

UN Human Rights Council 49: UK closing statement

The UN Human Rights Council concluded its 49th session on Friday 1 April, adopting important resolutions on South Sudan, Syria, Iran, Belarus, Myanmar, and Human Rights Defenders, among many other pressing issues.

At the start of the session, the Foreign Secretary delivered the UK national statement, in which she condemned Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. I welcome the Council's establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate Russia's actions in Ukraine, which will play an essential role in documenting and drawing international attention to the most grievous human rights violations and abuses, and in ensuring accountability. I also welcome the decision of the UN General Assembly to suspend Russia's membership of the Human Rights Council – it is unconscionable that Russia should remain a member as evidence continues to emerge of egregious acts by Russia's invading forces in towns such as Irpin and Bucha. The UK stands with the people of Ukraine, and calls on Russia once again to end its war and withdraw its troops.

I welcome the Council's adoption of the resolution on South Sudan. The renewal of the mandate for the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan is a strong signal of the international community's support to help South Sudan and address serious human rights concerns. Comprehensive monitoring and reporting is an important part of the country's path to reconciliation, particularly with a view to potential elections. I urge South Sudan to continue its cooperation with the Commission and work with the international community to help end the suffering of the South Sudanese people.

This month marks the 11th anniversary of the Syrian conflict. It is deplorable that the Asad regime continues this brutal assault against its own people. I am pleased that the Council has once again adopted the resolution on Syria. The resolution highlights the Commission of Inquiry's latest findings, confirming over a decade of appalling atrocities including enforced disappearances, torture and sexual violence. It is right that the resolution mandates the Commission to continue assessing the human rights concerns. We must not forget the plight of the Syrian people.

The human rights situation in Iran continues to be of concern. The UK remains deeply concerned about increases in executions, high rates of child forced marriages and excessive use of violence against peaceful protestors. We are working closely with the United States to secure Morad Tahbaz's permanent release and departure from Iran. It remains in Iran's gift to release any unfairly detained British nationals. I welcome the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran, which signals the international community's continued commitment to ensuring inalienable human rights are respected. Iran should now permit an in-country mission by the Special Rapporteur to enable him to fulfil his mandate.

I am pleased that the Council has once again adopted a resolution on Myanmar. The resolution rightly condemns last February's coup in the strongest terms. It highlights the severe deterioration in the human rights environment, including human rights violations against the Rohingya and other minorities. We continue to stand with the people of Myanmar and call for an end to violations and abuses.

I welcome the adoption of the resolution on the Human Rights situation in Belarus. While he has rightly faced widespread condemnation for his support for Russia's unprovoked and premeditated invasion of Ukraine, it is important that the international community also continues to hold Lukashenka and his regime to account for the human rights violations perpetrated daily against the Belarusian people

Human Rights Defenders play a crucial role in society, often at great risk to themselves. The UK welcomes the resolution on Human Rights Defenders and its reinforcement that they should be treated as civilians and protected in conflict scenarios. Sadly, this role is not universally respected and the treatment of women human rights defenders working in peace and security is of particular concern.

I also welcome the renewal of the mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the DPRK and the adoption of the resolution on the promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and the technical co-operation with Georgia.

The Human Rights Council continues to play an essential role in promoting human rights. The UK remains strongly committed to supporting the Council and the wider international community in championing human rights and holding to account those who violate or abuse them.

Kenya: call for bids for provision of ground maintenance services

World news story

The British High Commission Nairobi is inviting bids for the provision of ground maintenance services for its offices.



UK Government

On behalf of the Secretary of State for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, The British High Commission in Nairobi is seeking the provision of ground maintenance services to be delivered at the High Commission's premises. We are therefore looking for a supplier that has the relevant professional skills, experience, technical resources and financial capability to provide comprehensive ground maintenance services in our premises.

Competent and financially stable suppliers are invited to access the invitation to tender documents by following these steps:

1. Open the [Bravo solutions website](#) and sign in
2. Navigate to Provision of Cleaning Services CPG/3947/2022

[Tender: Ground maintenance services](#) (PDF, 741 KB, 5 pages)

All prospective bidders are invited for a compulsory site visit on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 08.30am.

Kindly contact Nairobi Procurement at Nairobiprocurement@fcdo.gov.uk for details on the site visit.

Deadlines

The Tender documents should be completed and uploaded on the Bravo System by 18th May 2022 at 15.00hrs (Kenyan Time).

Contact the Regional Procurement Lead, Mr. Wilhelm Holtmann at Wilhelm.Holtmann@fco.gov.uk for any queries.

