

# It is the year for world leaders to deliver on the commitments made at COP26 to keep 1.5 degrees alive

Good morning/afternoon.

Thank you, [MC], for the introduction.

I am delighted to be here today.

Over the past two and a half years, I have spoken at numerous conferences and summits around the world.

Virtually and, of course, physically, I have delivered many, many hundreds of speeches.

In doing so, I've shared stages with representatives from government, from business, and from civil society.

You've just heard from FIFA. I think someone was lucky enough to get a ball too.

You will soon hear from Google, the Norwegian-African Business Association.

And each organisation is working to shape a future in which we can deliver prosperity, but without sacrificing the planet.

For me, it is truly encouraging to see such broad agreement on the need for climate action.

And I do believe that we have hit that inflection point where governments, business and civil society are broadly united in wanting to tackle climate change,

And deliver both an environmental and economic dividend.

And I am pleased therefore that Rwanda and its role as Commonwealth Chair in office is using this session to consider how we deliver economic prosperity without sacrificing the planet.

And it is a key question that our family of Commonwealth nations needs to address, and address urgently,

How we can achieve collective prosperity, economic sustainability and societal resilience, all at the same time.

That, my friends, is the ball that I am kicking to you.

And if we are to achieve these goals, working through the international system, it's going to be absolutely critical

I mean, just look at COP26. Some of you who are with us today were also with us in November

Back then, under the UK's stewardship, almost 200 countries forged the historic Glasgow Climate Pact.

Despite challenging global geopolitics even then we were able to bring nations together.

Because each of us recognised that it was in our collective self-interest to act on climate.

The Glasgow Climate Pact forges a path to a clean global future.

It keeps alive the possibility of limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees.

And it told a watching world that leaders – including many of the leaders who are here at this conference – it told the world that leaders could and would rise above their differences, and unite against that common challenge.

The Pact calls on countries to phase-down unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

It contains big commitments on climate mitigation, on adaptation and on finance.

And it also sets out a way forward on the crucial issue of loss and damage.

It was for me an extraordinary privilege to play my part as Shepherd-in-Chief at that event.

Of course, we have to acknowledge that the world has changed since then.

We meet today against the backdrop of multiple global crises.

Indeed, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, has described our situation as “the most universally complex policy environment of our lifetime”.

Therefore, climate is understandably no longer on the front pages.

But the current crises should increase, not diminish, our determination to deliver on what the world agreed in Glasgow.

Even as we deal with the immediate challenges facing us, all the evidence, including the latest findings from various UN reports, makes clear that the chronic threat of climate change is getting worse.

My friends I have to say this to you, climate change does not recognise borders – look in your own countries and see what's happening – and the Commonwealth is no exception to facing the harsh impacts of global warming.

Last year we saw wildfires rage in Australia.

This year, India and Pakistan have experienced unbearable temperatures.

A billion people exposed to extreme heat in some of the hottest months since records began.

And in South Africa where I have just come from, floods have swept the province of KwaZulu-Natal, destroying buildings and claiming lives.

At the same time, Vladimir Putin's illegal, brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine has amplified that climate and environmental security are interlinked with energy and national security.

And that is why the UK is so focused on using the remaining months of our COP26 presidency to turn commitments into action.

What it needs, friends, is for us to focus on implementation.

Every country must respond to the Glasgow Climate Pact's call to revisit and strengthen their 2030 emissions reduction targets this year.

And we need countries to submit those emissions reduction targets by the UNFCCC's deadline, on September 23rd including their long term strategies.

We are continuing to push for practical progress on mitigation, on finance, on adaptation, and on loss and damage.

We continue to press for further progress in critical sectors and on clean technologies.

And I remain especially focused on the most climate vulnerable countries and communities, many of whom are represented here.

Because, for these nations in particular, the situation is devastatingly clear.

As Prime Minister Mia Motley of Barbados told us in Glasgow, for her country, "a two degrees rise is a death sentence".

For many, tackling climate change is literally that, it's the difference between life, and death.

So to deliver on effective climate action we are going to continue to push forward for more funding through Just Energy Transition Partnerships.

