower our partner countries: **Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan**.

Our funding supports grassroots development through a range of Scotland based organisations including NGOs, health boards, local authorities and other public sector bodies, working with local organisations in our partner countries.

Our commitment to support our partner countries as they move toward developing sustainable economic growth has seen us establish an **Investment Initiative for Malawi**, with £1 million match funded by the private sector.

We support peer to peer knowledge-sharing and we are funding **Police Scotland** to work with their counterparts under our sub-Saharan Africa programme. Under the Hydro Nation agenda, the Scottish and Malawian Governments are working together on water resource management, governance and legislation. With our partners **Beyond Borders**, we are supporting the **Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship**. By 2021 this will enable at least 250 women from conflict-affected countries to hone the skills and confidence to maximise their contribution to building a safer world.

Our International Development Fund is supplemented by a new £1 million per annum **Humanitarian Emergency Fund** from Spring 2017 and an increased **Climate Justice Fund** of at least £3 million per year for the next five years and supported by Scotland's access to the **Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)** to support development-related research. We are increasingly shaping our international development work around the '**Beyond Aid**' agenda. This recognises that some of the greatest benefits to the world's most vulnerable can come from policy changes which encourage good and fair choices by all relevant parties.

We have put **Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)** at the heart of this new approach, working across policy areas, and with global partners, to face the implications for developing countries of all Scotland's actions: through a "do no harm" approach and through positive development contributions across policy areas.



International attractiveness

Increasing Scotland's attractiveness and ensuring the flow of new investment is a strategic priority. We continue to strengthen and enhance Scotland's reputation, striving to be a leader in specific areas such as climate change and equality.

Tourism and Major Events

Our tourism industry presents Scotland's face to the world, offering the welcome for which we are famous. Encouraging overseas visitors to experience the best that Scotland has to offer – spectacular landscapes, a rich history and heritage and our wonderful food and drink – boosts our international reputation and ensures that Scotland becomes a destination of first choice for visitors, near and far. Not only is tourism vital to Scotland's economy and our second largest employer, but it showcases our country as a great place in which to study, live, work and invest. Tourism offers significant and growing opportunities for trade and investment, and we are actively supporting the sector to maximise opportunities for infrastructure and other investment.

Our tourism industry also demonstrates our ability to collaborate – with industry, public bodies and international partners – to make the most of our resources. To grow our visitor economy, we need to make new connections, expanding our direct air links and encouraging new and untapped markets. We will identify new trends and untapped potential to ensure that Scotland retains its high-quality and creative offering, with something fresh and exciting for all visitors.

We will also continue to remove those barriers, physical, social or otherwise, that prevent everyone who wishes from enjoying all that Scotland has to offer. Working with domestic and international partners, such as **Visit Flanders**, we will become a world leader in inclusive and accessible tourism.



With our national tourism body, **VisitScotland**, and our **enterprise agencies**, we are developing future opportunities to keep Scotland's profile high on the world stage, maintaining links with the Scottish diaspora and extending our strategic partnerships internationally. Scotland is the perfect stage to host world class events: the 2018 European Championships in Glasgow and the 2019 Solheim Cup at Gleneagles are just two of the many highlights ahead.

Culture

Culture is fundamental to Scotland's positive international reputation as an open, creative, welcoming and confident nation. Cultural engagement builds trust and strengthens our understanding of other nations and cultures.

Cultural Relations are a cornerstone of our international approach. Working in partnership with organisations such as **Creative Scotland**, **Historic Environment Scotland**, **The British Council**, the international festivals and the National Performing Companies and Collections we ensure that Scotland is a distinctive and innovative cultural world leader. This is supported by the cultural contribution of our Higher Education sector, including the international prominence of the Glasgow School of Art and of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Collectively, we promote and present Scotland's contemporary and traditional cultures at home and through international exchanges and platforms. Our success is borne out through many examples, including Scotland's profile at the **Venice Biennale**, the **Lorient** and **Rudolstadt** music festivals, tours by our performing companies, Digital Scanning and conservation of historic sites and a strong relationship between Edinburgh's **International Children's Festival** and Japan.





This Government recognises the power of culture and creativity to engage across the world. Through international cultural engagement we ensure that we remain an open and tolerant nation sharing ideas and supporting cooperation, collaboration and co-creation. Innovation across our creative industries continues to open up new opportunities with other countries. Our historic environment plays a crucial role in promoting a positive image of Scotland and is a key driver of our international reputation. Many international visitors are attracted to Scotland each year by monuments such as our six World Heritage Sites and we have built productive collaborations with international partners to care for, protect and promote our shared heritage and enjoy partnerships with colleagues across the world.

