

HM Treasury supports Private Members' Bill on Co-operatives, Mutuals, and Friendly Societies

News story

HM Treasury is supporting Sir Mark Hendrick's Private Members' Bill on Co-operatives, Mutuals, and Friendly Societies.



The Private Members Bill on Co-operatives, Mutuals and Friendly Societies grants HM Treasury the power to bring forward regulations to give those mutuals further flexibility in determining for themselves the best strategies for their business, relating to their surplus capital. This will provide additional safeguards against demutualisation for the societies that choose to adopt the so-called "asset lock".

The Bill is therefore a valuable opportunity to support mutuals who wish to ensure that their underlying assets, in many cases built up over centuries by members pooling their resources together for the greater good, are protected and the mutual model preserved into the future.

By allowing for an iron-clad guarantee in legislation for mutuals that wish to adopt these restrictions, the Bill will make these asset locks harder to unpick. It will provide additional safeguards against demutualisation – where a mutual becomes a company with shareholders, a process which can, in some cases, aim to capture the asset value of the mutual as a windfall. It will ensure mutual capital is maintained for the purpose it is intended; to provide goods and services to those who need them now and for future generations.

Importantly, the Bill has been drafted to ensure the government has time to engage closely with the sector, regulators, and legal experts as the secondary legislation to give effect to the policy is developed.

This will allow the final design of the policy to take account of the existing rights and interests of consumers, particularly policyholders of

financial mutuals, and to reflect the different types of business models in this diverse sector.

More broadly, the government aims to develop a modern and supportive business environment to set mutuals up for future growth and success and is currently exploring the options for reviewing key legislation underpinning the sector.

Further information

- Mutuals operate up and down the country and are organisations owned by, and run for, their members. Industry estimates suggest that mutual insurers and friendly societies support the savings, pensions, protection and healthcare needs of over 30 million people in the UK. There are over 7,000 co-operatives across the UK with a combined turnover of £39.7 billion.

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Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England

1. 26 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 confirmed in commercial poultry near Bromsgrove, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

2. 25 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in captive birds on 7 October 2022 at a third premises near Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk, Suffolk. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zone, the 3km captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone has been revoked.

3. 23 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in other captive birds on 16 September 2022 at a second premises near Crewe, Cheshire East, Cheshire. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zone, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area formed by the protection zone becomes a surveillance zone.

4. 23 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 23 November 2022 at a fourth premises, near Taverham, Norfolk (AIV 2022/216). A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place

around the premises. Also added a new link to the legislation list.

5. 22 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in other captive birds on 22 November 2022 at a premises near Napton on the Hill, Kenilworth and Southam, Warwickshire (AIV 2022/214). A 3km captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone is in place around the premises. All birds on the premises will be humanely culled. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 22 November 2022 at a second premises near Easingwold, Hambleton, North Yorkshire (AIV 2022/215). A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises. All birds on the premises will be humanely culled. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zones, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area that formed the protection zone becomes part of the 10 km surveillance zone at the following premises: premises near Honington, West Suffolk, Suffolk (AIV 2022/74). Second premises near Honington, West Suffolk, Suffolk (AIV 2022/77).

6. 22 November 2022

Removed free range and organic content. Added it to 'Egg marketing standards' and 'Poultry meat marketing standards' guidance pages.

7. 21 November 2022

Updated the latest situation. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in poultry and other captive birds on 21 November 2022 at a premises near Barnard Castle, County Durham, Durham (AIV 2022/213). A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises.

8. 20 November 2022

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at premises near Brailsford, Derbyshire Dales, Derbyshire, near Wheaton Aston, South Staffordshire, Staffordshire and near Ruskington, North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around each of the premises. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zones, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area that formed the protection zone becomes part of the 10 km surveillance zone at a second premises near Dartington, South Hams, Devon and a premises near Hadleigh, Babergh, Suffolk.

9. 18 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 18 November 2022 at a premises near Leyburn, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises.

10. 16 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial

poultry on 16 November 2022: fourth premises near Oundle, North Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire and a premises near Thorpe Culvert, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises.

11. 15 November 2022

Updated the latest situation. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial housed poultry on 15 November 2022 at a third premises near Oundle, North Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire (AIV 2022/203). A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed on 15 November 2022 in other captive birds at a premises near Birdlip, Cotswold, Gloucestershire (AIV 2022/204). A 3km captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone been put in place around the premises.

