

Press release: PM call with Prime Minister Abadi of Iraq: 18 July 2017

The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Abadi of Iraq this afternoon.

She congratulated him on the recent liberation of Mosul, and commended the bravery and sacrifice of Iraqi forces.

Prime Minister Abadi thanked her and said victory would not have been achieved without the support of the UK and other members of the international coalition against Daesh.

Prime Minister May reiterated the UK's long-term commitment to a secure and unified Iraq, through our ongoing military, humanitarian and stabilisation support.

They agreed on the importance of continuing to work together to defeat terrorism, to ensure Iraq's stability and prosperity. This includes our continued efforts to bring Daesh to justice.

They also discussed the importance of political reform and reconciliation to unite Iraqis and prevent the reemergence of Daesh. Prime Minister May stressed the need to heal divisions, help citizens rebuild their lives and give all Iraqis a stake in a better future.

Speech: Africa's Young Commonwealth

Good evening everyone. I am delighted to be with you tonight.

I was appointed just last month as Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for the Commonwealth.

Ghana was an obvious choice for my first official visit to a Commonwealth country. Not only because your country was the first African member-state to join the Commonwealth family, 60 years ago this year; but also because of the close relationship our two countries have long shared.

It means that we see Ghana as one of our closest Commonwealth allies, one that will join us in building a Commonwealth that is truly fit for the 21st century. Crucially, from your point of view, we want it to be an organisation that truly represents its young people.

That's why I want to talk to you about the United Kingdom's plans for the Commonwealth Summit next year, and why they matter to you.

The Summit is a great family celebration that takes place every two years. Heads of the 52 Commonwealth governments get together and discuss the issues of the day.

Next year it is the UK's turn, so in April we will be hosting meetings at great historic venues, from Windsor Castle to Buckingham Palace.

But it's not all about pomp and ceremony. We want this Summit to have a real impact and to make a real difference to people's lives, right across the world.

The United Kingdom is a passionate supporter of the Commonwealth.

Why? First, because it is a unique institution, with vast global reach and influence. It has already achieved great things – just look at the impact it had on the Paris Climate Change agreement, when the Commonwealth heads of government came together in Malta in 2015 to push for a global agreement to tackle climate change. We strongly believe that the Commonwealth has huge further potential as a force for good.

But that's not the only reason. We also passionately support the Commonwealth because we believe that it quite literally represents the future. It is home to a third of the world's population and two thirds of them, like many of you, are lucky enough to be under the age of 30. You represent the future not just of your country and the Commonwealth, but of the entire planet.

That is why our bold ambition for the Commonwealth Summit is to re-invigorate and re-energise the Commonwealth. We want it to be an organisation that works for the benefit of all its citizens and the wider world: men and women, rich and poor, old and young.

And especially the young. Your voices and your opinions are as important to us as the views of the political leaders of the 52 member states. The organisation could – indeed we think it should – have a real impact on your futures. That is why we want you to play a part in re-shaping it.

You may ask why it needs re-shaping. To answer that question, let's step back in time for a moment.

60 years ago, and for the rest of the 20th century, the Commonwealth family offered support for newly independent countries – like Ghana.

Today the world has changed. Greater demands are being placed on governments – and on the planet. We face new challenges. Technology, globalisation, automation, conflict, terrorism, demographic change, climate change...

So the world is changing, and the Commonwealth must adapt and change too. Now is the time to realise its as yet untapped potential as a global force. For that to happen we, the member states, must agree to re-vitalise, re-energise and re-new the organisation. We must build an institution capable of meeting the new challenges of our rapidly changing world.

We see four key priorities for this revitalised institution:

The first is improving prosperity. The Commonwealth can help by boosting trade and investment between member countries. Our shared language and legal traditions are unique advantages that we should make more use of. Ghana, one of Africa's fastest growing economies, is well placed to help boost trade and to benefit from it.

If we can succeed in improving trade and business links around the Commonwealth, it means it will be easier for young people like you – it's no secret that Ghanaians are some of the most enterprising people on the continent – to set up businesses and sell their products abroad.

The second key priority is acting on climate change. It will affect us all, one way or another. In Ghana's case, rising global temperatures pose a real threat to cocoa production. Your exports would be severely affected. That is why, as we did in 2015, we must continue to work together to implement the promises we all made in Paris to increase the resilience of Commonwealth countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.

We also hope that other African Commonwealth countries will follow Ghana's example and ratify the Paris agreement.

