

# United Kingdom-Colombia Trade Dialogue: A new relationship for a new world

World news story

Minister Jayawardena met with Minister José Manuel Restrepo, Minister of Commerce, Tourism and Industry in Colombia, for the first UK-Colombia Trade Dialogue.



1. Trade ministers from the United Kingdom and Colombia set out this week a new chapter in our historically close relationship.
2. In a time of unprecedented challenges, we agreed to work together to make sure that free and fair trade between our two sovereign nations secures a green and resilient recovery and the future prosperity and opportunity all our people deserve.
3. We highlighted the importance of increasing trade and investment flows through collaboration in modernising markets, exchanging regulatory and technical expertise, and encouraging business to seek opportunities to enhance and diversify the goods and services available to our people.
4. We welcomed the progress we've made so far, including signing the United Kingdom-Andean Free Trade Agreement, which will give British and Colombian business the ability to trade and grow in liberalised and equitable markets. We agreed work to make sure that the benefits of this agreement help to open opportunities for producers, consumers and businesses – large and small.
5. We asked our experts to continue to work together to increase bilateral trade and investment, at pace, in the sectors that are the key to a

sustainable and prosperous future:

- Clean Energy as means of securing a sustainable and climate friendly recovery. Building on our bilateral Partnership for Sustainable Growth signed by President Duque in London one year ago, and attracting investors in both markets, the United Kingdom and Colombia are committed to greener, cleaner approach to the global recovery from the Covid crisis.
  - Agri-foods: improve sustainability, access, productivity, and traceability to increase trade and consumer choice and reward good stewardship and quality production in this critically important sector for the Colombian economy.
  - Technology and Creative Industries, to help our people access the most innovative goods and services, leveraging the talent and creativity of both countries, and benefit from the dynamism of our creative economies.
  - Financial services: we want to use the latest technologies and products to support SMEs, drive innovation through open banking, strengthen capital markets, and increase the use of green finance to support a sustainable and dynamic future economy.
  - Life sciences: collaborating on regulation and innovative health technology to increase collaboration amongst businesses in both countries to get the best health care outcomes for our people.
  - Infrastructure: we want to make both countries more attractive to investors through transparent, well-structured and sustainable infrastructure projects, and we want to increase the active participation of our companies in one another's infrastructure markets.
6. We acknowledged the already energetic collaboration between our ministries, trade and investment promotion agencies, embassies, and bilateral chambers of commerce that have ensured a unique ecosystem focused on increasing trade and investment between both countries, with successful activities such as the Colombia Investment Roadshow that concluded today. This ecosystem provides a very solid footing to implement the agreements we have reached today.
  7. We particularly welcomed today's signing of a memorandum of understanding between NICE and IETS. We want this agreement to drive more effective incorporation of new technologies into health systems. We are confident that this collaboration will increase trade flows between our two countries, as well as attracting more British investment into

Colombia.

8. We hope that this model of collaboration can be mirrored in other key sectors as we move forward together towards a commercial future based on technology, innovation and trade.
9. Finally, we agreed to work together on the global stage to make the case for free trade and make sure that its benefits continue to be shared widely. We committed to cooperate in helping make global trade institutions fit for 21st Century challenges, charting a course for a sustainable, fair and prosperous future for all our people.

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## [Trade and Agriculture Commission membership announced](#)

Retailers, farming unions, consumer, hospitality and environmental bodies from across the UK have been named as members of the Government's new Trade and Agriculture Commission.

It will be chaired by food safety expert Tim Smith, a former Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency and Tesco Group Technical Director.

The English, Scottish and Welsh branches of the National Farmers Union (NFU) are all represented, as are the Ulster Farmers Union and the Farmers' Union of Wales. Other members include the British Retail Consortium, UK Hospitality, and the Food and Drink Federation.

It will report directly to International Trade Secretary Liz Truss, advising on:

- Trade policies the Government should adopt to secure opportunities for UK farmers, while ensuring the sector remains competitive and that animal welfare and environmental standards in food production are not undermined.
- Advancing and protecting British consumer interests and those of developing countries.
- How the UK engages the WTO to build a coalition that helps advance higher animal welfare standards across the world.
- Developing trade policy that identifies and opens up new export opportunities for the UK agricultural industry – in particular for SMEs – and that benefits the UK economy as a whole.

The scope of the Commission was agreed after close consultation between farming unions, the Department for International Trade and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It will be set up for six months and

submit an advisory report at the end of its work which will be presented to Parliament by the Department for International Trade.

International Trade Secretary, Liz Truss, said:

My officials and I are working round the clock to ensure that any trade deal we strike brings the very best opportunities to the UK's farming community.

We recognise the importance of engaging with the agriculture industry and seeking expert advice, which is why we have set up the Commission.

