

# UN's transition out of Haiti

Thank you, Mr President, and thank you, Under-Secretary-General Lacroix for the briefing. And I'd like to join others in welcoming the Peruvian Foreign Minister back amongst us today.

Mr President, today marks a milestone for the United Nations' engagement in Haiti: the end of UN peacekeeping and a fundamental reconfiguration of UN assistance. So I would like to start by commending the efforts of UN personnel who have worked to support Haiti and the Haitian people and, of course, the UN's Haitian partners over the last 15 years. With MINUJUSTH support, the Haitian National Police has assumed sole responsibility for the provision of security and important benchmarks have been met with regard to pre-trial detention and the institutionalisation of human rights instruments.

However, there has also been a lack of progress in critical areas, including in tackling impunity and rolling out reforms in the justice sector. Just two of the 133 priority actions in the 2017-2021 Strategic Development Plan on Policing have been completed to date. More broadly, the UK, like others around the table this morning, is acutely aware that the political, security and economic situation in Haiti today is highly volatile. The continuing political crisis gives serious cause for concern and I would like to reiterate the UK's call to all parties to resolve their differences peacefully.

Mr President, MINUJUSTH and its predecessor, MINUSTAH, made important contributions in Haiti but external security assistance and technical supports are not capable on their own of resolving the political and governance problems undermining Haiti's stability. The establishment of BINUH now provides an opportunity for Haiti and the UN to embark on a fundamentally new relationship – one that focuses on national ownership, political engagement and the forging of strong partnerships for stability and development in Haiti.

There are three priorities that I would like to highlight in particular:

Firstly, immediate progress towards an inclusive national dialogue is an essential first step toward political stability. As our concrete measures to address impunity, corruption and human rights violations, I urge the Haitian leadership to be bold in taking such steps. Secondly, with support from BINUH, Haiti and its partners should continue to invest in the development of the Haitian National Police at this critical time. And thirdly, I would urge further momentum on human rights issues, including justice for victims, in anticipation of Haiti's Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in 2021.

Mr President, with regard to the transition process from MINUJUSTH to BINUH, I would like to welcome the UN's progress with the first two phases of its reconfiguration. Given its importance in setting the initial direction of the mission, as well as the working relationship between BINUH and the UN country

team, it is vital that the third phase is completed in a timely and effective manner. Co-location of the UN entities should help to facilitate this.

The UK also welcomes the use of distinct corps and contextual benchmarks of BINUH, as you'll see in the bottom left-hand corner of the handout, which I join others in commending. We urge that the indicator targets and any revisions or additions to the current benchmarks should not only be realistic and robust, but also nationally owned.

Mr President, I would like to conclude by thanking SRS La Lime and her team for their work in this new generation of Haitian-UN cooperation. I'd like to urge all actors to work together in search of bold and creative solutions to Haiti's challenges.

Thank you.

---

## [Waste businesses encouraged to sign up for 'Brexit ready' events](#)

Import and export waste businesses are invited to attend one of a series of free workshops held by Defra to help prepare for Brexit.

The Government's priority is to deliver Brexit by the 31st October and the preference is to leave with a negotiated deal but it is the job of a responsible Government to ensure the UK is ready for any outcome.

In a no deal scenario, waste operators will be subject to new requirements and must:

- comply with new EU Customs guidelines required for all UK imports and exports
- complete new legal requirements to inform the EU customs office of entry and exit
- ensure that waste carriers are registered to carry waste in the EU Member State
- review contingency plans in case of disruption at ports in a no deal scenario

The workshops will include presentations from [Defra](#), [HMRC](#) and the [Environment Agency](#) on new guidelines, expected changes and guidance to minimise operational impact. There will also a chance for businesses to ask questions.

The first of five events will take place in [Bristol](#) next Monday 21 October. The remaining workshops will be held in [Tunbridge Wells](#) (Wednesday 23 October), [Liverpool](#) (Friday 25 October), [York](#) (Monday 28 October), and [Birmingham](#) (Tuesday 29 October).

To register, click on the links above, or select the event held in the city of your choice [at this external link](#).

Further information on waste import/export contingency plans is available in the [guidance section on GOV.UK](#).

---

## [Notice of false claims and misleading information](#)



The Government Legal Department has been made aware of a number of derogatory articles published online which discuss legal action taken by GLD for a client. The articles also identify, by name, one of our lawyers, Ms Zara Broadley-Johns.

In keeping with government policy GLD will not comment on the ongoing proceedings but wish to make it clear that the claims made in the articles about Ms Broadley-Johns have no basis whatsoever and are false and abusive.

The likely source of the articles is an individual who has been subject to numerous civil restraint orders imposed by the courts for persistently issuing court applications which judges have found to be totally without merit.

GLD is an outstanding legal organisation, committed to the highest standards of service and professionalism that wholly supports its trusted employees.

Published 15 October 2019

---

# Housing Minister hails first time buyer numbers – now at 12 year high

- Data reveals the number of first time buyers has hit the highest monthly total since August 2007
- New Government research shows 87% of public would prefer to buy rather than rent
- Public also remains supportive of house building in their areas to help address housing shortage

The Housing Minister has hailed the latest mortgage data published today (15 October 2019), which has revealed the number of first-time buyers getting a mortgage, and a foot on the property ladder, increasing to 35,010.

Representing the highest monthly total since August 2007, the figures show an unrelenting demand for home ownership from people who want to call a home their own.

The figures from UK Finance follow the Ministry of Housing's own research revealing 87% of the public would prefer to buy, rather than rent, a home.

It also found 57% of people support the building of new homes in their own community, up from 28% in 2010 – demonstrating a majority of the public remains pragmatic about how the shortage of new homes is addressed.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Esther McVey MP said:

It's welcome news that first-time buyers have reached a 12-year high.

This government is determined to open up the dream of home ownership – with more houses completed last year than in all but one of the last 31 years.

In August 2019 there were 35,010 first-time buyer mortgages completed. The previous high was in August 2007 when there were 35,070 new first-time buyer mortgages completed.

The government is supporting the delivery of new homes across all tenure types – whether that's council, social, private, to rent or buy – to ensure everyone's needs are met.

---

# New solar panels generate savings at Worthy Down

The panels have been installed as part of work being delivered by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) in partnership with Skanska and AECOM.

A total of 1,625 photovoltaic roof panels have been erected on four new buildings on the site of the new £300-million tri-service facility.

The panels, which will produce 413,307kWh/year of electricity annually, will save the base almost £58,000 per year. This saving is equivalent to powering 133 domestic properties for a year.

Image that shows the solar panels installed on the roof of the new buildings.  
DIO Crown Copyright 2019.

Matthew Richardson, DIO's Principal Project Manager, said:

Prior to the installation of the panels, the base did not have the capability for on-site electricity generation, so this is an exciting new addition.

The photovoltaic panels will not only deliver considerable savings to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), but also help preserve the planet's resources, so it's a win-win situation.

Paul Weale, Project Director for Skanska, added:

Skanska recently announced its commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions on its projects by 2045, including its supply chain. It's a core part of our whole approach to construction.

This initiative to install solar panels at Worthy Down, not only fulfils the DIO's requirement, but also demonstrates how being environmentally conscious and cost conscious can be entirely aligned.

The completion of the new facilities will see personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force all training at the site. Having all 3 services training at 1 site allows for the sharing of resources, technology and learning.

The work at Worthy Down is one part of a two-part scheme which forms Project Wellesley. The second part of the project is the development of a new community called Mindenhurst at the former Princess Royal Barracks in

Deepcut, Surrey. The project supports the MOD's continuing rationalisation of its estate.