While cultures are varied and distinct, culture is a universal way to welcome the world and to develop relationships across borders, opening doors to diplomatic engagement between political figures in a neutral space. The **Edinburgh Festivals** are testament to this, providing an international platform where political and artistic expression is welcomed and encouraged. Culture supports dialogue at national and international levels: this is why Scotland hosts the biennial **International Culture Summit**.

VisitScotland, Scottish Development International, the Scottish Government and Universities Scotland have united to develop one strategic and creative approach to promote Scotland as a great place to live, work, visit, study and invest. Pooling our resources, skills and budgets, we are creating together a strong, unified narrative, an integrated marketing programme and a dynamic digital platform which will allow Scotland to realise more fully additional income from overseas markets.

Diaspora and International Community

Scotland has an extensive and valued **diaspora** who, by sharing and celebrating Scottish successes, culture and traditions abroad, showcase Scotland to new audiences. We will work with the Scottish diaspora around the world through targeted engagement using our web presence, including **Scotland.org**. This will forge connections across networks to unlock the role our diaspora can play in supporting our international ambitions.

Scotland also has a large, established **international community** and we welcome the contribution new Scots make to our economy and society. This remains unchanged – and indeed all the more important – following the EU referendum. Alongside our efforts to create more jobs in Scotland and develop the skills of our workforce, we must be able to attract and retain world-class talent to fill vacancies which cannot be filled by resident workers.

Trade and Investment

International trade and investment is central to our wider internationalisation, driving improvements in competitiveness and productivity, opening Scotland to new ideas and creating opportunities for individuals, businesses, universities and Scotland as a whole.

Our Trade and Investment Strategy for 2016-2021, '**Global Scotland**', sets out a comprehensive action plan to boost Scotland's international trade activity, including stimulating inward investment. Building on our status as the most attractive place in the UK for Foreign Direct Investment Projects outside of London, it outlines our approach to attracting Foreign Direct Investment and Capital and Risk Investment to Scotland including attracting new investors, building Scotland as a global innovation and investment hub and supporting existing investors to develop, grow and expand. The Strategy supports the twin goals of the Economic Strategy – increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality – and is underpinned by the much broader agenda for internationalisation set out in the **International Framework**.

In September 2016 we published '**Internationalising Social Enterprise – A Strategy for Scotland**' which outlines support for social enterprises operating internationally and their role in global citizenship, trade, investment and education as part of our aspiration for international excellence, leadership and impact. This is delivered through our **Action Plan 2017-20**. Our **Social Enterprise Academy** is a leading example, supporting individuals, organisations and networks to grow strong social enterprises, teams and communities across the world, including in Pakistan and Malawi.

In June 2017 we published the report on Phase 2 of the **Enterprise & Skills Review**, setting out a range of actions to improve coordination of international activity across areas such as exports, inward investment and branding. These aim to bring greater coherence as we step up the pace of delivery of our Trade and Investment Strategy through activity such as the establishment of a new Board of Trade, the appointment of **Trade Envoys** to champion and represent Scotland's export interests and the doubling of SDI's presence across Europe, by ensuring a much stronger focus on co-ordinating international activity across the public and academic sectors to deliver maximum benefit for Scotland.

We will work constructively with the UK Government and the European Union to promote Scottish interests overseas and in international accords, including seeking assurances that the UK's international footprint serves the needs and strengths of Scottish businesses and institutions.



Food and Drink

Scotland continues to enhance its reputation as a Land of Food and Drink, with an unrivalled diversity of high quality, premium products. Our food and drink exports – now worth £5.5 billion – continue to grow, with food exports alone up 111% since 2007. Our new strategy, **'Ambition 2030'**, seeks to double the value of the industry, with a continued focus on new and emerging export markets. The Government will work with industry to showcase produce and connect suppliers with buyers, domestically and internationally.

Aquaculture is increasingly important to Scotland and we will look for opportunities to co-operate internationally, as evidenced by the Scotland-Norway Memorandum of Understanding for Aquaculture (2009). In 2015, we pledged to collaborate on sustainable management of the global salmon farming sector through a Joint Statement of Ministers in partnership with Norway, Chile, and Canada. Additionally, we met partners in Reykjavík in early 2017 to scope out a new Aquaculture Innovation Network for the Northern Periphery and Arctic. This initiative was led by the **Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC)**.

Like other sectors which attract overseas investors, the salmon farming industry benefits from high Scottish production standards and provenance which help to maintain a market for higher value niche products. The **'Aquaculture Growth to 2030'** Strategy, launched in late 2016, aims to double aquaculture's contribution to the Scottish economy and support 18,000 jobs across the supply chain.

