

Third Annual UK-Chile Trade Dialogue – Joint Statement

News story

Joint Statement following the third annual UK-Chile Dialogue held on 13 October 2022



1. The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, the UK's Minister for Trade Policy and Mr. José Miguel Ahumada, Vice Minister of Trade for the Republic of Chile held the third annual UK-Chile Trade Dialogue on 13th October 2022.
2. Both Ministers welcomed the historically close trade relationship between the two nations and expressed their pleasure at the increased trade since the bilateral trade agreement came into force in January 2021. Trade between the UK and Chile was worth £1.6bn in the four quarters up until March 2022, an increase of 13% on the previous year.
3. Minister Hands congratulated Chilean and UK officials for their work in facilitating the approval of 21 new export health certificates over the last year, covering a range of agricultural goods, including making the UK one of the few European countries able to export ovine genetic material to Chile. He also welcomed the first shipments of UK pork to Chile after the market was opened in March of this year.
4. Vice-Minister Ahumada emphasised the Government of Chile's focus on increasing opportunities for women. Both Ministers welcomed the close co-operation between the two governments on projects intended to support female entrepreneurs accessing the UK market and highlighted future collaboration on increasing female participation in the financial services sector.
5. Ministers endorsed the progress on the UK-Chile modernisation roadmap. This is intended to provide a platform to increase trade and develop our trade relations for the future. Through the roadmap, they agreed to formal exchanges of trade data in the coming month to help business understand the benefits of the trade agreement, and tasked officials to continue their work on assessing on a reciprocal basis the opportunities for improving liberalisation of trade in agricultural products, through the Article 74 review early in 2023.
6. Ministers reiterated their desire for Chile and United Kingdom to work

together in the new digital economy and asked officials to meet in early 2023 to discuss areas for potential collaboration.

7. Ministers agreed that progress on the roadmap will be reported on in the framework of the next Association Committee, to be held in March 2023.
8. Ministers agreed on the urgency of tackling climate change and the role of technology in delivering a more sustainable and inclusive global economy. They welcomed the joint work on low carbon energy, including cooperation on green hydrogen, and sustainable infrastructure and transport.
9. Ministers anticipated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Financial Services between His Majesty's Treasury of the United Kingdom and the Ministry of Finance of Chile in December during the annual Chile Day in London. It will boost bilateral expertise sharing and private sector engagement in key areas such as fintech, green finance and asset management.
10. Vice – Minister Ahumada updated on the steps Chile is taking in regard to the parliamentary process of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and reaffirmed their support for the UK's accession to join CPTPP.
11. Ministers reinforced Chile and the UK's shared interests in working together on the global stage, including through the WTO to ensure that free and fair trade benefits all our citizens and helps deliver inclusive and green growth in a fast-changing world.

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[Joint statement by European Human Rights Ambassadors on the situation in Iran](#)

Human Rights Ambassadors from the UK, Germany, France, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Estonia, the Netherlands and Slovakia made the following joint statement following recent events in Iran:

“The violent death of 22-year-old “Zhina” Mahsa Amini as a result of mistreatment while in custody of the Iranian morality police brings home the dramatic human rights situation in Iran. It is a shocking reminder of the repression experienced by women, who face the threat of detention and physical violence simply for how they choose to dress. Over the past weeks, Iranians – both men and women – have bravely raised their voices against this violation of their freedom of expression. Protests have also called for freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, against the death penalty and extrajudicial executions, against torture, enforced disappearances and systematic impunity.

In short, the people of Iran are calling on their leaders to guarantee their fundamental rights. The Iranian security forces responded to the demonstrators with unjustifiable violence. The brutal response to the recent demonstrations at universities throughout the country is deeply concerning.

The international community must speak out clearly and unambiguously on the issue of repression and violence by the security forces and condemn these steps. We welcome the cross-regional statement at the UN Human Rights Council condemning the flagrant violation of women's rights and calling on Iran to uphold the right to the freedom of expression and assembly.

Iran, as a signatory to the ICCPR, has a responsibility to put political and civil rights into practice. We call on the authorities to immediately stop its violent crackdown on protests, to immediately release demonstrators who have been unfairly detained, to cease the imprisonment of journalists who have been at the forefront of reporting on the protests, to restore reliable internet services across the country, and to guarantee human rights for all in Iran."

DWP Secretary of State outlines plans to boost labour market

During her first keynote speech, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions today (Thursday 13 October) implored businesses to play a greater role in tackling inactivity in return for government action on vacancies, in a bid to kickstart economic growth.

Speaking with business leaders and stakeholders at the Policy Exchange, Chloe Smith MP outlined her vision for the Government's mission to deliver higher paid, higher quality jobs, grow the economy, unleash the potential of the labour market, drive prosperity and deliver opportunity for everyone.

Determined to lead the Department for Work and Pensions as Britain transitions into a new era of prosperity, she impressed on businesses the importance of their role in driving growth and urged them to play their part in reducing economic inactivity by investing in their workforce's progression and health.

Her plea to industry included: attracting; investing in; and supporting and retaining British workers within an accessible and inclusive workforce.

Her speech comes as new labour market figures released this week show the unemployment rate is at a near record low, and the number of people on company payrolls remains high.