The third priority is keeping our people safe. We still face the same threats that we did when the Commonwealth was founded – inter-state conflict, civil war, insurgency.

But the threats have also multiplied and become more sophisticated. We now also face violent extremism and terrorism. We suffer cyber attack, both state-based and criminal. And we know that organised crime operates, not on street corners but on the dark web, across borders and jurisdictions. We believe the Commonwealth could play more of a role in tackling these new security challenges.

Our fourth priority is to build a fairer future, based on our shared values of good governance, democracy and human rights.

The organisation has a good record here – seven of Africa's least corrupt countries are in the Commonwealth, and our election monitoring work is the envy of the world. [I might add that your country is one of the strongest democracies in Africa, having held seven consecutive democratic elections.]

Young people here can play a vital role in promoting the benefits of an open, tolerant and democratic society.

These four priorities inform our approach to the Commonwealth Summit next year.

And we want young people like you to be at the heart of them all, because it is your futures we are talking about. Your prosperity, your security, your human rights, your world.

We can't do this without you. We need you to get involved with the Commonwealth, to help us build an organisation that can rise to the challenges of the future, and represent your interests on the world stage. As

a leading African democracy we hope that Ghana, and young Ghanaians, will work with the UK and help us to realise our ambitious vision for the Summit.

I look forward to working with you to build a better future for the Commonwealth and the world. Thank you.

[News story: Senior CT officers appeal for greater collaboration at Security Summit](#)

Speaking at the Step Change Security Summit at London's Guildhall yesterday, Monday 17 July, Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley welcomed the Security Minister Ben Wallace's announcement of a £2 million innovation fund to improve the protection of the UK's crowded places.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi followed up by praising the partnership already in place between the public and private sectors, but added that shrinking timescales mean both police and industry must act quickly and decisively to combat the threat.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley at Guildhall

Assistant Commissioner Rowley warned an audience of police, security experts and industry representatives that recent 'game-changing' attacks across the UK have increased the need for police and businesses to collaborate more closely to tackle the unprecedented increase in demand.

The threat is real and is a challenge to all of us, in policing, government and industry. To successfully meet this threat head on, we must exploit every opportunity for innovation and collaboration between the public and private sectors.

That means sharing resources, intelligence and expertise, but also asking business to help bear the load by funding their own counter terrorism security officers, search dogs and specialist security personnel.

For example, Oxford Street has in the region of 1000 security personnel, but only 10 police officers. That is an opportunity for building on the excellent existing relationships between businesses and police, by improving information-sharing and to provide specialist training where it can be most effective.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi, who is the National Police Chiefs'

Council's lead for Protective Security, added:

We are facing a shrinking timeframe, if we are to combat the threat we must share information more effectively, and quickly. Effective communication is a two-way street and businesses underestimate the value of the information you hold. We must support each other, both private and public sectors. Advice is out there, and it is more important than ever to use that advice to protect ourselves.

I genuinely believe we are so much stronger when working together. Our crowded places are the targets for terrorists and I want people to go to these places knowing that both the police and business are united in keeping them safe.

Guildhall

Police forces have already provided Project Griffin self-delivery training to more than 300 businesses nationwide, which gives companies the ability to train their staff to detect suspicious behaviour and how to act in the event of an attack.

Assistant Commissioner Rowley has asked for more companies to engage with police and take advantage of the opportunities available to them for training their staff to keep both themselves and the public safe:

I would urge companies to review and, where necessary, improve their own security plans, and police counter terrorism experts are here to help you do that.

We recently helped to train 23,000 holiday reps in our on-going work with the travel industry, and that means 23,000 extra pairs of eyes and ears deployed across the globe who are better equipped to help keep the public safe. Terrorists are constantly adapting their tactics and in recent months we have seen a change in their behaviour during attack planning. In policing we are currently undergoing numerous reviews to ensure we adapt as quickly as they are, and it is important that businesses do the same.

For more information about how businesses can help police to keep both themselves and the public safe, download the National Counter Terrorism Security Office's latest [Crowded Places Guidance](#) or [contact your local Counter Terrorism Security Advisors](#).

News story: New Director General of Immigration Enforcement appointed

Hugh Ind has been appointed as the new Director General of Immigration Enforcement, the Home Office announced today (18 July).

Hugh, who has worked for the Home Office for 26 years, takes up his new role with immediate effect.