We are putting British farming first and giving our producers the best opportunity to export their world class food abroad and grow their businesses. Our high food and animal welfare standards won't be compromised.

George Eustice, Environment Secretary said:

We have been consistently clear that we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards in all of our trade negotiations.

The Agriculture and Trade Commission will ensure that the UK's agricultural industry, our support for farmers and our commitment to high welfare standards are maintained. This Government will work hard to ensure any future trade deals are in their best interests and will prioritise both food production and our world-leading environmental targets.

The agriculture and food industries are our largest manufacturing sectors employing more than 4 million people and contributing £120 billion to our economy. The new Commission will play a crucial part advising on how trade policy can create further growth and stimulate this critical pillar of our economy.

Chair of the Agriculture and Trade Commission, Tim Smith, said;

The trade decisions the Government is making now will shape the future not just of British food and farming, but the whole country, so it is important that the voices of industry and the British public are heard.

This Commission will bring a clear-eyed perspective on what is fair and works for consumers, farmers, food producers and animals. I am delighted to chair it, and look forward to independently advising the Government on how trade policy can both protect and advance the

interests of British farming and the UK as a whole.

President of the NFU, Minette Batters, said;

Today's announcement (regarding the Trade and Agriculture Commission) is a hugely important development in ensuring UK farming's high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection are not undermined in future trade deals. It addresses a crucial element of a much broader challenge in ensuring the UK's trade policy delivers a prosperous and sustainable future for UK agriculture. This means securing trade deals that work for UK farmers and consumers, as well as our farmed animals and our environment, and we will continue to work with Parliamentarians so that they have proper oversight of our trade policy.

All of this will be underpinned by the important work of the Trade and Agriculture Commission in the months ahead, and the NFU stands ready to contribute its technical expertise so that the Commission can do this job as quickly and robustly as possible. The role of the independent Chair will be critical, and we look forward to working with him in the weeks ahead to ensure the Commission meets the expectations and ambitions of all the consumers, campaigners and farmers who have demonstrated over recent months how important this issue is.

Kate Nicholls, CEO of UK Hospitality, said;

Tourism is our third largest export earner and eating out is a vital component of that, so it is critical that needs and concerns of the hospitality supply chain are reflected in the trade deals being negotiated. That is why I am so pleased to be involved in the new Trade and Agriculture Commission.

Our dynamic hospitality sector is rightly regarded as one of the best in the world, in part due to the fantastic quality of our food. Ensuring access to high quality food at a reasonable price will be key to keeping this up and ensuring hospitality can play a central role in the economic recovery.

Andrew McCornick President of NFU Scotland said:

As the UK sets its own trade policy this is a moment in time that will shape Scottish farming for generations to come. The Commission has the potential to set a roadmap for UK trade policy that will allow farming to grow and thrive across the UK by opening up new markets but also ensure that our production standards are front and centre of all new trade deals. For NFUS ensuring that production

standards are taken into account in trade is absolutely critical.

John Davies, President of NFU Cymru, said:

We have consistently argued for the establishment of a trade and agriculture commission at what is a crucial time for British agriculture and as such we fully welcome today's announcement by Secretary of State Truss. We are determined to play a full role within the commission in order to ensure UK farming's high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection are not undermined in future trade deals.

Ivor Ferguson, President of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU):

The Government's recent announcement of the establishment of this Commission recognises the importance of addressing the challenges of protecting our world leading environmental, animal welfare and food production standards. The UFU now have direct involvement in this Commission to ensure that the dedication of Northern Ireland's farmers, who take pride in upholding the UK's high-production standards and producing quality food for the nation, is not undermined in future trade deals.

Chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-fed beef are illegal in the UK. Any changes would need to be approved by Parliament. This Government will not compromise UK:

- High environmental protection
- Animal welfare
- Food safety standards

Members include:

- Ex-Tesco Tech Director/FSA – Tim Smith (Chair)
- NFU England – Nick von Westenholz
- NFU Scotland – Andrew McCornick
- NFU Cymru – John Davies
- Ulster Farmers Union – Victor Chestnutt
- The Farmers Union of Wales – Glyn Roberts
- Lamb Farmer – Rob Hodgkins
- Competere – Shanker Singham
- Former Chief Veterinary Officer – Nigel Gibbens
- British Retail Consortium – Andrew Opie
- Former Trade Minister – Lord Price
- Trade Out Of Poverty – Tom Pengelly
- Former Trade Minister and Agriculture Minister for New Zealand – Sir Lockwood Smith
- UKHospitality – Kate Nicholls

- Food and Drink Federation – Ian Wright CBE
  - LEAF – Caroline Drummond
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## [HM The Queen recognises Nova Scotian volunteer with Commonwealth Points of Light award](#)

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has today recognised Rebeccah Raphael, representing Canada, as the 147th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of her exceptional voluntary service supporting the educational needs of young people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

His Honour The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and the UK High Commissioner to Canada, Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque conducted a virtual ceremony in which they presented the award to Rebeccah. A video of the full ceremony can be found [here](#).

