

Momentum for change is building around the UN: UK statement on reform of SC

Thank you President.

May I start by joining others in congratulating Ambassador Albanai of Kuwait and Ambassador Mlynár on their appointment as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform. Under their leadership, we look forward to engaging in and driving forward the IGN.

President,

Momentum for change is building around the UN. The world is not the same today as it was in 1946 when the Security Council first met, or as it was in 1965 when it was last expanded. The challenges we face today are more complex and more interconnected. Including threats to the Charter that bind us together, and its principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The way we respond must change too.

Our position is well known. The United Kingdom has long called for the expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

We support the creation of new permanent seats for India, Germany, Japan and Brazil, as well as permanent African representation on the Council.

We also support an expansion of the non-permanent category of membership, taking the Security Council's total membership to somewhere in the mid-twenties.

With these changes, the Council would be more representative of the world today. And, coupled with a renewed commitment to the UN Charter, it would be better able to respond decisively to threats to international peace and security.

President,

Since the General Assembly last met on this topic, we have seen the veto used egregiously in the Council, to prevent action that would have saved lives, and to censor criticism of Russia's unjust and illegal war in Ukraine.

We were proud therefore to co-sponsor the Veto Initiative that now enables this Assembly to hold vetoing powers to account.

For our own part, the United Kingdom has not exercised our right to use the veto since 1989. We prefer to persuade Council members of the merit of our positions to secure their support in the Council. As supporters of the Accountability Coherence and Transparency group Code of Conduct, we remain committed not to vote against a credible draft resolution to prevent or end a

mass atrocity, and we encourage all States to join us.

President,

We have a shared goal of reforming the Security Council. The upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiations are an opportunity for practical and focused discussions on how to make it a reality.

Text based negotiations would help all countries in this assembly to engage constructively on this important issue, and would help us make swifter progress.

I Thank you President.

[UK partners with Mexican beekeepers to help mitigate climate change](#)

The UK's Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) programme contributes to tackling climate change through the provision of UK expertise and knowhow. Since March 2021, the UK PACT Building Capacity for Beekeepers project in the states of Campeche, Yucatán and Quintana Roo has been addressing the consequences of deforestation, including a marked reduction in honey production. The initiative provides apiarists with training on how to increase honey harvests and preserve local biodiversity. Thus far, the project has supported over 600 beekeepers to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods, especially for women producers.

In southern Mexico, UKPACT helps beekeepers mitigate climate change.

In the municipality of Escarcega in Campeche, the project is re-introducing previously deforested tree species that produce the nectar and pollen, which bees require to produce honey. This is a long-term strategy to transform positively the landscape around the beekeeping communities. In addition, it will increase their honey output and help densify the region's flora. This will regenerate the natural ecosystems for the bees and help mitigate the effects of climate change. It will also strengthen the economy in the communities where apiculture remains one of the most important commercial activities.

In the state of Quintana Roo on the Caribbean coast, apiarists used to produce 300 kilos of honey with only ten beehives. Now, they require 50 beehives or more to produce that same volume, which translates to a substantial increase in capital and operating costs. This, in part, is due to the consequences of deforestation, such as warmer temperatures, an increase

in pests and damage to flowers. These changes to the environment demand that beekeepers provide greater care of the bee colonies. UK PACT is training them how to do exactly that.

The apiarists in these communities have never received technical formation. The training therefore provides a mix of theoretical and practical components covering from basic concepts through to advanced techniques in beekeeping. This includes; the latest procedures on queen bee production; elimination of pests through eco-friendly solutions; and colony nutrition based on special nourishment during extreme weather conditions. Thanks to this tailor made capacity building, the apiarists have doubled their honey production.

María Eugenia H. an apiarist from the Ejido Social community in Campeche said:

We especially enjoy getting opportunities to practice what we learn. This is very helpful. It is not the same as just listening and writing. By doing, we learn a lot more".

In southern Mexico, UKPACT helps beekeepers mitigate climate change.

The apiarists are also developing complementary skills such as woodworking to build their own beehives. The training has developed into a community building exercise that more clearly recognises and remunerates women for their productive roles in apiculture.

Key to the project's success was collaboration with government counterparts that facilitated access and support to the communities. Efrain Villanueva Arcos, former Minister of the Environment of the state of Quintana Roo shared:

This activity represents an opportunity for the honey producers to export and add value to their products. Above all, we want to convey the message that we have to take care of our rainforests because they promote the wellbeing of local families. This project that UK PACT has started is very important for us in the state of Quintana Roo.