He takes overall responsibility for Immigration Enforcement, which is responsible for preventing abuse, tracking immigration offenders and increasing compliance with immigration law.

Hugh joined the Home Office in 1991 and previously held roles including the leadership of the Bill Team for the Regulation of the Investigatory Powers Act 2000. He was Strategic Director for the UK's Asylum System from 2009 to 2013 and has been the interim Director General of Immigration Enforcement since autumn 2016.

Permanent Secretary Philip Rutnam said:

I would like to congratulate Hugh on his permanent appointment. His experience from both within and leading Immigration Enforcement will provide sound, consistent leadership and I look forward to continuing to work with him.

Commenting on his appointment, Hugh Ind said:

Having grown up in the Home Office, it is a great personal honour for me to be appointed Director General of Immigration Enforcement and to lead operations that are of such significance to the British public.

I look forward to continuing to realise our vision of reducing the illegal migrant population by ensuring compliance with immigration laws right across the UK and further increasing the number of foreign national offenders we remove from the UK.

Speech: “The United Nations’ relationship with Haiti has changed but our commitment has not.”

Thank you Mr President and thank you Special Representative Honoré for your briefing this morning. I’d like to pay tribute to you and the important work you’ve done during your time in Haiti and it’s particularly encouraging to hear that the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH is on track.

It’s important that this continues. A smooth and seamless transition will send a clear signal to the people and Government of Haiti that the United Nations’ relationship with Haiti has changed but our commitment has not.

MINUJUSTH marks a new era in the UN’s support for Haiti. Its three-pronged focus on police, the rule of law, and human rights will help Haiti to address its future opportunities and challenges independently, for the first time in many decades. And the successful delivery of the MINUJUSTH mission will allow it eventually to leave Haiti having laid a framework for security and stability that Haitians can continue themselves to build on.

I know, Mr President, that there is a lot of work ahead, both for Haiti and the UN. I suspect that few of us who recently visited Haiti believe that success is guaranteed. In the weeks following the visit, I’ve come to believe that three fundamental conditions are required to make MINUJUSTH a success.

First, the new mission must be equipped with the tools that are fit for purpose and matched to Haiti’s needs. For example, to further develop the capacity of Haiti’s police, the UN Police commander will need officers with the right technical and language skills to engage meaningfully with their local counterparts.

Another example is the UN Country Team: joint analysis and programming with MINUJUSTH will help ensure it is better placed to support long-term justice reform in Haiti. And, as the Secretary-General’s latest report rightly points out, all of the UN’s tools will need to be more politically acute if they are to catalyse change.

Indeed, UN tools only go so far. The second condition for success is a government that embraces Haiti’s challenges as its own and pro-actively takes on new responsibilities. The gap left by MINUSTAH is not primarily for its successor mission to plug, but for Haiti’s government and institutions to fill.

This means providing Haiti’s police with proper equipment and salaries – and not squandering these scarce resources elsewhere. As the Special Representative has outlined, it means investment in a justice system that protects all Haitians with the rule of law, leaving no space for corruption to flourish and impunity to fester. It means making critical appointments to

the Supreme Court and taking urgently needed reforms through parliament. And finally, it means doing much more to tackle the scourge of gender-based violence. All of this requires that the priorities of Haiti's politicians are aligned with those of Haiti's people.

The third condition for success is also about taking responsibility. MINUJUSTH – and the whole UN – must continue to win back the trust of Haiti's people. On our trip to Haiti we heard about two issues that have damaged the UN's legacy.

One relates to cholera, a tragedy for the Haitian people and an obstacle to the UN turning its own page in Haiti. I am pleased to hear that infection rates are down. Eradication is within grasp, and like the Ambassador from Kazakhstan, I call on donors to do what they can to make this a reality.

The other tragic issue that has damaged the reputation of UN peacekeeping is the shockingly widespread sexual exploitation and abuse carried out by peacekeepers sent by this Council in the past to Haiti. Such crimes have left deep scars across the country. If we are to ask people to trust in peacekeepers and their mission, we cannot allow this to happen again – not in Haiti, not anywhere. We have agreed to a clear framework of action through resolution 2272. There can be space for backsliding on these commitments.

Mr President,

In conclusion, the UK looks forward to a smooth and seamless transition over the next few months. We also hope that these three conditions – a mission equipped with the right tools, a government ready to lead on Haiti's challenges, and a people ready to trust in the UN again – can accompany the next phase of the UN's relationship with Haiti.

Thank you.