Universities

Scotland continues to be a highly attractive place to study and welcomes students from around the world. International students make an important social, cultural and economic contribution and add to the diversity of our communities, enriching the learning experience and supporting local businesses and jobs. Student mobility raises the profile of Scotland as a place to live, work and study in key overseas markets and showcases the best of Scottish higher education.

We provide funding to a number of mobility programmes to ensure that students from Scottish universities and colleges have the opportunity to study and work overseas, and to allow students from other countries to come to Scotland. This includes the **International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE)** which is run by the British Council using Scottish Government funding and promotes outward and inward student mobility. This is also supported by the **'Scotland's Universities Welcome the World'** campaign.

Connected Scotland also has a key role to play in ensuring a collaborative approach by universities and other key stakeholders in international marketing and attracting international students.

GlobalScot

GlobalScot serves as Scotland's unique global network to help Scottish companies access markets overseas. Created in 2001, GlobalScot works in partnership with Scottish Development International, Scottish Enterprise and agencies across Scotland and around the world to provide advice, assistance and expertise to Scottish businesses that are planning to export, offering links across 51 countries.





Physical and Digital Infrastructure

We will continue to strengthen our **domestic infrastructure** to increase Scotland's international attractiveness. This includes investing in our **transport links and air connectivity** which facilitate trade, tourism and investment.

Scotland is served by direct flights to over 30 countries. We are committed to improving long-haul connectivity, including new direct routes to China, India and West Coast USA. We are working closely with Scotland's airports and airlines to move Scotland's international air connections to the next level.

The devolution of **Air Passenger Duty** allows us to better support sustainable growth by improving international connectivity. Our aim is to reduce the burden of the Air Departure Tax by 50%, and to abolish the tax completely when resources allow.

As well as physical connections, digital connectivity and broadband will unlock economic growth and help tackle inequality. **'Realising Scotland's Full Potential in a Digital World: A Digital Strategy for Scotland'** was released in March 2017, committing us to deliver world-class digital connectivity across the whole of Scotland by 2021 as part of our 'Reaching 100%' programme. This will support the creation, growth and transformation of businesses better able to connect and compete with their international peers.



Global Outlook

Enhancing Scotland's global outlook focuses on embedding internationalisation in everything we do, using a coherent, unified approach to promote the exchange of knowledge and provide targeted support so the people of Scotland are equipped to capitalise on global opportunities.

University research and knowledge exchange

Our universities have a world-leading reputation for the impact of their research in areas such as life sciences, medical research, cultural industries, energy, informatics and quantum technology. Science and research are increasingly international pursuits and we want Scotland's universities to be able to respond to international challenges and opportunities. We remain committed to collaborating with international partners and we want Scotland to be a country where talented researchers from across the world come together to explore and address issues for the benefit of our society and the wider world.

Scotland's network of **Innovation Centres** brings together universities and businesses in transformational collaborations that place Scotland at the forefront of global innovation activity. We will work with the Centres to ensure that their international potential is fully realised.

We support Scottish universities' collaboration in **Connected Scotland**, a partnership to develop opportunities worldwide for student recruitment, the delivery of Scottish education overseas, and research. Investment in our universities through the **Scottish Funding Council** is supporting this international research collaboration.

Scotland's National Academy, the **Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)**, makes an important contribution to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives through a diverse programme of visits, exchanges and joint projects and research collaborations. The RSE extends and helps strengthen Scotland's partnerships and diplomatic relations through agreements and collaborations with sister academies across the world, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and networks such as **ALLEA**, the **European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities**, which brings together 59 Academies in more than 40 countries across Europe.



Migration

Inward migration is vital to meeting Scotland's economic, demographic and cultural needs: population growth is the biggest driver of economic growth in Scotland today and migration is essential for the sustainability of Scotland's population growth.

While immigration is reserved to the UK Government, the Scottish Government believes that continuing free movement of persons is in the best interests of Scotland and the UK as a whole. We do not believe that a restrictive model which limits free movement is in Scotland's, or the UK's, interests. Furthermore, for migration from outside the EU it is clear that a one-size fits all approach does not meet Scotland's needs. There is a clear case for a differentiated migration system that recognises the different needs across the UK.

We will publish proposals on a future migration policy for Scotland better suited to our circumstances and needs. This will outline Scottish Ministers' policy of removing Scotland from the net migration target and describe an approach that ensures a welcoming environment for new Scots and their families.