Sayda Rodríguez Gomez, Secretary of Sustainable Development of the State of Yucatán stated:

UK PACT has provided support to understand that apiculture is a multidimensional production process. We are convinced that the next step is to develop a more sustainable value chain that benefit both people and the environment.

Going forward, this project will continue to strengthen the business and technical skills of the beekeeping communities. This partnership between the UK and Mexico will also help mitigate climate change and promote sustainable economic development in southern Mexico.

In southern Mexico, UKPACT helps beekeepers mitigate climate change.

[Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine: UK statement to the IAEA Board of Governors, November 2022](#)

Thank you, Chair. The United Kingdom would like to thank the Director General for adding this important item to the agenda and for his report on Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards in Ukraine.

Chair, the United Kingdom continues to condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked, illegal and senseless invasion of Ukraine, which is an egregious violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

Within the last 48 hours, we have witnessed further barbaric missile attacks by Russia on Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure. Russia is solely responsible for the nuclear safety and security issues in Ukraine and for putting at risk the safety of millions who would be affected by a nuclear incident.

Chair, the Director General's report before us today is another stark, independent assessment of the severe nuclear safety, security and safeguards implications of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We are particularly concerned that since the last Board, only a few weeks ago, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear facility – and now Khemelnysky nuclear power plant – have lost external power and had to rely on backup generators. We are also seriously concerned that Russia has increased its campaign of coercion and intimidation of the Ukrainian operating staff at the Zaporizhzhia plant.

We agree with the Director General's assessment in the report that the pressures on the brave Ukrainian personnel – who have suffered so much already – could have “potentially severe consequences for nuclear safety and security”. This must stop immediately.

The United Kingdom fully supports the IAEA's work in Ukraine. We commend the

bravery and the commitment of the IAEA staff working in Ukraine and we continue to support the Director General's efforts to secure a Nuclear Safety and Security Protection Zone around the Zaporizhzhia NPP in a way that respects Ukrainian sovereignty.

We also commend Ukraine, the Director General and his staff for the speed with which they transparently responded to Russia's spurious allegations that Ukraine was building so-called "dirty bombs". Unfortunately, Russia has a long track record of making such baseless allegations in order to distract or disguise from its own negative actions.

We welcome the information in the DG's report that the Agency has not found "any indications of undeclared nuclear activities related to the development of radiological dispersal devices" in Ukraine.

That is why the United Kingdom fully supports the resolution before us today. It is right that this Board collectively deplores and rejects Russia's control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear facility and its attempted illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory.

The United Kingdom welcomes the recent UN General Assembly Resolution, where 143 member states were unequivocal that Russia's attempted illegal annexation has "no validity under international law and does not form the basis for any alteration of the status of these regions". We welcome the statements by the Director General and the Agency to that effect.

Chair, the United Kingdom would also like to put on record some of the actions we are taking at the IAEA to ensure that Russia is held accountable for its actions against nuclear safety in Ukraine.

To give a few examples, the United Kingdom will take steps to ensure that none of our extra budgetary funding will directly benefit the Russian Federation. We will also work to ensure that no UK government representatives will attend IAEA events in Russia or appear alongside the Russian Federation on panels for Agency events. We encourage other member states to adopt a similar approach.

Finally, Chair, the United Kingdom remains clear that there is only one way to ensure nuclear safety and security in Ukraine. Russia must cease all actions against Ukraine's nuclear facilities, and withdraw all its forces and personnel so that the competent Ukrainian authorities can regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders.

Thank you, Chair.

Non-proliferation Treaty Safeguards Agreement with Iran: E3 statement to the IAEA, November 2022

Chair,

France, Germany and the United Kingdom thank Director-General Grossi for his report on the implementation of safeguards in Iran contained in GOV/2022/63.

We fully support and commend the DG and the Secretariat for their professional, independent and impartial verification of Iran's safeguards obligations. We also fully support and commend their repeated efforts to engage Iran on clarifying information concerning the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations under its NPT Safeguards Agreement. The IAEA should continue to evaluate all safeguards-relevant information available, in line with its mandate and standard practice.

It has been nearly four years since the Agency sought clarifications from Iran regarding possible undeclared nuclear material at a number of undeclared locations in Iran, including the detection of nuclear particles at three of these locations.