12. 14 November 2022

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry in a premises near Doveridge, Derbyshire Dales, Derbyshire and a second premises near Oundle, North Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises. HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in other captive birds at a premises near Arundel, Arun, West Sussex. A 3km captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone been put in place around the premises.

13. 13 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed on 13 November 2022 in poultry at a third premises near Halesworth, East Suffolk, Suffolk. A 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the premises. All poultry on the infected premises will be humanely culled.

14. 13 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 17 September 2022 at a premises near Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk, Suffolk (AIV 2022/72). Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zones, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area that formed the protection zone becomes part of the 10 km surveillance zone. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 1 October 2022 at a premises near Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk, Suffolk (2nd premises) (AIV 2022/85). Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zones, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area that formed the protection zone becomes part of the 10 km surveillance zone.

15. 11 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 11 November 2022: • near Colkirk, Breckland, Norfolk (AIV 2022/197) • near Berkswell, Solihull, West Midlands (AIV 2022/198) A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises.

All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

16. 10 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in other captive birds (non-poultry) on 10 November 2022: near Hale, Halton, Cheshire and a second premises near Hale, Halton, Cheshire. A 3km captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone is in place around each of the premises. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 10 November 2022 at a premises near Northallerton, Hambleton, North Yorkshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 28 September 2022 at a premises near Selby, Selby, North Yorkshire. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zones, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area that formed the protection zone becomes part of the 10 km surveillance zone.

17. 9 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 confirmed in commercial poultry near Hatton, South Derbyshire and at a fifth premises near Wymondham, Norfolk.

18. 8 November 2022

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at a premises near Tattenhall, Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises. Part of the surveillance zone extends into Wales. HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at a premises near Faringdon, Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire (AIV 2022/90) . Following successful completion of disease control activities, the 3km protection zone has ended and the area formed by the protection zone forms part of the surveillance zone.

19. 8 November 2022

Torpoint, South East Cornwall, Cornwall – following completion of disease control activities and surveillance within the zones, the 3km protection zone has ended and the 10km surveillance zone has been revoked.

20. 7 November 2022

HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at a premises near Oundle, North Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises.

21. 7 November 2022

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds are now in force across England. This means that all bird keepers must house their birds, whatever their type or size (exceptions apply to some zoo birds and other species).

22. 6 November 2022

H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at a second premises near Fakenham, North Norfolk, Norfolk and a premises near Reepham, Broadland, Norfolk. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around each of the premises. H5N1 was also confirmed in non-commercial other captive birds at a premises near Metheringham, North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. A 3km captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone is in place around the premises.

23. 5 November 2022

H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at an eleventh premises near Dereham, Breckland, Norfolk. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises.

24. 4 November 2022

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry on 4 November 2022 at a second premises near Kirkham, Fylde, Lancashire. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone are in place around the premises. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in poultry at a premises near Holt, North Norfolk, Norfolk on 3 September 2022. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance in the zone, the protection zone has ended and the area that formed that protection zone becomes part of the surveillance zone. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in captive wild birds (non-poultry) on 29 August 2022 at a premises near Paignton, Torbay, Devon. Following successful completion of disease control activities and surveillance within the zone, the 3km Captive Bird (Monitoring) Controlled Zone has been revoked.

25. 4 November 2022

First published.

[Start Ready blog](#)

News story

A GAD actuary has marked 6 months at the centre of a programme providing financial help to countries affected by natural disasters.



The Start Ready initiative, part of the Start Network charity, takes an innovative approach to help countries badly affected by ‘predictable crises’. Networks of members, with disaster risk financing systems in place, apply for Start Ready coverage. This means that the members must have the means to measure risks and set triggers for how pre-agreed finance will be used. [Read about his role](#) on the governance committee.

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[Reino Unido nomeia nova Embaixadora no Brasil](#)

A partir de novembro, a Embaixada do Reino Unido será liderada por Stephanie Al-Qaq, que sucede a Peter Wilson como Embaixadora designada por Sua Majestade, o Rei Charles III, no Brasil. Wilson voltou a Londres em fevereiro para servir como chefe de gabinete do Primeiro-Ministro e agora retorna ao Ministério Britânico de Relações Exteriores, de Desenvolvimento e da Commonwealth. Stephanie Al-Qaq será a primeira mulher a chefiar a missão do Reino Unido no Brasil.