Rebeccah is the founder of [‘The Halifax Helpers’](#), a free online-tutoring service providing educational support to students in Nova Scotia during the Covid-19 pandemic. Under Rebeccah’s leadership, the group has grown to 50 tutors, hosting 300 sessions a week in English, French, maths, science, and music. Rebeccah is planning to continue the project beyond the pandemic, expanding to students outside Nova Scotia.

As part of the legacy of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London 2018, Her Majesty The Queen – as Head of the Commonwealth – is thanking inspirational volunteers across the 54 Commonwealth nations for the difference they are making in their communities and beyond, by recognising one volunteer from each Commonwealth country every week. By sharing these stories of service, the Commonwealth Points of Light awards celebrate inspirational acts of volunteering across the Commonwealth and help inspire others to make their own contribution to tackling some of the greatest social challenges of our time, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque, UK High Commissioner to Canada, said:

Rebeccah richly deserves this award for her exceptional work to support students during very difficult times. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, she has inspired us all by stepping up to ensure students have access to the learning support they need from the safety of their own homes. Her work will help to ensure that no student is disadvantaged, or loses out on opportunities in the future because of the pandemic. ‘Halifax Helpers’ is a fantastic initiative, and a great example of what young people can contribute

to society in even the most difficult circumstances. I am delighted that her work has been recognised by Her Majesty the Queen.

His Honour The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, said:

I am delighted to participate in the Commonwealth Points of Light Award presentation to the founder of 'The Halifax Helpers', Rebeccah Raphael. During the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, she chose not to sit-out the period of isolation and social distancing and she established a wonderful online tutoring program that has made a difference in her community. 'The Halifax Helpers' group of volunteers has led to elementary and junior high school students receiving educational support during uncertain times when schools were closed. Rebeccah's leadership is indeed inspiring and truly reflects the intention of the Award that was created by Her Majesty The Queen.

Rebeccah Raphael said:

I am so honoured to be receiving this award which has been given to many inspiring people before me. Working with the volunteers at 'The Halifax Helpers' has shown me how much we can accomplish with passion, drive and kindness. The youth who make up our team are some of the most dedicated and genuine folks out there. I'm incredibly proud of the way together we've maximized our impact in our community and beyond. The Commonwealth is a diverse community of 54 nations that work together to promote prosperity, democracy and peace. The Heads of Government meeting brought together leaders from all the 54 Member countries to reaffirm common values, address shared global challenges and agree how to work to create a better future for all citizens, especially young people. Voluntary service is a vital part of this agenda, which is why Her Majesty The Queen has chosen to recognise outstanding volunteers across the Commonwealth in this special way.

Please see Rebeccah's recognition on the Commonwealth Points of Light website [here](#).

## **Further Information**

### **About the Commonwealth Points of Light award**

1. The Points of Light awards recognise outstanding volunteers every day of the week – people whose service is making a difference in their communities and whose story can inspire others to creative innovative solutions to social challenges in their own communities and beyond.



2. Points of Light began in America under President George H. W. Bush and today over 6,000 US Points of Light have been recognised. The scheme has the support of all living US Presidents.
3. Since 2014 the UK Prime Minister has been recognising a daily Point of Light from the UK, with over 1,200 volunteers now recognised.
4. Commonwealth Points of Light is a continuation of this programme with a special series of awards recognising inspirational volunteers throughout the Commonwealth, coinciding with the UK being the Commonwealth's Chair-in-Office of for the next two years. One volunteer from each of the 53 Commonwealth countries was recognised in the days leading up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April 2018. Following the success of this programme, Her Majesty The Queen decided to continue this work and award one volunteer from each Commonwealth country every week.
5. More information, including details of other Commonwealth Points of Light recipients, can be found on the website: [www.pointsoflight.gov.uk](http://www.pointsoflight.gov.uk)

## **About the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**

In April 2018 the UK hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, where leaders from across the Commonwealth gathered in London and Windsor. With the theme of 'Towards a Common Future' they will work to create a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fair future for the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion citizens, particularly its young people.

For further information visit [www.chogm2018.org.uk](http://www.chogm2018.org.uk) or follow on Twitter [@commonwealth18](https://twitter.com/commonwealth18).

## **About the UK High Commission in Canada:**

The British High Commission in Ottawa, is the UK government's main diplomatic mission in Canada. Along with Consulates-General in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, we work closely with the Canadian government and partners across the country to develop and maintain a wide range of substantive partnerships of real value to both countries. These partnerships cover business, defence, climate change, science and innovation, education, and culture.