We will continue to work to address the negative rhetoric around migration and to support unaccompanied child refugees and others through the **Syrian Resettlement Programme** and our **'New Scots'** strategy.

Justice

Globalisation creates opportunities in Scotland. The interconnectedness of people, trade, finance & data and new means & methods, as well as speed of communication and transfer of knowledge, can be productive for the economy and for communities. However, these developments can expose Scotland, as well as many other countries around the world, to new vulnerabilities. The global nature of these vulnerabilities has extended our field of vision beyond Scotland's borders.

We are committed to learning from international partners, collaborating to understand how we can protect our essential services and critical infrastructure from emerging risks, including natural hazards and extreme weather events, and sharing our practice and expertise in tackling serious and organised crime and other policing challenges. Additionally, we remain committed to participate in and share our experience and approach in EU-wide projects as well as collaborative initiatives and networks within regions of Europe and more widely internationally. We will scope all the options available to us to maintain and enhance solidarity and support networks – such as the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** and associated **European Response and Coordination Centre** – as, by pooling together resources and capabilities, we can both better protect our people and help others in achieving much more than a single country can do by acting alone.

We will seek to further strengthen our relationships with European and international partners through opportunities to share our expertise and learning with practitioners from around the world who may be facing similar challenges to develop a shared approach for shared outcomes. We will also continue and explore opportunities to engage with EU and international research programmes (such as **Horizon 2020**) to support research projects and operational applications so that we can maintain and enhance our preparedness to future challenges.

This will allow us to bring to bear the unique Scottish legal system, including the role of the Lord Advocate and the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Services, and contribute to the global effort among international partners to tackle dynamic threats such as those in cyberspace that can impact on Scotland's citizens, its businesses and its public services.



Health

There are global benefits in improving health worldwide. Under the Chief Medical Officer's auspice, a new **Scottish Global Health Collaborative (SGHC)** has been formed as an "inclusive multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral network established to promote greater coherence, coordination, collaboration and communication in Scotland's global health activities." There is also evidence that involvement in global health can benefit the Scottish population through a reinvigorated, self-sufficient, innovative and productive workforce. In 2017, the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians Glasgow launched their Report '**Global Citizenship in the Scottish Health Service**'. We are committed to work closely with partners across **NHSScotland** to consider its recommendations, including a pilot Scottish Centre for Global Health.

Scotland has a globally recognised track record in health related research and development, delivered in collaboration between the Scottish Government's Chief Scientist Office (Health), NHSScotland, academia, industry and charities. We see health and social care as a key driver of global collaboration on research and innovation, through the development of strategic partnerships with health systems and their academic partners in our priority markets in areas including precision medicine, big data and clinical research/clinical trials. An information sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with British Columbia is already in place. The Scottish Government are also one of a number of partners working with the Estonian Government on the **Digital Health Society Declaration**.

Climate Change

Scotland is continuing its very strong contribution to international action on climate change, a key part of our contribution to the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals**. Scotland has cut its greenhouse gas emissions by over 40% since 1990 and we will phase out new petrol and diesel cars by 2032.

Climate action is important for Scotland itself and, as a part of our international development '**Beyond Aid**' agenda, to mitigate the global north's impact on the poorest and most vulnerable people in developing countries in the global south.

We are going beyond this 'do no harm' approach, however, to contribute to international development outcomes by supporting off-grid community energy projects in Malawi and a staff assignment to help develop Malawi's renewable energy strategy. Following up on our £1 million support for the **UN Paris Agreement Capacity Building for Transparency Initiative**, and £2.5 million **Hydro Nation** funding for Water Futures in Malawi, we will continue to deliver the First Minister's pledge to the Paris climate conference to provide £3 million each year through our climate justice programmes. This includes our new Climate Challenge Programme Malawi and **Climate Justice Innovation Fund** which announced its first six projects in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda in September 2017.

In 2017 we signed a letter of cooperation with the State of California to provide practical support to the **Under 2 Coalition** of high ambition states, regions and cities worldwide which now covers over a billion people and over a third of the global economy.



Energy

Scotland is a global knowledge hub for energy exploration and production, power system engineering and a host of modern renewable energy technologies and systems, placing us at the forefront of the challenge to decarbonise the global economy. Scotland's expertise and leadership was recognised when then UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon asked the First Minister to support the **UN's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All)** initiative.

Scotland is at the forefront of the development of offshore renewable technologies and is home to the world's leading wave and tidal test centre, the world's largest planned tidal stream array and the world's largest tidal turbine. Additionally, in collaboration with the Norwegian state-owned energy firm Statoil, the world's largest floating offshore wind farm **Hywind** has been built 25km off the east coast of Scotland.

