

UN High-Level Round Table on the Horn of Africa drought – Minister for Africa speech

Thank you, Chairs. We are very grateful to you for leading this Round Table, and to UN OCHA for convening it.

Honourable Prime Minister Roble, ministers for Ethiopia and Kenya, colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen,

The Horn of Africa is in the grip of a worsening drought. Tens of millions of people are in jeopardy, facing an uncertain future. Lives and livelihoods across Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia have been disrupted – and many will not recover.

To save lives, to stop communities from collapsing, we must act is now.

Today I want to focus on Somalia, given the particular urgency of the situation there.

When famine last occurred, in 2011, over a quarter of a million people needlessly lost their lives. I remember so clearly that the world pledged ‘never again’, and we stood behind that commitment in 2016 / 17. Then, we acted quickly. We scaled up our resources and headed off the large scale loss of life.

But today, famine is stalking Somalia once again: without immediate help, 81,000 people are at risk of dying [clarification: are already in its grip]; and, without immediate help, 350,000 children are at risk of dying.

The rest of the county is teetering on the edge. Nearly half the population needs humanitarian assistance. Water is scarce, cattle are dying, prices are skyrocketing, disease is spreading, and hundreds of thousands are on the move in search of food and water. Villages and schools, as we’ve heard, already stand empty.

Yesterday I took a virtual tour of Baidoa, to see things for myself. I wanted to talk to people about what’s happening and to see some of the brilliant work being done by our partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council.

What I learned was deeply harrowing. I heard the voices of the mothers who can do nothing more to save their children. Without more of our help, their future is truly bleak.

So can I applaud the leadership of the UN and EU for convening this meeting; and the UN for taking the bold and correct decision to move from drought response to famine prevention in Somalia.

Today there must also be leadership from the international community. Even as

we grapple with the tragic events in Ukraine, and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, we need to dig deeper, in response to the crisis unfolding across the Horn of Africa.

If the current rainy season is poor – it'll be the fourth in a row – what is already happening in Somalia could be multiplied many times and repeated elsewhere. A regional crisis of this magnitude needs a coordinated and ambitious regional response. We are already seeing cross-border movements as communities search for pasture, search for water, and search for humanitarian services.

The UK will continue to play its part.

I visited to East Africa in January, and the trajectory of the crisis and the severity of suffering was already clear to me then. That's why we responded swiftly, providing £24m in emergency assistance for early actions across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya (as well as funds for South Sudan for flooding).

With Somalia again gripped by famine, I am announcing today that we will provide a further £25m for life-saving food, water, and emergency health support to those most in need. I am also very pleased to announce a new partnership with Qatar, which will see them invest \$1.5m with us towards resilience and the emergency response.

I know that, in this room today, we have the knowledge, and the tools, to stop widespread famine in Somalia, and to tackle drought in the Horn, and to help communities build their resilience for the future.

We did it before when early action and our collective generosity averted famine in 2016 / 17. We can do it again.

By working together, our knowledge and tools can stem those tears in Baidoa, and make good on our promise to the region: never again.

[Foreign Secretary opens debate on the situation Ukraine](#)

Introduction: state of the war

I beg to move... that this House has considered the situation in Ukraine.

Putin's unprovoked, illegal war has now entered its third month.

Russian forces failed in their initial war aims.

They failed to take Kyiv and they have suffered heavy losses.

But Ukraine now faces a renewed offensive in the East and the South. And we are seeing atrocities in Mariupol, Odesa, and beyond.

We must double down in our response.

So far Putin's planning has been riddled with misconceptions and miscalculations.

He was wrong about Ukraine's strength and determination.

We must prove him wrong again in his expectations of our stamina and our commitment.

Our aim remains clear: Putin must lose in Ukraine. And we will do everything we can to ensure that.

We know his ambitions don't stop at Ukraine.

I am in constant contact with Allies and partners, urging more action.

That was the case I made to NATO and G7 Foreign Ministers earlier this month.. and in every exchange I have with my counterparts around the world.

Since those meetings we've seen action in 3 areas..

Lethal aid

First of all, we are stepping up lethal aid.

The UK has always led this effort.

