

As Russia is forced into retreat, its brutality is laid bare: UK statement at UN Security Council

I will now make a statement in my capacity as the Representative of the United Kingdom.

President Zelenskyy, by video, Secretary-General, Colleagues,

The United Nations was created in the wake of a European war of aggression that laid waste to Europe and engulfed the world.

All of us who signed the UN Charter committed to ending the scourge of war, to fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of nations large and small, to justice, and respect for international law.

Yet now, we are facing another war of aggression in Europe.

We have heard today, again, the devastating impact of Russia's unilateral and illegal military action in Ukraine. Its impact on surrounding countries and the region, and on the security and prosperity of the wider world, as it seeks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- thousands killed
- millions displaced
- cities razed to the ground
- hospitals bombed
- citizens cut off from food, water and medicine
- blockaded sea ports and the rapid increase in wheat prices
- pressure on already stretched humanitarian resources

And now, as Russia is forced into retreat from areas around Kyiv, the brutality of the invasion is laid bare. We have all seen the horrific images from the towns of Bucha and Irpin of civilians deliberately killed in areas from which Russian forces have recently withdrawn – and the video we saw

earlier underlined that horror.

These acts, and other credible incidents, must be investigated as war crimes, and the UK fully supports the work of the International Criminal Court and the work of the Ukrainian Prosecutor General and other national prosecutors.

Colleagues, as we, and so many others, have said so many times, all of this could be stopped if the Russian Federation ended this war now.

I resume my function as President of the Council.

[PM meeting with Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo: 5 April 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo.



The Prime Minister met the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, at Downing Street today.

He welcomed the strength and depth of the partnership between the UK and Ghana, stretching across defence, trade and cultural ties.

Recognising the growing security threats in West Africa, the Prime Minister and President Akufo-Addo committed to strengthen our defence and security partnership, including in intelligence sharing and naval capabilities.

The leaders were united in condemnation of Russia's hostile invasion and attempted subjugation of Ukraine, agreeing on the importance of continued support to the Ukrainian people and diplomatic and economic pressure on the Kremlin.

They looked forward to further strengthening the cooperation between our two countries, and to meeting again in person at the upcoming Commonwealth Heads

of Government meeting.

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Half a million pounds of research funding set to boost understanding of veteran needs

Press release

The government has allocated £500,000 in grants to charities and research institutions for specialist support research and digital training for veterans.



More than £500,000 in grants for research projects into the experiences of veterans has been distributed to charities today, supporting specialist studies and digital training for ex-armed forces personnel.

The research projects will look at the experiences of female veterans, veterans from ethnic minorities and non UK ex-service personnel, and provide vital insight to ensure the UK Government is able to tailor support for these groups.

A grant has also been made to TechVets, a charity that supports service leavers and veterans into digital, technology and cybersecurity roles. The money will allow more veterans to benefit from specialist training and secure roles in the digital industry. This will place significantly more veterans across the UK into careers in cyber and technology.

Minister for the Cabinet Office The Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP said:

In the latest Veterans' Strategy Action Plan, we committed to

ensuring that our veterans can continue to enhance their careers throughout their working lives.

Our latest grant package to TechVets will provide bespoke training to former members of the armed forces interested in cyber roles, which builds on the training they receive while serving.

The grants form part of wider work within the Office for Veterans' Affairs, to ensure that all veterans receive equal access to dedicated support services. Undertaking new qualitative research to understand where female veterans seek support and identifying potential barriers to accessing that support was committed to in the latest Veterans' Strategy Action Plan.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty said:

In order to provide dedicated services to all who have bravely served the United Kingdom, we first must understand their experiences.

These grants will provide the government with vital information to shape bespoke services for veterans, and ensure that all our veterans receive equal access to high quality support services.

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[**AUKUS Leaders' Level Statement: 5 April 2022**](#)

Press release

Statement from the leaders of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) partnership.



Today, the leaders of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) partnership – Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, and President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. of the United States – assessed progress under AUKUS.

We reaffirmed our commitment to AUKUS and to a free and open Indo-Pacific. In light of Russia's unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful invasion of Ukraine, we reiterated our unwavering commitment to an international system that respects human rights, the rule of law, and the peaceful resolution of disputes free from coercion.

We are pleased with the progress in our trilateral programme for Australia to establish a conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability. We are fully committed to establishing a robust approach to sharing naval propulsion technology with Australia that strengthens the global non-proliferation regime.