Kindly note that the responses will be required to be in English.

The BHC reserves the right not to select any service provider and will only reply to the best-suited organisation.

The BHC will not meet any expenses incurred in preparing your Invitation to tender documents.

Published 21 April 2022

[An opportunity to adapt UNMIK to serve current conditions in Kosovo: UK at the UN Security Council](#)

Let me begin by congratulating Special Representative Ziadeh on her appointment, and thank her for her briefing. We welcome the opportunity new leadership provides for an improved relationship with the Kosovo government, and a fresh look at how UNMIK can adapt to serve the current conditions in Kosovo.

We encourage continued constructive engagement between the new SRSG, UNMIK and the Kosovo government. UNMIK has played a vital role in the incredible progress Kosovo has made since resolution 1244 was adopted in 1999. But conditions on the ground are unrecognisable from 1999, and a review of UNMIK's role and responsibilities is needed.

Kosovo's democracy and institutions continue to show their maturity. In this context, we must condemn last weekend's violent attacks against the Kosovo Police, who represent and protect all of Kosovo's citizens.

We congratulate the current government of Kosovo on its first year in office. In particular, we welcome:

the renewed commitment to prioritising the rule of law and fighting corruption, including through legal reforms and anti-corruption initiatives;

the government's continuing commitment to addressing the legacies of the 1998/99 conflict, including through commissions for missing persons and victims of sexual violence; and

Kosovo's ongoing international contribution, through its support to the

evacuation from Kabul, and the humanitarian response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

We note, however, perceptions in some quarters that the Kosovo Serb community's concerns and views sometimes go unheard. The recent decision on voting in Kosovo, in Serbia's elections, is an example. We encourage the government to refocus its efforts to meet its Constitutional duty to integrate minority communities and address their concerns.

We are concerned by the increase of dangerous rhetoric in Kosovo and the region leading to security incidents. The deployment of fighter jets to the Kosovan border in September is an example of this.

Reports of the United Kingdom supplying anti-tank missiles, referred to by the Russian Federation, are baseless. But to be clear, the UK supports Kosovo's right to develop its own armed forces.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the UK's renewed commitment to peace and security in the region, including through our Prime Minister's appointment of a Special Envoy to the Western Balkans, Sir Stuart Peach.

We fully support the EU-facilitated Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo under EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajcak. Now is the moment for both parties to engage in the Dialogue in good faith, honour their Dialogue commitments, be open to compromise and creativity, and avoid actions or rhetoric that could reduce prospects for a comprehensive and sustainable normalisation agreement that benefits the people of both countries.

UK calls for full implementation of UN mandate to improve the lives of citizens in Abyei: UK Statement at the UN Security Council

Let me begin by thanking our briefers, Mr Lacroix and Ms Tetteh, and in particular, wishing Ms Tetteh all the best in her new role. I also welcome the presence of Representatives of Sudan and South Sudan, and I commend the two countries for their improved bilateral engagement, including the mutual support for their respective peace processes.

The United Kingdom is encouraged by the latest joint session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Joint Border Commission, held in October.

But it is regrettable that such positive developments have not led to

tangible progress for ordinary people in Abyei, or on agreeing a political solution for the region.

We therefore urge both countries to organise a further meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and echo the Secretary-General's encouragement for the African Union to intensify its mediation efforts to help facilitate such efforts.

Turning to UNISFA, we are glad to see that the rotation of troops has almost concluded. We commend the dedication of Ethiopian peacekeepers in their work to support peace and security in Abyei over the last decade.

It is our hope that attention can now return to the full implementation of UNISFA's mandated tasks and improving the lives of citizens in Abyei, who continue to suffer.

To this end, we repeat our call on the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to remove the operational obstacles that limit UNISFA's ability to implement its mandate in full.

We also remain concerned at the continued restriction of UNISFA's freedom of movement, including on vital border monitoring activities.

We call on both countries to remove restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNISFA, and urge the Government of South Sudan to allow the re-operationalisation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism Headquarters in Gok Machar.

We also join our fellow Council Members in expressing concern over the two armed attacks on UNISFA forces during the reporting period.

The safety and security of UN peacekeepers is vital and we echo the Secretary-General's call for the relevant authorities to investigate and hold those responsible to account.

Lastly, we would like to express deep concern at the outbreak of violence in Agok, during which two humanitarian workers were killed and activities suspended.

The United Kingdom urges all parties to fully respect International Humanitarian Law and allow humanitarian actors to deliver aid to those in need in all parts of Abyei, without hindrance.