We have already supplied 6,000 anti-tank weapons and 120 armoured fighting vehicles, as well as ammunition, and other weapons.

We are helping other countries deliver equipment by providing logistics support.

We are also backfilling third countries' stocks, for example offering to deploy British Challenger 2 tanks to Poland.

And we are training Ukrainian troops to use the new equipment.

Our allies are stepping up too.

For too long there was a false distinction between defensive and offensive weapons.

It became an excuse for some to drag their feet.

That time has now passed.

NATO allies are clear that we are delivering heavy weapons.

That is what Ukraine needs to halt the latest Russian initiative and to

regain control over their territory.

Sanctions

Second, we are also relentlessly ramping up our economic action to choke off the funding for Putin's war effort.

Again the UK is leading the way.

We have sanctioned more individuals and more organisations than any other nation.

So far we have designated over 1,500 individuals and entities.

Including over 100 oligarchs with assets worth over £198 billion.

We have put asset freezes on 18 major Russian banks – and like to see other countries follow – and barred over 3 million Russian companies from raising money on our capital markets.

These actions have been closely coordinated with the G7 and others.

We have also taken decisive action on trade – cutting Russia off from WTO terms and banning high tech exports to halt their technological development.

We have announced a ban on all new outward investment into Russia.

We cannot stop here.

We will keep increasing the pressure.

We need a new wave of sanctions.

Diplomatic action

Third, we are resolute in our diplomatic response.

We are reopening our Embassy in Kyiv.

I want to thank Ambassador Melinda Simmons and her team for their courage and action.

We are further isolating Putin on the world stage.

The United Kingdom led the diplomatic push to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.

We are using our Presidency of the UN Security Council to expose Russia's war crimes, appalling rape and sexual violence seen systematically used in Ukraine.

We gave President Zelenskyy a platform to detail the abhorrent crimes that have been committed by Putin's forces.

And we have launched the Murad code to set the global standard for evidence gathering from sexual violence.

We're also working with the 141 countries that voted to condemn Russia in the UN General Assembly to toughen our stance.

Russia is not serious about negotiations.

Any eventual settlement would need to secure both Ukrainian and European security.

Must be backed up by international enforcement – both economic and security.

The fact is that Russia simply can't be trusted to follow through on what it signs up to.

There has to be full enforcement of any settlement that is eventually reached.

Keeping Ukraine afloat

While the war continues we also need to support the Ukrainian people.

We're helping refugees, delivering food, medicine and other essentials, and helping to keep their economy afloat.

Our overall package of humanitarian, economic and military support is worth \$2 billion.

I can confirm today that two convoys of more than 40 fire engines have now arrived in Ukraine, packed with rescue equipment.

And we are supplying 22 more ambulances to Ukraine – equipped with paramedic kits and medical grab bags.

We secured the World Bank's largest ever financial commitment to low income countries to help them deal with rising food security and energy prices.

Throughout this crisis the generosity of the British people has been incredible.

They donated over £300 million to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, including the UK's largest ever government aid-match of £25 million.

I have seen Ukrainian flags flying all over the country.

The British people are standing with Ukraine.

Looking to the future

When the war is finally over, we will continue to support a strong, sovereign Ukraine.

We will help to bolster their security against future threats.

To that end, we are working on a joint commission with Poland to ensure Ukraine has the means to defend itself in the longer term, including with NATO-standard weapons.

And we will all help Ukraine to rebuild.

I am determined to work with the US, EU and other partners on a new Marshall Plan for the country.

We need to see a landmark international effort to rebuild Ukraine's towns and cities, regenerate their industries and secure their freedom.

We will also ensure that Putin and his regime are held to account for their crimes in Ukraine.

We led calls at the OSCE for an independent investigation.

It has reported "credible evidence" of torture, rape, the killing of civilians and the forced deportation of over half a million people.

We have referred Russia to the ICC. It is now backed by over 40 states.

We are providing additional funding to the Court, as well as UK personnel to provide technical assistance.

And we have appointed Sir Howard Morrison to support the Ukrainian Prosecutor General in her investigations.

This House can be assured that whatever it takes to bring the perpetrators to justice will be done.

