

# A summary of the Scottish Government's Strategy for International Engagement

“The First Minister has made clear that tackling poverty and inequality in Scotland is one of this Government’s central aims and the Scottish Government is clear that inequality and poverty is not restricted to our borders - it is a global issue that needs a global response.

Scotland has always been an outward-looking nation, embracing the world beyond our borders and contributing to the international community. International development is of course a key tenet of that, making distinctive contributions in addressing global challenges such as climate change, tackling inequality and promoting human rights, and sharing our knowledge, skills and technical expertise for the global good.”

In 2017-18 the Scottish Government will:

- seek to increase the level and frequency of Scottish engagement with EU institutions to advance our policy objectives, develop our expertise in European affairs and increase our return on EU competitive funding programmes;
- participate fully in negotiations on the UK's future relationship with the EU, ensuring that Scottish interests are protected and promoted;
- continue to act to help tackle poverty and inequalities in relation to some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in areas of Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda and Pakistan, through an increased £10 million per annum International Development Fund (IDF);
- launch and manage a new £1 million per annum humanitarian aid fund from spring 2017, enabling us to continue to respond to the increasing number of rapidly emerging international humanitarian crises;
- renew our historic partnership agreement with the Government of Malawi which is based on 150 years of shared history and friendship and promotes the enduring values of tolerance, fairness and equality and the sharing of experiences and skills for mutual benefit;
- fund training for women from International Conflict Zones to give them the skills and confidence to maximise their contribution to building a safer world by involvement in UN peace processes; and
- strengthen and deepen our engagement with the US, Canada, Japan, China, India and Pakistan, with a focus on education, business and culture.

Source <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/12/6610/15>