A relação de Stephanie Al-Qaq com o Brasil não começa agora – e vai além do âmbito profissional. Dois de seus três filhos nasceram no país enquanto ela ocupava o cargo de Conselheira Política na Embaixada Britânica em Brasília, entre 2007 e 2012. “Estou muito animada para embarcar de volta ao Brasil. Eu tenho muito carinho por este país e quero ampliar a parceria bilateral que tanto beneficia os nossos povos”, afirmou.

Neste momento de transição política, uma das missões de Stephanie Al-Qaq será aprofundar e fortalecer a ligação entre Reino Unido e Brasil em áreas cruciais, como crescimento econômico, desenvolvimento verde e cooperação em ciência e tecnologia. Ela também pretende estimular a cooperação internacional para enfrentar desafios globais, como a desigualdade social e a insegurança alimentar.

SOBRE STEPHANIE AL-QAQ

Stephanie Al-Qaq ingressou no Governo de Sua Majestade em 2002. Antes, atuou como Diretora do Departamento do Oriente Médio e Norte da África. No início deste ano, se tornou Enviada do Reino Unido para o Irã. Em 2015, foi nomeada Vice-Chefe da missão diplomática britânica nos Emirados Árabes Unidos. Antes disso, foi Ministra-Conselheira no México e Conselheira Política no Brasil. Stephanie também atuou como Secretária Adjunta do Ministro para o Oriente Médio, Contra-Terrorismo e Assuntos Consulares. Além disso, já liderou os setores responsáveis pelo Iraque e pela área de Combate a Narcóticos dentro do Ministério das Relações Exteriores do Reino Unido.

Antes de ingressar na diplomacia britânica, Stephanie Al-Qaq trabalhou na Reuters, na Anistia Internacional, na Human Rights Watch e na Câmara dos Comuns, tendo atuado em vários países do Oriente Médio, África, Europa e Américas.

Stephanie é graduada em Política Internacional e Francês pela Universidade de Birmingham e mestre em Relações Internacionais pela Escola de Estudos Orientais e Africanos da Universidade de Londres. É casada com o cientista político Kareem Richard Al-Qaq e tem três filhos.

Sua conta no Twitter é @salqaq.

[G7 foreign ministers' statement in Germany, November 2022](#)

Preamble

We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union, underline our strong sense of unity and our unshakable commitment to uphold the rules-based international order and to protect the rights of all, including the most vulnerable.

All Members of the United Nations must refrain from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any state in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Violations of universally agreed and legally binding fundamental principles such as peaceful cooperation, sovereignty, self-determination, and territorial integrity are unacceptable. We are clear in our commitment to hold those responsible for egregious violations of such basic principles of international law to account.

1. Russia's war against Ukraine

We again call on Russia to immediately stop its war of aggression against Ukraine and withdraw all of its forces and military equipment. Together with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba we condemn Russia's recent escalation, including its attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, in particular energy and water facilities, across Ukraine using missiles and Iranian drones and trainers. Through these attacks, Russia is trying to terrorize the civilian population. Indiscriminate attacks against civilian population and infrastructure constitute war crimes and we reiterate our determination to ensure full accountability for these and crimes against humanity. We also condemn the violation of Moldovan airspace.

Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric is unacceptable. Any use of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons by Russia would be met with severe consequences. We also reject Russia's false claims that Ukraine is preparing a radiological "dirty bomb". The inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that these allegations are baseless, and we commend Ukraine for its transparency.

We also condemn Russia's continued seizure and militarization of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, the abduction and reported abuse of Ukrainian personnel, and the willful destabilization of its operations. We support the IAEA's efforts to establish a Safety and Security Zone.

We will continue to impose economic costs on Russia and on other countries, individuals or entities providing military support for Moscow's war of aggression, as several of us have already done regarding Iran's provision of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to Russia.

We reiterate our call for the Belarusian authorities to stop enabling Russia's war of aggression, including permitting Russia's armed forces to use Belarusian territory to launch missiles targeting Ukraine. If the Belarusian authorities more directly involve Belarus in Russia's war, the G7 will impose overwhelming additional costs on the regime.

