

# Speech: “Libya needs urgent progress towards full political reconciliation now more than ever.”

Thank you Madam President, thank you Martin, thank you Olof for your briefings.

And at the outset, let me express to you Martin the UK’s complete support for your work and reiterate our commitment to the Libyan Political Agreement. It’s the sole framework for a political solution to the situation in Libya, but sadly, as you have made clear, its implementation remains mixed at best. I very much agree with all seven points of your seven point agenda.

As the penholder for Libya, we see three interlinked areas of concern; security, the economy, and the political process.

On the first, 2017 has seen a significant deterioration, including in particular, right now in the South, where there is renewed, escalating clashes which are edging the country towards civil war. The United Kingdom condemns all such violence as well as threats of military action and reports of gross human rights abuses by armed groups. Such acts have no place in the Libya of today. And we are clear that the military and other security structures need to be under civilian and political oversight.

As the Ambassadors to Libya from China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States said last week, there is a difference between acts against the terrorist threat and acts that can lead to further deterioration in Libya. On tackling terrorism, it’s important to recognise the defeat of Daesh in Sirte and I pay tribute to all involved and acknowledge the many lives lost in that effort.

But in spite of that success, we are now faced with a threat that has dispersed across Libya. Those who continue to undermine effective government in Libya are feeding the terrorist threat by creating ungoverned spaces. It’s a threat that extends not only across Libya but to the region as a whole.

Such ungoverned spaces create conditions for human trafficking and criminal networks to profit from the political and security vacuum in parts of Libya. Irregular migration can only be tackled properly by a strong and stable government.

Turning to my second point, the economy also remains vulnerable to the volatile political and security situation. So we need to see real improvements: the Presidency Council and the Central Bank must work co-operatively to address the liquidity crisis, and ensure that public services like water and electricity are sustained throughout Ramadan. And we need to see an end to parallel institutions undermining the Presidency Council.

There has been some progress; including the dispersal of the budget in the early months of 2017, and the economic dialogue on the detail of fiscal and monetary policy now taking place in Tripoli.

But it's clear that more steps are needed. Throughout, it is crucial that Libya's oil resources remain neutral and are used to benefit the whole country. The continued unity of the National Oil Corporation is essential to ensuring that revenues are used for the national good, and we call for much-needed investment in maintenance of oil infrastructure to help increase national exports and reduce the drain on the economy.

Turning to my final point, Madam President, the common thread in both the security and the economic situations is of course the political process. I'm pleased to reiterate here in this Chamber the UK's continued support for the Presidency Council and the Government of National Accord, headed by Prime Minister Al Sarraj, as the legitimate executive authorities under the Libyan Political Agreement, in line with our Resolution 2259.

But as the security and economic instability illustrate, Libya needs urgent progress towards full political reconciliation now more than ever. We support early signs of progress to bridge political differences, including regional efforts within the framework of the UN-led political process and re-engagement by Libya's legitimate institutions – the House of Representatives, the Higher State Council – with preparations for dialogue.

We have a difficult and long road ahead. So we urge all parties to commit to progress, we underline our firm opposition to any attempt to disrupt the political process. All those who have a role to play, including those still outside the Libyan Political Agreement, must engage constructively and in a spirit of compromise. The international community, as Martin reminded us, must continue to support them to do so.

So we welcome the Secretary-General's commitment to Libya as one of his personal priorities and we reiterate our full support for UNMSIL's central role in advancing the political process in Libya.

As the penholder on this issue in the Council, we will carry on playing our part. We will continue to monitor the situation in Libya closely, we will support all efforts to reach a more inclusive political settlement within the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement, and we will work with the Presidency Council and the Government of National Accord in their efforts to deliver for the people of Libya. Because continued support from this Council and the wider international community will remain vital if we are to secure a better future for all Libyans.

Thank you.

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# [Press release: PM meeting with Ukrainian President Poroshenko: 19 April 2017](#)

The Prime Minister hosted President Poroshenko of Ukraine at Downing Street this afternoon for their first bilateral meeting.

They began by welcoming the strength of bilateral relations as we mark 25 years of diplomatic ties, and committed to working together to deepen our relationship in the years ahead.

The Prime Minister was clear that the UK recognises the threat posed by Russia through the illegal annexation of Crimea and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine, and noted that the UK continues to offer support to counter this threat.

They agreed on the importance of maintaining sanctions until the Minsk agreement is fully implemented, and of looking at how we work together to enhance our bilateral security and defence co-operation.

They also discussed Ukraine's reform agenda, and the Prime Minister welcomed the progress that has been made so far. She confirmed that the UK government looks forward to holding a reform conference on 6 July, to maintain momentum and galvanise international support for Ukraine's efforts.

The President thanked the Prime Minister for the close co-operation between our 2 countries, and invited her to visit Ukraine at her earliest convenience.

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## [Detailed guide: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund: blue belt programme](#)

### **Project partners**

- [Fisheries and Aquaculture Science](#) (Cefas)
- [Marine Management Organisation](#) (MMO) with the UK Overseas Territories on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
- [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#)(Defra)

## Programme aims

This programme will help to provide long term protection of over four million square kilometres of marine environment across the UK Overseas Territories.

Funded through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) the programme will support the UK Overseas Territories develop, implement and enforce marine protection strategies.

## Overseas Territories

The programme is initially focused on Territories which have designated, or committed to designating, large scale areas (>50% of their maritime zone, or of recognised international importance) for marine protection and ensuring these areas are effectively managed and enforced. These OTs are:

- British Indian Ocean Territory
- South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands
- British Antarctic Territory
- Pitcairn
- St Helena
- Ascension Island
- Tristan da Cunha

The programme is currently working with the Overseas Territories to identify and develop a number of projects that will:

- improve scientific understanding of the marine environment
- develop and implement evidence based, tailored marine management strategies including surveillance and enforcement
- ensure management is sustainable and long term

It will also provide support for UK Overseas Territories which have not committed to large scale marine protected areas through the UKOT Darwin Plus funding scheme, which will provide additional resource for small scale bespoke marine projects.

## [Commonwealth Marine Economies Programmes](#)

For more information on the Blue Belt programme please contact Programme Directors, [Craig McGarvey](#) or [Steve Millward](#)

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## [News story: British Embassy Budapest](#)

## is moving to a new address

The Embassy is moving to 5-7 Füge utca.

On the 20th of April the British Embassy moves out of its building in Harmincad utca after 70 years. We move into an office building at 5-7 Füge utca in the second district of Budapest. This building, which used to be the Dutch Embassy, has been completely renovated to provide the British Embassy, its staff and visitors a modern and fit for purpose working environment.

The Embassy reopens on 25 April, our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

In case of consular emergency call the following number: 0036 1 266 2888 except for 20 April when you should call our temporary phone number: 0044 1908 51 6666

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## Press release: Change of British High Commissioner to Jamaica

2013 – Present Manila, Her Majesty's Ambassador 2010 – 2012 Bangkok, Her Majesty's Ambassador 2008 – 2010 FC0, Head, South East Asia and Pacific Group 2004 – 2008 UK Trade and Investment, Director Asia 2002 – 2004 FC0, Head of Department, Commonwealth Co-ordination Department (including a role as Head of the Communication and Information Centre in the Prime Minister's Office during 2003) 2000 – 2002 FC0, Deputy Head of Resource Budgeting Department 1999 – 2000 FC0, Desk Officer, Resource Planning Department 1999 Joined FC0 following 20 year career in banking