We also committed today to commence new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities, as well as to expand information sharing and to deepen cooperation on defence innovation. These initiatives will add to our existing efforts to deepen cooperation on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities. As our work progresses on these and other critical defence and security capabilities, we will seek opportunities to engage allies and close partners.

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[Delivering Great Britain's energy security](#)

Hello. Thank you to my friend, colleague and senior fellow Chris Skidmore for inviting me today.

Chris and I once co-authored a little-known book together, 'Britannia Unchained'.

While this was drafted in a completely different era – before Brexit, net zero targets and COVID-19 – and the role of the state has invariably changed since...

...there is one lesson that is still true today: the need to unleash the power of competition, innovation, and private enterprise within a free market economy.

From offshore wind to battery technology, the private sector has developed and deployed incredible technology that will change our lives for the better.

The way to decarbonise isn't through a planned economy, but through the British way: science, innovation powered on by free enterprise.

We understand the power of our treasured free-market economy to leverage private capital and unleash Britain's unique entrepreneurial spirit to grow new industries.

This is how we will deliver net zero by 2050 – working in partnership with business, science, and academia.

However, there is a more immediate issue the international community is grappling with.

In light of rising global energy prices, provoked by surging demand after COVID-19 as well as Russia's criminal invasion of Ukraine, there is a renewed focus by national governments on energy security – and clean energy independence.

The wholesale price of gas on the European market has increased by 500% in recent months – so much so that almost every renewable technology is now cheaper.

If it isn't clear enough already: net zero is the solution to the global gas crisis, not the cause.

Expensive gas is the problem. Cheap, clean, homegrown energy is the solution.

Transforming our energy system is no longer just about hitting net zero targets and tacking climate change – as important as they are – it is also about national security.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine has focused the minds of the international community on the urgent need to diversify away from Russian oil and gas and generate more power domestically.

And even those countries that are not physically dependent on Russian hydrocarbons – like the United Kingdom – we are still vulnerable to prices that are dictated by global markets heavily influenced by Russia – ratcheting up costs for UK consumers.

For as long as we depend on oil and gas – wherever it is from – we are all vulnerable to Putin's malign influence on global markets.

To diminish Putin's malign influence, we not only need to phase out Russian fossil fuels, but also look to domestic sources of energy too.

And with gas prices at record highs, and the price of renewable energy plummeting, we need to accelerate our transition away from expensive gas.

This week, the UK government will set out a new Energy Security Strategy to

supercharge cheap renewables and new nuclear, while continuing support our North Sea oil and gas industry.

While international events give a new sense of urgency, the energy transition was already a priority for the UK.

We're not reinventing the wheel here.

The UK has always known that we need to decarbonise and generate more cheap, clean power at home to reduce our exposure to global gas markets we are unable to control.

We were the first major economy to legislate for net zero – a commitment Chris signed.

We've also cut CO2 emissions further and faster than any other G7 country – and expanded renewable energy generation by 500% this decade.

Thanks to our competitive – soon to be annual – renewable energy auctions, the price of supporting offshore wind has plummeted by 70%, while production has rocketed.

We are going to replicate this success in other areas...like solar, tidal and hydrogen – the new super-fuel of tomorrow.

Importantly, however, we also need a reliable source of low carbon baseload when the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow.

That has to be nuclear energy.

Most of Britain's nuclear fleet will be decommissioned this decade. We need to replace what we're losing and go further – from large-scale plants to Small Modular Reactors.

In this week's Energy Security Strategy, we'll reverse 30 years of drift and take the big decisions to generate more nuclear power.

However, the transition to clean, homegrown energy can't happen overnight. It remains the case that there will continue to be an ongoing demand for oil and gas over the coming decades while we transition to clean energy.

So in the meantime, we want to maximise domestic production in the North Sea production to protect jobs and reduce reliance on imports.

The Industrial Revolution began here in the UK before spreading to the US and the rest of the world.

We're on the cusp of another revolution...a green one. The countries that develop the tech of tomorrow will lead future global markets for decades to come.

If the West doesn't lead this global race, we will become even more exposed to forces we cannot control.

We would import even more energy and technology from other countries, and be vulnerable to their excessive price fluctuations.

Old industries that haven't innovated will disappear, jobs will be lost and the burden on the taxpayer will become excruciating.

We need to work together to lead this race for clean energy independence for our citizens.

So whether you're in Cambridge, Massachusetts or Cambridge, England...the question of how we meet our growing energy needs is a matter of great importance.

This transition will only be a success if bright people like yourselves take an interest in these issues.

So, thank you for listening today.