

UK National Statement

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished delegates...

I am delighted to have the opportunity to say a few words as we draw this assembly to a close.

Let me begin by agreeing with others that UNEA really is a unique platform for setting the strategic direction,

in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution –

Especially in such a challenging period for global stability.

This Assembly falls at the two-year anniversary of Russia's unprovoked, premeditated assault on Ukraine.

Tackling the triple planetary crisis in peacetime is challenging enough,

but conflict makes it both more difficult yet more urgent due to the scale of damage inflicted.

Russia must be held accountable for this unjustified invasion, which is an egregious violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

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The UK is proud to have been a global champion for the environment.

And we have a track record on delivering for nature;

Our leadership at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow secured unprecedented support for an historic pledge,

to work in partnership to halt and reverse the loss of forests, by 2030.

This was a staging post on the way to the UN nature summit, CBD COP15, in Montreal,

to take on a clear global mission to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, by 2030.

But that's not enough.

A huge uplift in **finance** is required to support our mission.

We need to mobilize all sources of finance.

And the UK is doing its part.

We will continue to deliver for nature through our £11.6bn of International Climate finance.

And I'm proud that the UK was one of the first countries to pledge into the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund,

established under the Global Environment Facility.

We also need to see effective reform of the international financial system,

So that we can work with development banks to deliver even greater impact for climate, nature, and people.

And we need to bring the private sector with us,

to accelerate the transition to nature positive and net zero economies.

So I was delighted that the independent International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits –

co-sponsored by the UK and France –

held a side event which will support efforts to scale up investment in Nature.

We also have a great opportunity this year to mobilise finance for the protection of biodiversity,

through the development of a fund,

to share the benefits generated from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources.

But now, we must keep the pressure on to deliver impact.

Sometimes, the challenges we face can seem overwhelming.

But I have hope...

I am excited to be spending some time, while in Kenya, with Girl Guides and Scouts, as part of UNEP's 'tide turners' initiative,

The wonderful enthusiasm and commitment of these young people makes me optimistic, despite the crises we face.

Our natural world is so precious, so fragile,

and it is vital that we continue to work together to protect it for future generations.

Thank you.

493 words (2:45)