The global market for low carbon goods and services is also growing, spurred by major investments in low carbon technologies in rapidly developing economies such as China, India, Mexico and South Africa. Scotland will strive to build upon its reputation to capitalise on this expanding market.

Hydro Nation

To maximise the value of our water resources, **Scotland: The Hydro Nation** must help our water sector identify and respond to international opportunities, growing networks and awareness of our capacity and reputation for research excellence, exporting Scotland's expertise in governance and delivering projects with partners in key territories to support our objectives. This is evidenced by the **University of Dundee** hosting the **UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science**.

We work with organisations such as the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and other advocacy bodies, to bring Scotland's knowledge and experience to key water challenges and policy development. We are establishing **Hydro Nation International (HNI)** to grow better networks across Scotland to respond to international challenges and opportunities.

Languages

Investing in Scotland's people is key to developing the skills and tools they need to engage effectively with the world around them. Prioritising **modern language capability** and **international student exchange**, including for school teachers and pupils, will create a more highly skilled population, better placed to participate in an increasingly global society and economy. In turn, this provides visitors and investors coming to Scotland with the confidence to operate in a destination which increasingly speaks their language.

Published in 2016, our strategy **Delivering excellence and equity in Scottish Education** underlines the importance of developing the provision of language skills within education. We see language learning as key to achieving a more successful Scotland and remain committed to creating the opportunity for every child in Scotland to learn two languages in addition to their mother tongue, in accordance with the "1+2" European model of language learning. By 2021, every child will begin to learn an additional language when they start Primary One (age 5) and a second from Primary Five at the latest (age 9). In addition this will embed the learning about cultures other than our own within every child's school education.



Protecting Scotland's place in Europe

The result of the European Union referendum makes clear that the people of Scotland see their future as part of the EU. Although the UK as a whole voted to leave the EU, Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain.

Membership of the EU has delivered a wide range of benefits to Scotland and the EU is Scotland's most important international export market. The EU also provides substantial funding to Scotland through various programmes such as **Horizon 2020, Rural and Agriculture payments** and **European Structural Funds**. EU citizens make a vital contribution to our economy, society and culture and Scotland remains a welcoming destination for people who want to live, work and study here, including as part of the **Erasmus** programme. In our universities, 27% of research staff are from other countries in the EU. Similarly, people born in Scotland benefit from the ability to live, work and study across the EU. The importance of our links with the EU of course go much wider, bringing benefits to many aspects of our lives.

'**Scotland's Place in Europe**', published in December 2016, made clear that we will explore all options to protect Scotland's relationship with Europe and that our preferred outcome is continued membership of the EU as an independent nation. However, failing this, we also present the case for continued membership of the single market and customs union.

Events since, and the further evidence which has been put forward from a range of sources, including from business, only strengthen this view. This is made clear in our recent publication '**Brexit: what's at stake for businesses**'. In the absence of our preferred outcome of full EU membership, we will continue to argue strongly that continued membership of the single market and customs union best serves Scotland's, and the UK's, interests.



The work of the European Union continues to be of significant importance to Scotland and we are clear about the benefits of our EU membership. That is why we will strive to strengthen Scotland's place in the EU as part of our international agenda.

Remaining a committed partner

We remain committed partners in Europe and we wish to continue to contribute meaningfully to collective goals. We believe that through solidarity, support and collaboration we can achieve far more than 28 individual states acting alone ever could. This has already been our experience through schemes such as Erasmus and Horizon 2020. Making a positive contribution to pan-European work remains at the forefront of our international agenda and after Brexit we will continue to have a vital interest in close relationships with our EU neighbours, whether for trade, collaboration on research and development, or enhancing our security.

Protecting and Strengthening Partnerships

A key element of our European engagement is strong partnerships with like-minded European partners. Whatever the outcome of the UK's negotiation to exit the EU, we are determined to strengthen these relationships to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes, including working together on global issues such as climate change, energy security and the fight against terrorism.

This approach partly underlies our new **Nordic Baltic Policy Statement** and it is reflected in the help we have offered to successive EU presidencies, for example our fisheries expertise and our plans to renew the bilateral accords we have with countries such as France. It is also at the heart of our decision to develop new hubs in Berlin and Paris to complement those in Dublin and London alongside doubling the presence of SDI across Europe. Scotland's place in Europe will continue to be a proactive and progressive one, making links with other European nations which will benefit us all for years to come.



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This publication is available at www.gov.scot

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ISBN: 978-1-78851-402-6

Published by The Scottish Government, December 2017

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS300026 (12/17)

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