Conclusion

The repulsive behaviour of Putin and his forces only strengthens our resolve to stand with Ukraine.

This is a battle for Ukraine's freedom and sovereignty – and for the very principles of self-determination and the rule of law.

Ukraine must triumph.

We will not relent in our efforts until they do.

[Joint statement on UK-U.S. dialogue on future of Atlantic trade in Aberdeen](#)

On April 25 and 26 United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Trade

Anne-Marie Trevelyan and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai hosted the second UK-U.S. Dialogue on the Future of Atlantic Trade in Aberdeen, Scotland. The Dialogue follows Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Biden's announcement last year of a new 'Atlantic Charter' and builds on the successful inaugural Trade Dialogue in Baltimore earlier in March.

Secretary of State Trevelyan and Ambassador Tai agreed to collaborate further on: delivering practical support for SMEs, digitising UK-U.S. trade in the modern economy, building resilience in critical supply chains, addressing the global trade impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, promoting environmental protection and the transition to net zero, supporting high labour and environmental standards, and promoting innovation and inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses on both sides of the Atlantic.

Over the two days, Secretary of State Anne-Marie Trevelyan and Ambassador Katherine Tai hosted a series of roundtable discussions with a diverse group of stakeholders from the UK and U.S. business community, trade unions and civil society, in addition to bilateral discussions between UK and U.S. officials.

Drawing on the stakeholder discussions and bilateral talks in Aberdeen and Baltimore, Secretary of State Anne-Marie Trevelyan and Ambassador Katherine Tai directed their teams to work at pace over the next several weeks to develop an ambitious roadmap with economically meaningful outcomes, including in the areas of:

Supporting SMEs to trade – Support and enhance UK-U.S. SME trade, by collaborating to identify and overcome barriers to trade, focusing on trade facilitation for SMEs, sharing and promoting best practice, and working together on activities to promote and support SMEs, including those owned by under-represented groups and women entrepreneurs, and those in disadvantaged communities. We intend to harness the June UK-U.S. SME Dialogue in Boston to help achieve these objectives.

Harnessing the benefits of digital trade – Advance outcomes in digital trade that benefit businesses, including SMEs, workers and consumers by supporting the digitalisation of trading systems and transactions. The UK and U.S. will also seek to build on the G7 Digital Trade Principles.

Levelling up and worker-centric trade – Work to develop more durable and inclusive trade policies that demonstrate that trade can be a force for good and create more opportunities for people and gender equity across the UK and U.S. Support the protection of labour rights and tackle forced labour globally.

Supporting resilient supply chains – Collaborate on promoting critical supply chain resilience to help ensure strong and robust supply chains, bringing together expertise from both our nations.

Food security – Support open, predictable, rules-based agricultural trade to mitigate supply chain disruptions and restore global food security imperilled

by Russian aggression in Ukraine. Continue to cooperate closely through the current crisis and other issues impacting agricultural supply chains, to help ensure more resilient, efficient and sustainable food systems against future shocks, and to promote the availability of safe, affordable foods for consumers worldwide.

Supporting the environment and climate action – Deepen cooperation on trade and the environment, with work to promote decarbonising our economies consistent with COP26 outcomes, exchanging information, and developing joint approaches to environment and trade, supporting businesses, green jobs and the growth of low-carbon economies.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The UK and the U.S. stand with Ukraine and its people in the face of the Russian President Putin's unprovoked, premeditated attack against the sovereign nation of Ukraine. In coordination with their allies and partners, the UK and the U.S. have already adopted unprecedented economic and financial sanctions against Russia, and they stand ready to increase the economic pressure to help bring this war to an end. Ministers agreed that their officials would remain closely coordinated, and they will encourage other international partners, including the G7 and other WTO Members, to take action in support of Ukraine's economic recovery.