We're going to be working on increasing finance for adaptation, including ensuring the private sector is mobilising finance as well.

And it means listening to the consistent calls from climate vulnerable countries to improve access to finance as well.

If I just say to you that in Africa, Africa is responsible for less than 3% of global emissions and yet on this continent there are very many countries that are on the front line of climate change.

And therefore we know that change is necessary.

We know that change is in our collective self-interest.

And we know that change will not happen unless we act, and unless we act now.

And so it is time for world leaders, the leaders here at this conference to demonstrate that they are delivering on the commitments they have made.

Together, we can, and we must, make this a year of delivery, to keep 1.5 degrees alive, and to deliver prosperity, without sacrificing the planet.

Thank you.

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## **Boost for tech startups as competition to run new support programme opens**

- Successful provider will receive £12 million Digital Growth Grant to deliver the scheme, which will tackle challenges facing small and scaling tech firms
- Programme will tackle challenges facing small and growing tech businesses, including improving connections with investors and increasing diversity through skills training

Organisations can now apply to deliver a UK-wide programme of activity supporting the UK's digital and tech start ups and scale ups.

The successful provider will deliver a programme from April 2023 to open up access to skills training and advice across the country, and improve regional support networks for startups and scaling companies in the digital and tech sector. This will help create more regional hubs with wealth-generating tech businesses offering high skilled jobs, benefitting startups outside of major cities.

Recent figures show the UK has overtaken China on investment secured by tech start ups, raising more than £12 billion in venture capital funding in the first five months of 2022.

The successful provider and will receive a £12.09 million Digital Growth Grant from the government to run the programme, which will help the UK's early-stage tech firms build on their success. Organisations can apply individually or join together to bid to become the provider.

The programme will tackle some of the biggest challenges facing small and growing tech businesses, such as improving connections between startups and investors with better access to tailored mentoring and advice for founders. There will also be help to drive up diversity and representation in the tech workforce through skills training and sector networks.

Applicants should have a strong presence in the UK and a deep knowledge of the domestic digital sector to provide support for small businesses.

Digital Minister Chris Philp said:

The success of our startups and scaleups has driven the UK ahead of Europe and China to be second in the world for tech investment this year. We want every corner of the country to feel the benefits of tech success and we're looking for an industry partner to help make this possible through the Digital Growth Grant.

The Digital Growth Grant will fund a nationwide programme to:

- Deliver support services to the digital sector, with a focus on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, advanced computing and quantum. These services should address key challenges faced by a wide range of companies from the seed funding stage to their first or second round of financing.
- Grow regional support networks. Activities should improve local investment, innovation and business growth; be tailored to the needs and tech specialisms of different areas; and be developed in partnership with local bodies and existing tech groups.
- Ensure founders and firms can access digital entrepreneurship training with tailored advice to help start and grow a tech business.
- Clearly signpost startups and scaleups to existing initiatives in the private and the public sector across the UK that can help them access finance, talent and markets.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will be accepting applications until midday on 15 August 2022.

## **Notes to Editors**

Further detail about this grant is available [here](#). Interested organisations can attend one of our upcoming webinars about this grant by registering [here](#).

The funding will be awarded from 1 April 2023 for two years, running until 2025.

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# [Insolvency Live! 2022 – have you got a question to ask?](#)

News story

The Insolvency Service is hosting its annual stakeholder event on 5 July 2022 and we're asking for questions to be submitted to the Q&A panel.



This year's Insolvency Live! 2022 will be the first time the Insolvency Service has hosted a hybrid event where delegates will be able to attend in person and online.

Over the past couple of years during the pandemic, Insolvency Live! has been delivered virtually and in 2021, we welcomed more than 240 delegates who tuned in online.

We're hoping Insolvency Live! 2022 builds on the successes of those online events and this year's agenda is jam-packed with speakers from within the Insolvency Service and from the insolvency industry.

We welcome leading insolvency expert and senior lecturer in law, Dr John Tribe, who will use insight on the cost of living – past and present – and how the personal insolvency framework has helped individuals historically, as well as the possible pressures it may face in the current economic climate.

