

Before I turn to the reason we're here, I want to set out UK Government's continuing concern regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It violates international law and the UN Charter – and the UK stands united with our partners in condemning this outrageous attack.

As the UN Secretary-General has said, the use of force by one country against another is the repudiation of the principles that every country has committed to uphold.

As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, Russia has a particular responsibility to uphold international peace and security.

Instead, it is violating the borders of another country and its actions are causing widespread suffering.

The UK condemns the fact that Russia's aggression has undermined Ukraine's ability to exercise its sovereign rights and jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – as well as the freedom and safety of navigation of vessels of all States.

While Russia continues to violate international law, human rights and multiple commitments to peace and security – we will work with our allies and partners across the multilateral system to condemn Russia's appalling actions and to isolate it on the international stage.

Russia must be held accountable, urgently de-escalate, and withdraw its troops.

We call on Russia to enable unhindered humanitarian access into Ukraine and safe passage for civilians – and to ensure precious supplies of food are able to reach those who need it most around the world.

And our thoughts are with all those who are suffering as a result of Russia's assault on Ukraine.

This week, the world is coming together for our *ocean*.

Because given *everything* we know about the critical services that a healthy ocean *underpins*  
...it's hard to exaggerate how much it matters that we are undermining those systems.

But given half a chance, nature can *recover*.

Meeting the Paris goals is *key* to giving nature that chance.

The fate of the world's coral reefs – for instance – depends *utterly* on staying within 1.5 degrees  
...and with them the future of a *quarter* of marine species and millions of people in coastal communities.

And while technology can play a vital role – so too must nature  
...not least because the beauty of *backing* nature is that when you *do*, you're solving so *many* problems  
...the causes *and* the *impacts* of climate change  
...and hunger, poverty, pollution as well.

That's why we brought nature from the margins of the global debate on *climate change* into the heart of our *response* at COP26.

And our job *now* – in the months before we hand the baton to Egypt, and beyond – is to ensure that commitments made in Glasgow are honoured *in full*  
...and that we *build* on them.

That's immensely important *in and of itself*.  
But at a time when the trust between people and power is fragile to the point of breaking, making *good* on our promises matters more than ever.

For *our* part, having committed to *doubling* UK international climate finance to £11.6bn pounds – we’re spending around a *third* of that on nature.

And our £500m Blue Planet Fund is helping some of the world’s *poorest* communities secure the future of the marine environments on which they *depend*.

I’m delighted to *\*announce\** that we’re investing £154m of that in our new COAST programme  
...helping vulnerable communities *safeguard* mangroves, seagrasses, and corals  
...and making small-scale fisheries more *sustainable*.

And as well as establishing new *bilateral* partnerships with ocean countries  
... we’re scoping out new *transboundary* regional partnerships.

But we need a truly *global* effort  
...from making the new treaty to end *plastic pollution* ambitious and effective  
...to protecting *at least* 30% of the global ocean by 2030.

And that target *must* be part of the framework for action we agree at the UN *biodiversity* conference in Montreal this December  
...if we’re going to put the natural world *on a road to recovery* this decade.

We’re so grateful to Canada for hosting, in support of the Chinese Presidency – and the UK will do everything we can to help make it a success.

But it’s up to *all* of us to make COP15 the Paris moment for nature we so desperately need.

And showing we're about finance is *vital*

...not just new *investment*, from *all* sources

...but commitments from *governments* to use *public* money in a way that *supports* the public good – including our approach to aid and to subsidies, as the G7 committed to do

...and to use *every lever* to help the *market* recognise the true *value* of the natural world – and make pollution, degradation, and waste an unbearable *liability*.

It is a *colossal* challenge.  
But it is unavoidable.

So let's make the most of *every* opportunity to see it through.

Thank you.

**[ENDS].**