We reiterate our unwavering commitment to continue providing the financial, humanitarian, defense, political, technical, and legal support Ukraine needs to alleviate the suffering of its people and to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We salute the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's unprovoked aggression, and we are committed to helping Ukraine meet its winter preparedness needs.

Today we establish a G7 coordination mechanism to help Ukraine repair, restore and defend its critical energy and water infrastructure. We look forward to the 13 December international conference in Paris aimed at supporting Ukraine's civilian resilience, organized by France and Ukraine. We also welcome the outcomes of the 25 October International Experts Conference in Berlin and remain committed to contribute to the recovery, reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine. We will stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as it takes.

We reaffirm our support for press freedom and access to reliable information globally. We will continue to counter Russia's disinformation, including false allegations concerning bioweapons. We are strengthening the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism's capacity for a coordinated response.

Recalling the 11 October G7 Leaders' statement, we welcome President Zelenskyy's readiness for a just peace based on respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and its legitimate right to defend itself from aggression. Russia's calls for negotiations are not credible when it continues to escalate the war and issue new threats and disinformation.

2. Global consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine

Russia's war of aggression is a driver of the most severe global food and energy crises in recent history. We condemn Russia's attempts to leverage energy and food exports as a tool of geopolitical coercion. The resulting turmoil is hitting vulnerable countries and communities around the world particularly hard, exacerbating an already dire situation caused by the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and existing conflicts. We will continue to coordinate among the G7 and beyond to help mitigate the consequences of Russia's war of aggression on global economic stability and international food, nutrition and energy security by both addressing acute needs and making medium to long term investments in resilient systems.

We strongly support the United Nations Secretary-General's call for the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), which has reduced global food prices. We urge Russia to heed the Secretary-General's call. The G7 is also leading other vital international initiatives, including the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) and the EU-led Solidarity Lanes. We are also accelerating our work to get fertilizers to the most vulnerable. We commit to promote more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems globally and call on the G20 to support these efforts.

We continue to encourage oil-producing countries to increase production, which will decrease volatility in energy markets. We will finalize implementation of the price cap on seaborne Russian oil in the coming weeks.

3. Global issues

We reaffirm the need to strengthen and modernize the United Nations, with a view to making it more effective in the face of mounting global challenges, and we express our support for the vision of the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda.

We are committed to strengthening arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts for a more secure, more stable and safer world. We are strengthening export controls, including through international export control regimes, on materials, technology and research that could be used to develop weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In this context, we support India's early entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

We will also continue to enhance our coordination and cooperation, within and beyond the G7, including on economic security challenges, and we will stand up to acts of economic coercion.

We reaffirm our intention to increase debt transparency and find solutions to debt vulnerabilities, especially by ensuring the swift delivery of results through the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Underscoring a geostrategic and global approach to connectivity, we renew our commitment to implement the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), including by mobilizing up to 600 billion US-Dollars in public and private investments over the next five years.

4. Iran

We, the G7 members, express our support for the fundamental aspiration of the people of Iran for a future where human security and their universal human rights are respected and protected. We condemn the violent death of the young Iranian woman “Jina” Mahsa Amini after her arrest by Iran’s so called “morality police.” We further condemn the brutal and disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters and children. We urge Iranian authorities to honor their international obligations under international law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

We advocate the right of all Iranians to access information, and we deplore the Iranian government’s erosion of civil space, and independent journalism, its targeting of human rights defenders, including by shutting down the internet and social media. We urge the Iranian authorities to treat women as equal, respecting the universal rights provided to them under the relevant international human rights treaties. We also call on the Iranian authorities to release unjustly detained prisoners, including recently arrested protesters, children, journalists and human rights defenders, and ensure accountability for perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses. We will continue to use all available diplomatic measures to hold the Iranian authorities to account. We call on Iran to allow access to the country for relevant UN Human Rights Special Procedures mandate holders.

We strongly reject Iran’s practice of unfairly detaining dual and foreign citizens and call upon Iran to end the repellent practice of such unjust detentions in hopes of political gain.

We strongly support international efforts to hold Iran to account for its downing of PS752, which killed 176 innocent civilians. We demand that Iran fulfill its international legal obligations without delay.

