

# Ensuring that every dollar the UN spends has the greatest impact on the ground: UK Statement at UN Fifth Committee

Thank you Mr Chair, Secretary-General, all

Member States have a responsibility to the UN and the people it serves to ensure the Organisation has the correct level of resource to carry out its mandates, in particular in support of the 2030 Agenda.

We will evaluate the Secretary-General's budget proposals carefully. Programmes must use resources efficiently and effectively, to deliver results that make a real difference for those in greatest need. We will hold the Organisation to account for how it has used, and will use the resources we give it.

The United Kingdom welcomes the Secretary-General's reforms, in particular the move to an annual budget cycle, which have contributed to a UN that is more results-orientated and better able to respond to fast changing challenges. While we see positive progress on results and responsiveness, there is always scope to go further.

We look to all programmes to ensure effective coordination and to collaborate across the UN system; to focus activities where they have comparative advantage and avoiding duplication; and to use innovation, evaluation and continuous improvement to enhance performance and mandate delivery. It is crucial that every dollar the United Nations spends has the greatest impact on the ground.

The UK notes a number of proposals to move activities previously funded through extra-budgetary contributions onto the regular budget. We support predictable and sustainable funding for UN work. But shifting more activity onto the regular budget is not always the solution, especially at a time when national budgets are under pressure. Nevertheless, we will consider such proposals on their individual merits.

Mr Chair,

Like others, we have serious concerns about certain ACABQ recommendations on the 2023 budget. Member States expect the ACABQ to provide clear, technical and evidence-based advice to inform our decision-making. But we have seen recommendations that seek to expand the ACABQ's remit to extra-budgetary funded activities, to reopen long-standing GA resolutions. Most concerning, are recommendations that, if endorsed, could result in defunding human rights council mandates. We welcome the opportunity to engage with the ACABQ on these issues.

Finally Mr Chair, I would like to assure you and the Secretary-General of my delegation's commitment to work constructively with all delegations to reach a good and timely outcome on the 2023 budget.

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## Trade wins unlock markets worth over £100 million for UK alcohol companies – with more to come

- Removal of barriers secured that previously discouraged UK companies selling alcohol abroad in several countries
- Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch visits Scotch Whisky distillery to hail major win for UK industry which can now sell more products to countries including Angola and Argentina
- Visit will demonstrate how UK government's trade agenda is delivering for the Union

British drinks companies can raise a glass to news the UK has unlocked export markets worth over £100 million after smashing trade barriers that deterred alcohol sales to multiple countries across South America and Africa.

Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch will toast the news on a visit today (13 October) to Glenkinchie Distillery to meet the whisky-makers set to benefit. Located near Edinburgh, the Victorian distillery has recently been transformed as part of a £185 million investment in Scotch Whisky tourism by leading British distiller Diageo. Glenkinchie is the Lowland Home of Johnnie Walker – the biggest selling Scotch Whisky in the world.

The changes in Argentina, Angola, Morocco and Tunisia will help the UK's world-leading products to reach millions of new potential customers and boost alcohol exports, which reached £6.5 billion last year.

The newly resolved barriers add to an ever-growing list of obstacles to trade removed in the last two years – now totaling more than 400 barriers across 70 countries.

### **Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch said:**

Every week we remove a trade barrier somewhere around the world. From whisky in Argentina to gin in Angola, we're slashing red tape and opening access to new markets and new customers.

With these trade obstacles gone and more to follow, my message to UK businesses is clear – make the most of the huge global appetite for your fantastic products and sell to the world.

As we line up deals with huge markets around the globe, including India and CPTPP, I can't wait to celebrate the even greater wins which lie ahead.

Following the Government's intervention:

- The Argentinean government reduced whisky tariffs from 35% to 20%.
- Morocco removed 49% tariffs that were mistakenly imposed on a range of UK spirits.
- Planned taxes on alcohol imports in Angola were cancelled.
- Alcoholic goods stuck at Tunisian customs were freed, allowing UK companies to benefit from lower tariffs under the UK-Tunisia association agreement.

They follow an announcement in June of an ambition to unlock export opportunities worth more than £20 billion by resolving a 'hit list' of around 100 priority trade barriers around the world.

Negotiators are also currently working on a free trade agreement that could lower tariffs and simplify other issues like customs to help distilleries sell to India.

The UK exported £146 million worth of whisky to India last year from distilleries such as Glenkinchie but faced steep tariffs of up to 150%.

With India forecast to become the world's third-largest economy with a middle class of a quarter of a billion by 2050, any greater access to the market could be hugely significant for UK businesses.

### **Mark Kent, CEO of Scotch Whisky Association said:**

Securing a deal with India to reduce the 150% tariff on Scotch Whisky is the industry's top international trade priority.

We want to see a deal agreed, but not any deal. To deliver for the industry, any agreement must open up the market to more Scotch Whisky producers, which will in turn generate hundreds of new jobs across the UK, hundreds of millions of pounds of additional exports, and boost investment and revenue in India.

The ongoing negotiations are a once in a generation chance to give more Scottish distillers the opportunity to do business in India. That is the scale of the prize on offer.

We look forward to working with the Trade Secretary to deliver continued growth for the Scotch Whisky industry in India, and other key global markets.

**Ewan Andrew, President of Global Supply Chain and Procurement at Diageo, said:**

It was a pleasure to welcome the Secretary of State to Glenkinchie to see how we are investing in the future growth of Scotch whisky, with all the powerful economic benefits that brings to Scotland and the United Kingdom.

The UK-India Free Trade Agreement is a truly once in a generation, transformational opportunity for Scotch Whisky and we hope today's visit will have given the Secretary of State a real understanding of our industry and the positive impact the India FTA could have on the sector.

A trade deal with India would be the latest in a long line of wins for the UK drinks industry, including:

- Suspending harmful retaliatory tariffs linked to the Airbus-Boeing disputes – these had targeted around £340m of single malt Irish and Scotch whisky exports to the US
- Removal of tariffs on all UK exports to Australia and New Zealand under these trade deals, making it cheaper to sell products such as gin and Scotch whisky down under.

The UK also continues to work towards accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership. Joining the £9 trillion GDP bloc could reap benefits for alcohol producers in the UK by securing lower tariffs for exports, including whisky.

Pernod Ricard, who own iconic British brands including The Glenlivet, Beefeater Gin, and Chivas Scotch, are also strong supporters of the UK's trade agenda. They see big benefits both from Free Trade Agreements, and DIT's work breaking down market access barriers, including helping to resolve recent issues exporting their Scotch whiskies to Morocco.

**Anishka Jelicich, UK Director of Public Affairs for Pernod Ricard, said**

UK spirits are winning markets and securing jobs thanks to the UK's global trade policy. We strongly support the free trade agreements now under negotiation with India and CPTPP.

We also value DIT's often unsung work breaking down market access barriers every day across the globe. For example, thanks to DIT's intervention last year, we were able to resolve Customs paperwork issues which meant we would have had to pay a 49% tariff to Morocco, Africa's fourth largest market for Scotch whisky.

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# 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."

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## **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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