The Board of Governors has repeatedly underscored its concerns over Iran's ongoing lack of substantive cooperation with the IAEA. Over two years ago, in June 2020, the Board adopted a resolution that "call[ed] on Iran to fully cooperate with the Agency and satisfy [its] requests without any further delay". In June this year, the Board adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution with an unambiguous message: "call[ing] upon Iran to act on an urgent basis to fulfil its legal obligations". Finally, at the last Board meeting in September, 56 States joined a statement echoing the Director General's concern that "Iran had not engaged with the Agency on the outstanding safeguards issues".

The Director General has emphasized that the unresolved safeguards issues stem from Iran's legal obligations under its NPT Safeguards Agreement. Nevertheless, Iran has not provided the Agency with the technically credible explanations the Agency requires to address the outstanding issues. We echo the Director General's serious concern that there has still been no progress towards clarifying and resolving these issues.

Instead of complying with its legal obligations and heeding to the Board's unambiguous concerns, Iran has chosen to press for a so-called political solution. We wholeheartedly reject any political pressure on the IAEA or the DG to close this investigation on political grounds. Our three countries would like to make clear our absolute and unconditional support to you Director General to report on the safeguards issues according to standard practice.

Chair,

We note that the Director General has reported that two high-level meetings between the Agency and Iran took place in late September, in the margins of the IAEA General Conference, and early November just before this Board meeting. However, Iran has neither followed through with any substantive cooperation nor shared the information, documentation or answers the Agency requires.

Iran has now proposed another meeting with the Agency before the end of November without offering a credible path towards effective resolution of the outstanding questions. Offering merely procedural steps but without any substantive cooperation has unfortunately been a longstanding pattern. We strongly expect Iran to start sharing technically credible information in order to effectively clarify and resolve outstanding issues.

We emphasise the message from the Agency that unless and until Iran provides technically credible explanations to the Agency's outstanding questions, the Agency will not be able to confirm the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations under its NPT Safeguards Agreement. These outstanding issues need to be resolved for the Agency to be in a position to provide assurance that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively peaceful. Such assurances are critical for the international community and the international nonproliferation regime.

Considering this situation, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, have introduced a new resolution to this Board as a necessary, timely and measured response to Iran's failure to comply with its legal obligations under its NPT Safeguards Agreement, as we have just heard from the United Kingdom on our behalf.

Chair,

Lastly, we once again recall that implementation of Modified Code 3.1 is a legal obligation for Iran under the Subsidiary Arrangement to its NPT Safeguards Agreement which cannot be modified or stopped unilaterally.

We would like to thank the IAEA for their impartial and professional work on this issue. We encourage the Director General to continue reporting to the Board of Governors and welcome making the report contained in GOV/2022/63 public.

Thank you, Chair.

[Civil news: tender to replace HPCDS](#)

services opens

News story

Early legal advice added to in-court services under the new Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service which will replace the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme.



Tenders are invited from 17 November 2022 to bid for the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service (HLPAS). This will allow delivery of early legal advice in social welfare law together with in-court duty work from 1 August 2023.

The in-court work service is currently provided under the Housing Possession and Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS). But this will be replaced by HLPAS, as set out in the Civil Legal Aid (Housing and Asylum Accommodation) Order 2022.

We are also inviting applications for the delivery of housing and debt contract work to support delivery of the HLPAS.

Why is this happening now?

We need to award new contracts in time for the delivery of HLPAS services from 1 August 2023 until 31 August 2024 in 103 HLPAS areas. These areas are listed in the HLPAS Information for Applicants document (IFA) available on our GOV.UK tender pages.

We intend awarding one contract for each HLPAS area. We will offer an unlimited number of contracts for housing and debt services in each procurement area.

Who is eligible?

Providers able to meet the minimum tender requirements can deliver HLPAS services. You do not need to be a current legal aid provider to tender for this opportunity.

What are the minimum requirements?

Providers interested in delivering HLPAS work must meet one of the following requirements:

- currently hold a 2018 housing and debt contract
- be awarded a 2018 housing and debt contract through the procurement process at the office from which they are bidding

In consideration of these requirements, we are also inviting tenders for the delivery of housing and debt contract work.

Providers tendering for a housing and debt contract as part of this procurement process, must also submit a compliant tender for HLPAS work.

Tender deadline

The tender opens on 17 November 2022 and closes at 12pm on 19 December 2022. Bids must be submitted using the Legal Aid Agency's eTendering system.

Further information

[HLPAS and housing and debt services from August 2023](#) – to find out more and download documents

[eTendering system](#) – to submit your tender

[Civil Legal Aid \(Housing and Asylum Accommodation\) Order 2022](#) – legislation setting out introduction of HLPAS

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