We strongly condemn Iran’s continued destabilizing activities in and around the Middle East. These include Iran’s activities with both ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), i.e. drones, and transfers of such advanced weaponry to state and non-state actors. Such proliferation is destabilizing for the region and escalates already high tensions. We urge Iran to cease its support to violent state and non-state

actors and proxy groups and fully abide by all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), including UNSCR 2231. We also support efforts at the United Nations to hold Russia and Iran accountable for their blatant violations of UNSCR 2231.

We reiterate our clear determination that Iran must never develop a nuclear weapon. The G7 will continue working together, and with other international partners, to address Iran's nuclear escalation and insufficient cooperation with the IAEA regarding its Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards agreement. We remain deeply concerned by the unabated expansion of Iran's nuclear program, which has no credible civilian justification. We call on Iran to change course and fulfill its legal obligations and political commitments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation without further delay. We note that despite many months of intense negotiations on a return to the JCPOA, Iran has not made the necessary decisions.

5. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

We, the G7 members, strongly condemn the unprecedented series of unlawful ballistic missile launches conducted by the DPRK in 2022, including multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and the intermediate-range ballistic missile launch on 4 October 2022, which was recklessly launched over Japan. These launches demonstrate the DPRK's continued efforts to expand its ballistic missile capabilities and are flagrant violations of multiple UNSCRs.

We reiterate our demand that the DPRK abandon its nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and any other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with all relevant UNSCRs. We urge the DPRK to immediately halt its destabilizing activity, fully abide with all legal obligations under the relevant UNSCRs, and fully comply with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Any nuclear test or other reckless action must be met with a swift, united, and robust international response. We call on all states to fully and effectively implement all UNSCRs and vigilantly monitor, prevent, and penalize sanctions evading activities. We call on the DPRK to cease further escalation and engage in meaningful diplomacy concerning its unlawful nuclear and ballistic programs. We remain committed to working with all relevant partners toward the goal of a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, and upholding the rules-based international order.

We commend the work of the UNSC 1718 Committee, which has swiftly approved all COVID-19 related sanctions exemption requests for humanitarian assistance for the DPRK. We call on the DPRK to allow the re-establishment of UN and diplomatic access, in line with appropriate and reasonable COVID-19 regulations. We continue to condemn the DPRK's systematic widespread and gross human rights violations and abuses and urge the DPRK to cooperate with all relevant UN bodies and to resolve the abductions issue immediately. We remain gravely concerned regarding the humanitarian situation in the DPRK, which is the result of the DPRK's choice to prioritize its unlawful WMD and

ballistic missile programs over the welfare of its own people.

6. Indo-Pacific

We, the G7 members, reiterate the importance of maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and based on the rule of law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, transparency, territorial integrity, and the peaceful and inclusive resolution of disputes. We are committed to protecting and promoting the rules-based international order, improving regional connectivity, strengthening free and fair trade, enhancing national resilience, supporting inclusive economic growth, promoting global health security, as well as confronting the climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity. We reaffirm our intention to work together with countries in the region and our support for the unity and centrality of ASEAN and commit to explore concrete cooperation in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

7. East and South China Seas

We remain seriously concerned about the situation in and around the East and South China Seas. We strongly oppose any moves that increase tensions and undermine regional stability and the rules-based international order. We emphasize the universal and unified character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and reaffirm UNCLOS' important role in setting out the legal framework that governs all activities in the ocean and the seas. We reiterate that the award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal on 12 July 2016 is a significant milestone, legally binding upon the parties, and a useful basis for peacefully resolving disputes. We reaffirm the need to uphold the principle of the UN Charter on peaceful settlement of disputes.

8. China

We, the G7 members, aim for constructive cooperation with China, where possible and in our interest, in particular on global challenges like peace and security, global health, the climate and biodiversity crisis and the conservation of natural resources. These challenges can only be tackled successfully through cooperation within the rules-based international order.

We remind China of the need to uphold the principles of the UN Charter on peaceful settlement of disputes and to abstain from threats, coercion, intimidation, or the use of force. We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion.

We reaffirm the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and call for the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues. There is no change in the basic positions of G7 members on Taiwan, including stated one China policies.

