

The UK remains committed to working with the GCC, the United Nations, and all Council members: UK statement at the UN Security Council

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Statement by Ambassador James Kariuki, UK Chargé d'Affaires to the UN, at the UN Security Council meeting on Cooperation between the UN and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The GCC is a vital partner for the UN. Its deep understanding of regional dynamics and political credibility make it well-positioned to support this Council's work.

This meeting comes at a time of acute regional insecurity.

The United Kingdom unequivocally and strongly condemns the egregious Iranian attacks against GCC and regional countries that target civilian areas, critical infrastructure, and vital economic assets.

These strikes represent a direct threat to international peace and security.

The UK stands in solidarity with all GCC States as they exercise their inherent right to defend their sovereignty and protect their citizens.

We also reiterate our strong condemnation of Iran's unacceptable attempts to close the Strait of Hormuz.

We commend Bahrain's leadership in driving Council action to address these threats, including through UNSCR 2817.

The resolution is clear: such aggression is unacceptable and must cease immediately.

Earlier today, my Foreign Minister hosted a meeting with over 40 countries to discuss efforts to reopen and ensure safe passage through the Strait.

She expressed her support for Bahrain's efforts to secure a further resolution on this issue.

President, we commend GCC states for their constructive diplomatic efforts, particularly their effective role in mediation processes and humanitarian support.

We also welcome their leadership on cross-cutting priorities, including Women, Peace and Security; Youth, Peace and Security; and work to address food, water, and environmental pressures that increasingly drive insecurity.

In Gaza and the West Bank, we now have a historic opportunity to end the cycle of violence and turn a page toward lasting peace by renewing our efforts to achieve a Two-State Solution.

In this regard, we welcome the vital role the GCC states are playing in supporting efforts to

implement UNSCR 2803, particularly by ensuring humanitarian aid reaches the most vulnerable and supporting plans for Gaza's long-term reconstruction.

Finally, the UK was proud to work in collaboration with the UAE and other Gulf counterparts to establish the Tolerance, Peace and Security agenda in 2023 with the passing of UNSCR 2686.

Around the world, persecution and intolerance is widespread and, on the rise, making our efforts to champion this agenda more important than ever.

In conclusion, President, the United Kingdom remains steadfast in its commitment to working with the GCC, the United Nations, and all Council members to protect civilians, uphold international law, and advance peace, security, and stability.

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