Organisations attending Aberdeen dialogue:

- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- Beam Suntory
- British Chambers of Commerce
- BritishAmerican Business
- Brown-Forman
- City of London Corporation
- Coalition for a Digital Economy
- Confederation of British Industry
- Fearless Tech
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Food and Drink Federation
- Google
- GMB
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- IBM
- Liebrich Associates
- MakeUK
- Morgan Stanley
- National Association of Manufacturers
- National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)
- Net Zero Technology Centre
- Pensana
- Prospect
- Scottish Government
- Scottish North American Business Council

- TechUK
 - TheCityUK
 - Trades Union Congress
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - UK Chamber of Shipping
 - UK Fashion and Textile Association
 - United Parcel Service
-

Ensuring the full human rights of all women and girls are respected: UK Statement at the UN General Assembly

Thank you Chair, Excellencies.

At the 55th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, I am pleased that we have come together to discuss the critical theme of 'Population and Sustainable Development, in particular, Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth'.

On behalf of the United Kingdom, I wish to start by thanking you, Mr Chair, and the other members of the Bureau for your leadership. I particularly want to thank El Salvador and the Netherlands for their co-facilitation of this year's text. The UK has every faith that we will achieve a consensus outcome under their able leadership.

We all know that sustained and inclusive economic growth can only be realised when all women, adolescents and girls have their full human rights respected, protected and fulfilled, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive rights. The human rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity include the right to have control over and to decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

We must do more to ensure that these rights are protected, particularly in humanitarian contexts and for those who are most marginalised and face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

There is still such a long way to go to achieve this. There are 121 million pregnancies annually that are unintended according to UNFPAs most recent report. Most of these unintended pregnancies end in abortion, and 45% of all these abortions are unsafe – many tragically leading to death.

And we are going in the wrong direction. The situation is compounded by the rise of anti-gender movements, the devastating impact of the pandemic and other legal, economic, and social barriers that women, adolescents, and girls

are facing, including global conflict, which further limit access to contraception, safe abortion and health services.

Member States must act now to ensure women, adolescents and girls around the world can access quality and comprehensive sexual and reproductive services, including safe abortion, key to unlocking their agency and potential and contributing to sustainable economic growth. Member States should also prioritise strengthening health systems, committing to Universal Health coverage and exploring the use of innovative delivery models like telemedicine to improve access to and to achieve the full realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The right to inclusive, equitable and quality education is equally central to achieving more sustainable development.

We cannot say often enough that education improves women and girl's lifetime earnings, helps with poverty alleviation, and brings economic benefits to households.

Now too many girls are not returning to school after the Covid-lockdowns, which have led to increasing rates of teenage pregnancy. But we want to stress that education must include evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education so that adolescents and youth are empowered to make their own informed decisions about their health, well-being and lives.

As we look to ICPD 30 in 2024, the UK is committed to using our position to listen to and amplify the voices of women, adolescents, and girls and those most marginalised, empowering them as decision-makers, advocates, and leaders, which is especially pertinent to next year's important theme of education at the Commission on Population and Development. Thank you Chair, Excellencies for your time.

[Licensing hours extended to mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee](#)

News story

The extension will provide the opportunity for people to continue their celebrations of this historic milestone over the bank holiday.



On Monday 25 April, Parliament passed an order to extend licensing hours in pubs, clubs and bars across England and Wales from 11pm to 1am to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The extension will cover Thursday 2 June to Saturday 4 June, providing the opportunity for people to continue their celebrations of this historic milestone over the bank holiday,

The Home Secretary, under Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003, can make an order relaxing licensing hours to mark occasions of "exceptional national significance". The Platinum Jubilee is an historic national occasion, and the licensing hours extension will coincide with the extended bank holiday.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

For 70 years Her Majesty The Queen has served the UK and the Commonwealth with the utmost dignity, steadfastness and resolve.

The Platinum Jubilee is a truly historic national occasion, which will see families, friends and communities across the country come together to celebrate this unprecedented landmark in a remarkable reign.

Over the extended bank holiday weekend, we will be able to raise a glass to toast Her Majesty's incredible service to our country, while also providing a boost to the hospitality industry after a challenging couple of years.

Following a public consultation, the government agreed with the majority of respondents that the order should not extend to premises which sell alcohol for consumption off the premises, such as off-licences and supermarkets.

The consultation also received support from the National Police Chiefs' Council and National Association of Licensing and Enforcement Officers.

Published 26 April 2022