We will continue to raise our concerns with China on its reported human rights violations and abuses, including in Xinjiang and Tibet. We reiterate

our concerns over the continued erosion of Hong Kong's rights, freedoms and autonomy, and call on China to act in accordance with its international commitments and legal obligations.

We also call on China to treat foreign diplomats in accordance with its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

9. Central Asia

We, the G7 members, discussed the multiple challenges facing the five Central Asian countries, ranging from the economic and geopolitical consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, to regional security issues and disputes, to climate change. We are committed to strengthening our cooperation with Central Asian countries and working with their governments and people on socio-economic development, respect for human rights, implementation of domestic and institutional reforms, as well as regional security. We will also work together to foster connectivity, transportation, and trade links.

10. Africa

We, the G7 members, underscore the geopolitical and strategic importance of the African continent. Close cooperation with our African partners remains vital. Africa is particularly affected by multiple global crises such as the climate crisis, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity and malnutrition, energy insecurity, the socio-economic consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine, democratic backsliding, and massive global economic headwinds. Our cooperation with and support for Africa are guided by the objectives of the AU Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the principles of the UN Charter. We will continue to work with our African partners to build resilient and sustainable agri-food and energy systems, mitigate climate change, and address disinformation.

We remain committed to investing in quality infrastructure in Africa based on the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, including through the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment. We will continue to support regional manufacturing capacity for vaccines and other essential medical products supported by sustainable markets.

We are deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation, including humanitarian access, in the Sahel. We are appalled by the violations and abuses of human rights against civilian populations, including those committed by terrorist groups and the Russia-affiliated Wagner Group forces in Mali. We call for accountability of all those responsible for human rights violations or abuses. We express our concern over the growing presence of Russian affiliated forces in Mali and elsewhere on the continent and their potentially destabilizing impact. We call for timely preparation of free and fair elections and comprehensive implementation of the transition charters in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea,

and reaffirm our support to the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union in this regard. We condemn the violence against protestors in Chad and the failure of that transitional government to adhere to African Union principles and communiques. We reiterate our strong commitment to support the populations of the Sahel countries, especially youth, and emphasize the need to work with people and governments of the littoral states in the Gulf of Guinea to strengthen their resilience to the threat of terrorism in a comprehensive way.

We remain concerned about peace and security in the Horn of Africa and the acute humanitarian needs, including famine in Somalia, and which disproportionately impact women and girls. We will work with the countries, institutions and civil society in the region to address these challenges. We welcome the announcement of the agreement reached by the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) brokered by the African Union, South Africa and Kenya, to settle the conflict in northern Ethiopia. We urge the Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF to fully honor and implement this commitment. Human rights violations, atrocities and abuses must cease immediately. Perpetrators of these violations and abuses must be held to account; survivors and victims must obtain justice.

We commend Somalia on the election of a new government and call for a concerted international effort to support President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's reform priorities and the fight against al-Shabaab. We firmly condemn the heinous attack by al-Shabaab on civilians on 29 October and express our heart-felt condolences to the families of the victims. More than one year after the military takeover in Sudan, we continue to urge the military to respect the commitment they made to withdraw from politics and maintain our call for a return to a civilian-led government based on broad support from the Sudanese people.

We are increasingly concerned by the ongoing, escalating violence and conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as well as regional tensions in the Great Lakes. We urge restraint by the M23 armed movement and call for a cessation of its current offensive. We welcome recent steps taken towards more stability in the region, including through talks with armed groups in the framework of the "EAC DRC Peace Process" and regional mediation by Angola. We call on all involved to participate in these efforts in good faith and to act in accordance with international law. We are convinced that only broad, multi-sectoral and cross-border cooperation can bring about lasting stability in the region.

11. Haiti

We express our deep concern at the worsening humanitarian situation in Haiti, particularly the increased spread of cholera and the deepening food and fuel crisis. We condemn the violence perpetrated by armed groups and those who support them. They are terrorizing and holding the population hostage. We reiterate our commitment to support all efforts to quickly resolve the current security and humanitarian crisis. We call on all stakeholders in Haiti to restore order and security and to allow the delivery of the aid

required to meet the urgent needs of the population. We commend the UNSC for adopting a sanctions regime on 21 October. We reiterate the importance of establishing the conditions necessary to allow for free and fair elections.