

# We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Pakistani friends: UK statement at UN General Assembly

Thank you Mr President,

To the people of Pakistan, the victims, and their families we send our deepest and most heartfelt condolences.

As the Secretary-General and Ambassador Akram have said, the floods demonstrate the catastrophic effect of climate change. It has hit some of the most vulnerable people in one of the world's most at-risk countries. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Pakistani friends.

The UK welcomes the adoption of this resolution today. It is vital that the international community continues to support the people of Pakistan, as they look to recover and rebuild, following this disaster.

In September, the UK announced \$18.4m to provide shelter and essential supplies to people across the country. This represents 10% of the initial UN flash appeal.

We are committed to working with the Government of Pakistan, international agencies and civil society to best support those in need.

We welcome the work of the UN and the World Bank to respond fast to their urgent needs. We encourage these organisations to work together with the Government of Pakistan and the international community in a coordinated, collaborative, and open manner, so that support to the response and reconstruction efforts are both effective and impactful.

It is important also to ensure a longer term response to improving climate resilience, with the support of the IFIs. At COP26, the UK pledged over \$61m to partner with Pakistan to fight climate change, manage water more sustainably and unlock climate investment at COP26 last year.

Mr President,

This is a tragedy of unprecedented proportions: it demonstrates the human impact of climate change, and the need for us all to maintain momentum, as we advance towards COP27.

This catastrophe also emphasises why the world must work hard to build a greater climate resilience, this includes greater commitment to adaptation and adaptation finance as well as the transition to clean energy sources as quickly as possible, committing to and delivering on an ambitious set of NDCs.

Thank you Mr President.

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## UN Human Rights Council 51: UK explanation of vote on racism resolution

Mr. President, we remain resolute in our commitment to combating all forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance whether that be at home or abroad. Discrimination of any kind has no place in society, and we will continue to treat all forms of discrimination with equal seriousness.

Nonetheless, we have a number of concerns with this text. We do not agree with the multiple references to the Durban Conference, given the historic concerns over antisemitism. And we cannot accept the references to the Durban Review Conference or the positive language regarding last year's commemorative event in New York and its political declaration.

We do not agree with claims made in this resolution that states are required to make reparations for the slave trade and colonialism, which caused great suffering to many but were not, at that time, violations of international law. Moreover, these claims divert focus from the pressing challenges of tackling contemporary racism and global inequality – which are global challenges affecting all regions. We believe that the most effective way for us all today to respond to the cruelty of the past is to ensure that current and future generations do not forget what happened.

Mr. President, we stressed last year that the importance of the fight against racism requires that we move forward together on a common path. For that to happen, we must come together to find a new approach, one that focuses on what we are all individually and collectively going to do to combat the scourge that is modern-day racism. This draft resolution, however, does not offer the sort of new approach around which we can achieve consensus and for that reason we will vote against it.

We are committed to continuing a dialogue with the sponsors of this resolution and hope that we might be able to reach a different outcome in the future.

Thank you Mr. President.

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# MHRA response to contaminated paediatric medicines identified in WHO region of Africa

News story

The safety of the medicines you and your children take is our highest priority



The products referred to in the [WHO Medical Product Alert](#) are not authorised for use in the UK and nor are the active ingredients used in any UK authorised products.

If you have acquired any of these cough syrups (Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup) in The Gambia or through informal routes, do not use them. These are substandard products which are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death. If you are unsure, please check with your pharmacist.

If you, or someone you know, have used these products, or suffered any side effect after use, you are advised to seek immediate medical attention. We strongly encourage anyone to report any suspected side effects associated with their cough syrup to us via our [Yellow Card Scheme website](#).

## **Further information**

- Laboratory analysis of samples of each of the four products confirm that they contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants. To date, these four products have been identified in The Gambia, but may have been distributed, through informal markets, to other countries or regions.
- Maiden Pharmaceuticals is not named as marketing authorisation holder or manufacturer on any UK licences. Nor it is listed as active substance

manufacturer on any licences for other companies. Therefore, no licensed UK medicinal products are likely to be impacted.

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## [PM call with the Amir of Qatar: 7 October 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Liz Truss spoke to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, this afternoon.



Prime Minister Liz Truss spoke to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, this afternoon.

The Prime Minister updated on her visit to the European Political Community meeting yesterday, and the leaders agreed that international unity was vital in such challenging global times.

Discussing the winter ahead, the Prime Minister welcomed the UK and Qatar's close relationship on energy, and said the UK was taking vital steps to shore up its energy independence for the long term. She added that the UK wanted to become a net energy exporter by 2040.

The leaders also welcomed the increased defence and trade cooperation between the UK and Qatar, which bolstered economic growth and security in both countries.

The Amir said he looked forward to welcoming fans to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup next month, and thanked the Prime Minister for the UK's support in ensuring it was a successful tournament.

The leaders agreed to stay in close touch.

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## [UN Human Rights Council 51: General remarks on human rights in Xinjiang](#)

Thank you, Mr President

Permit me to make a few remarks after the vote in relation to the Draft Decision to hold a debate on the Human Rights Situation in Xinjiang.

Members of the core group that proposed the Decision align themselves with this statement.

Let me begin by thanking every member of this Council who voted in favour of the Draft Decision, as well as every nation which co-sponsored the draft. We welcome the support of each and every one of you.

Our aim in proposing this Draft Decision was to bring before the Council an issue, which clearly warrants this Council's attention. No state should be free to avoid scrutiny over allegations of possible crimes against humanity, whatever their region, whatever their size, or whatever their influence. And to be clear, that includes the UK.

It has been clear from talking to colleagues over recent weeks, that almost everybody in this room acknowledges that there are serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang. The recent OHCHR assessment confirms these concerns with meticulous rigour, drawing extensively on first-hand testimonies and information published by Chinese authorities.

While the Decision was not adopted, the many discussions around the draft decision in Geneva and in Human Rights Council member capitals, have served to highlight the scale, and the nature, of the terrible violations being faced by Uyghur and other Muslims in Xinjiang.

It was therefore correct for the Core Group to seek a debate at the Council. To have done otherwise would have been to ignore the plight of those subjected to arbitrary detention, torture or ill-treatment, forced labour, sexual and gender-based violence, forced sterilisations and enforced disappearance. It would have been to disregard the testimony of those who have experienced these violations first hand and helped to bring them to light, despite huge personal risk. It would have been to look the other way, when faced with allegations of possible crimes against humanity, committed against huge numbers of people from minority groups based on their ethnicity

and religion.

Mr President, dear colleagues,

Problems don't go away by ignoring them. So, we will continue to raise our concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, in international fora. We will continue to urge China to change course, and to cease the practices which the OHCHR assessment has described to us, in such clear and disturbing detail. And we will not forget the plight of the Uyghurs in China.

Thank you