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# Social Mobility Commission: interim chairs appointment

News story

Sandra Wallace and Steven Cooper appointed as interim chairs of the Social Mobility Commission.



Sandra Wallace and Steven Cooper were appointed as interim chairs of the Social Mobility Commission (SMC) on a jobshare basis from today (10 July 2020). The appointment will ensure accountability and strong leadership are maintained until the conclusion of an open recruitment process to appoint a substantive chair following the resignation of Martina Millburn on 29 April 2020.

Sandra and Steven will continue the work of the SMC as we look to a period of national recovery, working collaboratively on shaping the government's commitment to levelling up across all areas of the United Kingdom.

Sandra is a current SMC commissioner and is a Managing Partner UK and Joint Managing Director Europe at DLA Piper. She is one of the most senior female lawyers in the UK and has previously headed DLA Piper's UK Employment group. The Powerlist 2020 recognised Sandra as one of the top 100 most influential black people in Britain.

Steven is a current SMC commissioner and is chief executive officer (CEO) at C.Hoare & Co. He has 32 years' banking experience, most recently as CEO of Barclaycard Business. He was CEO of personal banking at Barclays for both the UK and Europe and prior to this, CEO Business Banking. Steven sits on several advisory boards. He is a non-executive director at Robert Walters plc and the Financial Services Compensations Scheme and is an Alumnus of Harvard Business School.

The appointment was made by exception without competition under paragraph 3.3 of the Governance Code on Public Appointments, following consultation with the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

This interim appointment will not exceed 9 months. It will involve a commitment to attend SMC meetings, sub-committee meetings and other ad-hoc meetings as required.

Remuneration is £350 per day for 2.5 days per month for each interim chair.

Neither Sandra or Steven have declared any conflicts of interest or political activity.

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## [Reflecting on the genocide in Srebrenica, 25 years on](#)

Good morning. The United Kingdom is honoured to co-sponsor this event in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. I would like to begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly, the Special Advisor of the Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide, and the Director of the War Childhood Museum for their insightful briefings today.

Tomorrow, as we mark the 25th Anniversary of the genocide, the world will mourn the victims of Srebrenica. While we remember those who lost their lives, our thoughts are also with their families, who have endured unimaginable suffering. But we also think of their strength and bravery in the fight for justice. The UK will continue to stand with them.

Just 50 years after the horrors of the Holocaust, and 50 years after the founding of the UN, whose purpose it was to stop such heinous acts ever happening again, our fellow Europeans endured a genocide. Over 8,000 mainly Muslim men and boys lost their lives and tens of thousands more were forcibly expelled from their homes. We owe it to the victims and their families always to remember what happened in Srebrenica. We must reflect and learn from these events, to ensure similar crimes never happen again. On the 15th anniversary of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), the commitment endorsed by all UN Members States in 2005 to protect populations from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing, the lessons for the UN remain as relevant today as they were 25 years ago.

In this year of important anniversaries we must remember victims on all sides of the conflicts of the 1990s. People from across the region are still living in divided communities, they are still missing loved ones, and they are still pursuing justice.

It is gravely concerning that revisionist rhetoric is still so prevalent. Individuals often distort established facts, including through the denial of

war crimes and other atrocity crimes, for their own gain. We owe it to the victims to be clear: what took place at Srebrenica was a genocide, the UK stands by the verdicts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and International Court of Justice in this definition.

Overcoming the legacies of the past is vital for countries in the region to achieve their Euro-Atlantic ambitions. It was a pivotal moment when Leaders at the Western Balkans Summit in London in 2018 signed three landmark joint declarations, underlining the importance of identifying the missing, bringing perpetrators to justice, rejecting hate speech and the glorification of war criminals while promoting a culture of respect for and solidarity with all victims. Western Balkans leaders also agreed that verdicts from international and domestic courts must be respected. The UK is proud to support the reconciliation agenda in the Western Balkans, politically and practically, and will continue to do so.

There are also lessons for us, as the UN family. We should mark here the important role the UN has played through the ICTY and its Residual Mechanism, which continues the ICTY's legacy by fighting to end impunity. The verdicts of genocide against Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic showed that the international justice can succeed, even if it takes time, in delivering justice. And as we also heard from Amina Mohammed, this justice is critical for the victims' closure, on both the individual and national level.

And as we pause to reflect and learn from the events of Srebrenica, we are reminded of the necessity to resource and mandate peacekeeping missions effectively to ensure such loss of life never occurs again.

The scars of Srebrenica will always be present. We must support those who seek to heal the wounds of the past. We owe it to all those who lost their lives in the conflicts to work together to help build a safe and prosperous future for all.

Thank you.