

## Committing to ensure long-term stability and security in DRC

Thank you, Mr President, and let me begin by thanking SRSG Zerrougui for her briefing today. I'd like to commend the continuation of MONUSCO's vital operations despite the complex and difficult operating environment and the continued challenges posed by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

In particular, we welcome the mission's success in Pinga. Its effective intervention in a volatile situation, following the split of the NDC-R armed group, protected those displaced by violence and ensure they could receive humanitarian assistance.

But I want to reiterate the need for vigilance in the Mission's delivery of its mandate. The Beni prison break stands out and MONUSCO should consider if and how it could have been prevented with a more proactive approach and learn any lessons from it.

And in this vein, we call for the prompt implementation of mandated reforms within MONUSCO and its Force Intervention Brigade. Civilian loss of life remains unacceptably high in the east, in particular around Beni, due to attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces. The lack of progress on mandated reforms to the Force Intervention Brigade, such as the incorporation of additional Quick Reaction Forces, is hindering the Mission's efforts to tackle this threat. These reforms are key to enhancing the performance of the Mission.

We welcome the joint transition strategy developed by MONUSCO in collaboration with the Government of the DRC. We would like to see this go further, however, in detailing how transition would be taken forward, how it will be measured against clear benchmarks, and how the Mission will work with the UN Country Team and other development actors on the handover of tasks, with humanitarian actors and with the Government of the DRC. At the same time, we call on the Government to participate actively in planning MONUSCO's eventual exit: national ownership is crucial in ensuring that the exit allows for sustainable stability and development.

Mr President, as the DRC's second largest bilateral aid donor, the United Kingdom remains committed to ensuring long-term stability and security in eastern DRC. Tackling armed groups remains a major challenge to this. We are therefore pleased to see progress on a new approach to Community-focused Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR-C) and call on the Government of the DRC to support this momentum by developing a comprehensive national strategy.

Mr President, we remain deeply troubled by the human rights situation in the DRC, and we condemn the fact that security forces continue to commit almost half of all reported human rights violations in the country. This remains a major impediment to significant progress on Security Sector Reform, and I

call on the Government of the DRC to ensure accountability.

Finally, we would like to outline our concern over the ongoing political tensions in the DRC. It is vitally important that progress on stability and prosperity is protected and maintained, and that all political actors enable the delivery of crucial democratic and governance reforms for the benefit of the Congolese people.

Thank you, Mr President.

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## [UK welcomes Honduras' participation in the Climate Ambition Summit](#)

World news story

Honduras is joining several countries around the world to call for actions against climate change in the fifth anniversary of the historic Paris Agreement.



The UK is co-hosting the “virtual” Climate Ambition Summit on Saturday 12 December, which will coincide with the fifth anniversary of the historic Paris Agreement. The summit calls on countries around the world to submit ambitious NDCs or other climate plans as we head towards the UN COP26 climate talks, which the UK Government is hosting in Glasgow next year.

President Juan Orlando Hernández will speak on behalf of Honduras outlining internal commitments to tackle climate change and underlying the country’s high vulnerability to extreme weather, as experienced recently with the impact of two hurricanes. Each party to the Paris Agreement determines what domestic action it will take and communicates it in a Nationally Determined Contribution –NDC-.

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement goal, set at COP21 in 2015, to hold the global temperature rise to well below two degrees and pursue best

efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. Together, these plans will determine whether the world will achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

The UK is leading the way in tackling climate change globally by announcing ambitious new emissions target, setting the UK on the path to net zero by 2050. The new plan aims for at least 68% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade, compared to 1990 levels. The UK's path to meeting this target is backed by a Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, which will create and support up to 250,000 British jobs by 2030.

The designated British Ambassador to Honduras, Nick Whittingham, said:

I'm deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and destruction caused by the hurricanes. We want to work together with Honduras ahead of the COP26, highlighting the need for a global commitment to tackle climate change, but also by creating jobs and prosperity at the same time.

You can follow the 2020 Climate Ambition Summit [here](#).