[Chancellor rallies further economic](#)

support for Ukraine during IMF Meetings

- Chancellor reiterates UK's unwavering support for Ukraine during discussions with global counterparts at International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings in Washington D.C.
- Rishi Sunak also held talks with Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko and called on partners to "go further and faster" in their support for the war-torn country.
- In response to global inflation and supply chain issues Chancellor also urged counterparts to continue their co-ordinated action to support shared cost of living challenges.

Rishi Sunak held a series of meetings with partners from the G7 and G20 during the trip – where he discussed the ongoing response to the war along with the resulting inflationary and supply chain challenges faced by economies across the globe.

He also held talks with Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko and reiterated the UK's unwavering support for the war-torn-country's people and economy – committing to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their hour of need.

It came after representatives from the UK left the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting alongside US and Canadian allies in protest against the war as the Russian delegates spoke.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

The UK is unwavering in our support to the people of Ukraine and has committed to make over \$2bn of financial, humanitarian and military assistance available to Ukraine.

I urge all likeminded international colleagues to step up, deliver and go further and faster in their economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

As finance Ministers we face common challenges – a global supply squeeze, rising prices, and the cost of Putin's aggression.

It's more important than ever that we coordinate our efforts to minimise the impacts on ordinary people at home.

Speaking during the IMF Committee meeting on Thursday morning, Rishi Sunak announced his aim to channel \$2.5 billion worth of Special Drawing Rights, an international reserve asset (equivalent to £2.6 billion) to the IMF's newly established Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), and urged others to also step up in providing resources to ensure the RST is up and running by the IMF Annual Meetings later this year.

The RST fills a crucial gap in the IMF's toolkit, providing affordable long-term financing to low income countries and vulnerable middle income countries to address challenges such as climate change, energy security and pandemic preparedness. It will play a vital role in providing financing to combat climate change and bolster energy security, including for Ukraine and other countries worst affected by the war.

The Chancellor also announced the UK will impose further bans and tariffs on Russian imports. Over the coming weeks, the UK will ban additional Russian goods from reaching UK shores, including wood and glass, and will also be imposing tariffs on additional products, such as diamonds and rubber. With these new measures, the UK will be imposing import restrictions on Russian goods worth over £1 billion.

During the two-day series of meetings, G7 Finance Ministers also acknowledged the war against Ukraine is causing severe disruption to the global economy – impacting inflation and the cost of living at home. Mr Sunak called on his international partners to work together to monitor these global pressures and pushed his partners to take co-ordinated global action where possible to support the resilience of our economies.

Further information

- Whilst in Washington DC, the Chancellor on Wednesday 20 April:
 - o Had a bilateral with Serhiy Marchenko, Minister of Finance of Ukraine
 - o Attended the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
 - o Attended a G7 Finance Ministers Dinner, hosted by Janet Yellen as the US Treasury
- And on Thursday 21 April:
 - o Spoke in the IMF Committee Plenary
 - o Met with a series of International counterparts including, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, Chrystia Freeland, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Lawrence Wong, Minister of Finance, Singapore, Paulo Guedes, Minister of Finance, Brazil, Sri Mulyani, Minister of Finance, Indonesia and Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, Gita Gopinath
- The UK's total over \$2 billion support package for Ukraine is broken into
 - o Around \$500 million in economic and humanitarian grant support for Ukraine.

This comprises: a £220 million (c.\$290m) package of humanitarian aid, making the UK a leading bilateral humanitarian donor; a c.£75m (\$100m) fiscal support grant, channelled through the World Bank Trust Fund; a £100 million (c.\$130m) grant to support Ukraine's energy security and reforms,

o Almost \$1 billion in guarantees on World Bank lending to Ukraine, unlocking additional WB financing on a 1:1 basis over the coming months. These financial guarantees are subject to parliamentary approval.

o Over £450 million (c.\$590m) in lethal and non-lethal military aid, including thousands of anti-tank weapons

- The Special Drawing Right (SDR) is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement other reserve assets of member countries.
- A flagship UK policy priority during the UK G7 presidency, the Resilience and Sustainability Trust is an IMF mechanism to provide finance to low income and vulnerable middle-income countries to build economic resilience and ensure a sustainable economic recovery. It was established last week to aid vulnerable countries with long term structural challenges, and will become operational by Autumn this year, and the UK will look to agree with the IMF the delivery details of the Chancellor's aim to channel over £2.5bn in the coming months.
- Please see more details on the latest import sanctions announcement [here](#).