However, the Secretary of State stressed that the millions of unfilled posts

across the country represent unfilled potential, and her focus is on helping people of all working ages and circumstances back into work and having the opportunity to progress.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chloe Smith MP, said:

In return for the Government helping businesses fill their vacancies, we are expecting employers to invest in their workforce's progression and health. And doing so is a crucial step to ensure we don't face similar labour market challenges in the future.

We can pull out all the stops to help businesses fill their vacancies, we need employers to help people to start and stay and succeed.

Businesses can play their part in reducing inactivity and growing the economy by making the labour market more accessible and inclusive.

As part of her speech, the Secretary of State reflected on her experience with cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and she talked about how her personal journey made her realise the importance of supporting people who become sick into work.

Further to her call to businesses, the Secretary of State outlined how the department is going further to encourage more movement in the labour market by:

- Reforming work incentives and support within the welfare system helping more unemployed people move into available jobs, and for those already in work, to increase their earnings.
- Preventing the flow of people moving into economic inactivity helping people return to the workforce with the support of dedicated Work Coaches by securing the role that's right for them and supporting people to remain in work – so they can experience the benefits of our drive for growth.

Here is a transcript of the speech, exactly as it was delivered: [A gold mine for growth and opportunity](#)

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Follow DWP on:

UK announces support to help Uganda manage Ebola outbreak

World news story

The support includes £2.2m – UGX9.3bn – for UN agencies working with the Government of Uganda in the Ebola response.



Mubende Referral Hospital Treatment Centre

The British High Commission in Kampala has announced that the UK will provide £2.2m to WHO, UNICEF and WFP to support Uganda's response to the current Ebola outbreak. This will consist of:

- £400,000 to the World Health Organization (WHO), to enhance case investigation and contact tracing at the local level, support laboratory diagnosis, and strengthen co-ordination of the response
- £900,000 to UNICEF, to help prevent transmission of the disease through both strengthened engagement with local communities, and improved sanitation and hygiene provision in key installations – such as community health facilities and schools – in the affected areas; and
- £900,000 to the World Food Programme (WFP), to support transport, logistics and storage for the overall UN response – including transportation of medical supplies and PPE, provision of cold chain equipment, and supporting the establishment of Ebola Treatment Units

In addition, a UK Government expert has deployed to support WHO in Uganda, at their request, with expertise on case management. Others – including from the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team – are expected to deploy imminently. All deployments will be agreed with the Government of Uganda.

HE Kate Airey OBE, British High Commissioner to Uganda said:

Time is of the essence when responding to this type of outbreak.

The UK is helping the Government of Uganda and its partners in their response, by providing both funding that can help scale up delivery on the ground, and experts who bring experience of previous Ebola outbreaks in other countries. The UK will stand with the Government and people of Uganda in tackling this outbreak.

The support package builds on previous assistance the UK has provided Uganda. Between 2018 and 2020 the UK contributed nearly £10m – over UGX40 billion – to support Ebola preparedness in Uganda in response to a major outbreak in DRC and a small number of cases in Uganda itself.

This has supported the Government of Uganda's current capability in responding to the current outbreak. For example, ambulances previously purchased by the UK via the WFP, and subsequently donated to the Uganda Red Cross, are being used in the current outbreak.

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Refusal to extend the truce threatens to dismantle the foundation built for a negotiated peace settlement in Yemen

Thank you, Mr President. And let me thank Special Envoy Grundberg and ASG Msuya for their powerful briefings, and for the tireless work they and their teams are making on behalf of the Yemeni people.

After six months of relative peace, it is deeply disappointing that the truce in Yemen has not been extended.

The Houthi introduction of new maximalist demands in the final days of negotiations hindered the ability of the Special Envoy to broker agreement.

As we've heard today, this seriously jeopardises the tangible benefits that the truce has brought to the Yemeni people. In the past six months Yemenis have been able to live more safely and travel more freely than at any time since the war began, four times more oil has flowed into Hudaydah than the whole of last year, and tens of thousands of Yemenis have been able to fly out of Sana'a to visit loved ones and receive vital medical treatment. The protection of these measures must be a priority.

The United Kingdom calls on the parties to continue implementing these measures, and to return to the negotiating table to expand these benefits, as outlined in the UN's proposal. This includes the payment of nurses, teachers

and other civil servants their hard-earned salaries for the first time in years; the opening of roads around the country, including in Taiz; more commercial flights to more destinations; and further easing the flow of fuel into Hudaydah.

There is even more to lose. Refusal to extend the truce threatens to dismantle the foundation built for a negotiated peace settlement. A resolution to this terrible war depends on it.

But the door for an extended truce remains open. It is clear from Special Envoy Grundberg's briefing that the UN is dedicated to achieving this outcome. The UK reiterates its full support to these efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome ASG Msuya's trip to the region. It is imperative that the international community learns lessons from the recent inter-agency humanitarian evaluation not just in Yemen, but globally. We praise the continued work of humanitarians to deliver lifesaving support. But only an end to the conflict will deliver the lasting relief the Yemeni people need

At this fragile moment, it is encouraging that there has not yet been a return to war. We urge all parties to refrain from provocations. The costs of an end to the truce would be devastating.

Now is the time for the parties to show leadership, to act on behalf of the Yemeni people, and to continue on this path towards lasting peace.

Thank you.