Other engaging sessions include a presentation on energy sector insolvencies, our customer insight team will talk about the changes they are making to improve customer experience, and the team behind the Director Education Project will showcase the tools they have developed to educate directors and prevent avoidable insolvencies.

The day will end with a Q&A panel, where participants will have the opportunity to put forward their questions to Chief Executive Dean Beale and other members of our executive leadership team.

If you would like to attend the event in person or online, please contact: [Stakeholder@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:Stakeholder@insolvency.gov.uk).

We're also welcoming questions to ask our executive leadership team and you can send yours to: [stakeholder@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:stakeholder@insolvency.gov.uk).

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## [Andy Haldane appointed as Chair of Levelling Up Advisory Council](#)

Press release

Former Bank of England Chief Economist and Head of the Levelling Up Taskforce appointed.



Former Bank of England Chief Economist and Head of the Levelling Up Taskforce, Andy Haldane has today (27 June 2022) been appointed as the Chair of the government's Levelling Up Advisory Council.

The Levelling Up Advisory Council will provide independent specialist advice on matters relating to the design and delivery of the levelling up missions.

Andy Haldane is currently the Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Arts and brings a wealth of experience to the role, including his career at the Bank of England, including as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, and as Chair of the Industrial Strategy Council. His depth and breadth of his expertise will help the advisory council become a powerful platform to provide insightful, challenging advice to government.

Levelling Up Secretary Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP said:

For Levelling Up to succeed we need scrutiny, challenge and transparency to ensure we deliver on our missions to spread opportunity and prosperity to every corner of the country.

I am delighted Andy Haldane has agreed to chair the Levelling Up Advisory Council. His vision and experience were crucial to putting missions at the heart of the Levelling Up White Paper and as Chair I know he will continue to drive forward this vital work.

Commenting on his appointment Andy Haldane said:

Levelling up is one of the signature economic and social challenges of our time, a challenge made all that much greater by the cost of living crisis. So I am delighted to be chairing the government's Levelling Up Advisory Council, with its deep pool of expertise and experience, to serve as challenge and support for the government on this crucial initiative as it is delivered on the ground, and revivifies the lives of people, right across the UK.

Earlier this year the government announced in the Levelling Up White Paper the appointment of a Levelling Up Advisory Council to act as a critical friend to the government on the Levelling Up agenda.

The council is formed of recognised independent specialists, drawn from industry, academia and the voluntary sector. The names of the other members of the council were published in the [Levelling Up White Paper](#).

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## [Multi-Domain Integration Symposium](#) [Held at Defence Academy](#)

Students on the Defence Academy's Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC) have had an intense five weeks. They are the first course to undertake the new Multi-Domain Integration (MDI) module, which included lectures from world-leading experts, interactive workshops, industry visits, and research sprints, and has now concluded with an MDI Symposium at Shrivenham.

At the Symposium, ACSC research groups faced a panel of senior leaders from across defence, as well as experts from industry and academia, and were asked to present their findings on a range of topics which could have a significant impact of defence's future. These included promoting an integrated culture in defence and wider government, command and control in the information age and integration lessons from the current crisis in Ukraine.

With over 250 students from all three services, as well as civil servants and international personnel from over 50 countries, the MDI module benefited from



a huge diversity of thought and opinion. Furthermore, students were encouraged to challenge the status quo and used a wide range of research methods to inform their findings and proposals.

However this exercise was not purely academic, as the valuable insights from students will be presented to senior defence boards, and their work will also help guide the direction of the MDI change programme.

The module was also not purely classroom-based, and there were opportunities for ACSC students to visit industry sites to learn from their approach to collaborative working and explore their technical solutions to integration.

They also spent two days studying the technique of 'useful fiction' – using fictional narratives to bring strategy and concepts to life. This technique will be crucial as we strive towards the culture change required to embed an integrated mindset.

People are defence's most important asset, and the Defence Academy ensures our people are at the cutting edge of military thinking in a changing world. This module is a clear example of the Defence Academy offering innovative solutions to our most pressing defence and security challenges.