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## [UK welcomes Guatemala's participation in the Climate Ambition Summit](#)

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President Alejandro Giammattei will speak on behalf of Guatemala outlining internal commitments to tackle climate change and underlying the country’s high vulnerability to extreme weather, as experienced recently with the impact of two hurricanes. Each party to the Paris Agreement determines what domestic action it will take and communicates it in a Nationally Determined Contribution –NDC-.

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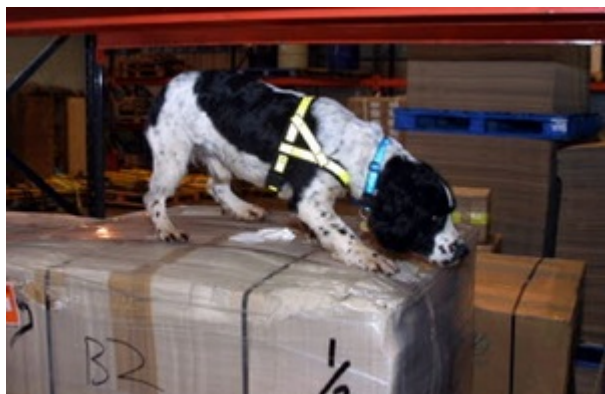
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**[Animal medicine seizure notice: Parcel addressed to Bordon, Hampshire](#)**

News story

Details of a seizure notice served following a parcel addressed to premises in Bordon, Hampshire stopped by Border Force at Heathrow Airport.



The following veterinary medicines were detained and subsequently seized at Border Force, Heathrow Airport following an attempt to import.

This parcel was addressed to residential premises in Bordon, Hampshire and was shipped from Thailand. The parcel contained:

- 2 bottles of Synulox ready to use injection (40ml)
- 1 bottle of Oxytocin Tec 20 (100ml)

These products are non-UK veterinary medicines and are labelled for use in both companion and food producing animals.

These medicines were seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013.

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## [Education Secretary makes key children's sector appointments](#)

The Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has named Dame Rachel de Souza as his preferred candidate to be the next Children's Commissioner for England, following approval by the Prime Minister.

Dame Rachel de Souza will now go on to attend a pre-appointment hearing before the Education Select Committee, on a date to be confirmed by the Committee.

Mr Williamson has also appointed Annie Hudson as the new Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, a key oversight role in children's social care.

The independent panel of experts was established in July 2018 to review serious child safeguarding incidents, when children have died or suffered serious harm, or where abuse or neglect is suspected. Ms Hudson will take over from Interim Chair Karen Manners QPM, whose appointment ends on 24 December.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

It is more important than ever before to have experienced and dedicated colleagues working with us in a shared ambition to protect and defend the most vulnerable children.

Annie Hudson's impressive and proven leadership in children's services makes her best placed to drive the important work of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

I look forward to finalising the appointment of Dame Rachel de Souza as the next Children's Commissioner, where she will bring her considerable experience of raising outcomes for every child to this essential role.

I am grateful to Anne Longfield and Karen Manners for their service, acting as a champion for the children in this country who need the most support.

The Children's Commissioner serves a six year term and current Commissioner Anne Longfield OBE will continue in her role until 28 February 2021.

Dame Rachel de Souza is currently the Chief Executive of the Inspiration Trust – a multi-academy trust of 14 academies based in Norfolk and north Suffolk, which aims to turnaround poorly performing schools. She was appointed a Dame in the New Year's Honours in 2014 for her services to Education.

Following her pre-appointment hearing, the Education Select Committee will publish their recommendations, which the Education Secretary will consider before deciding whether to finalise the appointment.

Formerly Director of Children's Services at both Lambeth Borough Council in London and Bristol City Council, Ms Hudson is an experienced children's services leader. She also comes with a wealth of experience on several national boards, including as a member of the What Works Centre for Children Social Care advisory board and as a trustee at The Social Care Institute for Excellence and Oxfam GB.

Incoming Chair of the Panel, Annie Hudson, said:

I feel immensely privileged and excited to have been appointed to the role of Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. I want to do all that I can to make sure that the Panel's work has

a very clear and positive impact on safeguarding practice and, most crucially, on the lives of children, young people, and their families.

Anne Longfield OBE will continue in her role as the Children's Commissioner for England until 28 February 2021.