

**JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
AND  
THE FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**Introduction**

1. The Czech Republic and the United Kingdom confirm with this Joint Statement our intention to establish closer cooperation and regular consultation on foreign and security policy. Through greater cooperation and coordination on the key issues of the day, such as the current situation in Ukraine, we will aim to increase and extend global prosperity and sustainability as part of a wider network of liberty, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.
2. The Czech Republic and the United Kingdom share a common vision across foreign policy, defence and security, trade, human rights, education, cyber, people-to-people links, science, technology and research. We already enjoy close cooperation in international fora as members of NATO, UN, OSCE, CoE, OECD, INTERPOL and WTO, working to promote our interests and values on the global stage. We will explore further regional cooperation between the United Kingdom and Central European countries, including the Visegrad Group countries.
3. Our close friendship is deeply rooted in our shared values, and our desire to promote and defend freedom, democracy and the rules-based international order. We remain committed to strengthening people-to-people connections through education and cultural relations. The UK welcomes the intention by the Czech authorities to build a Czech national memorial to remember all Czechs and Slovaks who fought for independence and freedom alongside British forces during World War II at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.
4. We will work together to further deepen links between our two countries, in accordance with the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. As a Member State of the European Union, the Czech Republic will ensure transparency towards the EU institutions and Member States.

**A Shared Approach on Regional and Global Policies**

5. We are ready to develop a shared approach to foreign policy across a number of shared geographical and thematic priorities. In particular, we will strive to:
  - a) work together in defence of freedom and democracy across the globe;
  - b) safeguard the strategic unity of Europe and the Euro-Atlantic area;

- c) champion democratic values, effective and transparent governance, robust institutions, the rule of law and freedom;
- d) counter disinformation, including through strategic communications;
- e) address hybrid threats, enhancing our security, including cybersecurity, and working together with other democratic nations to define the norms and standards governing the use of new technologies;
- f) counter protectionism, promote free trade, and build a network of economic partnerships across the globe;
- g) uphold universal human rights, including by working with civil society and human rights defenders;
- h) defend media freedom, including through our membership of the Media Freedom Coalition and commitments to the Global Media Defence Fund.

### **European Security**

6. We are steadfast in our support for Ukraine in its defence against Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression and reiterate our call on Russia to put an end to the war it started and to end the suffering and loss of life it continues to cause. Russia has blatantly violated the rules-based international order, international law and humanitarian principles and it has breached universally agreed and legally binding fundamental principles such as peaceful cooperation, sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity. Russia's aggression has generated one of the most severe food and energy crises in recent history which now threatens those most vulnerable across the globe. Such actions must not stand.
7. We will work together and with our allies to strengthen our institutions and our resilience against systematic challenges to our security, including those in the cyber domain. Our approach is rooted in a shared Euro-Atlantic perspective. We recognise the importance of working with the United States to ensure strategic stability and European and international security. NATO will remain the foundation of collective defence in our home Euro-Atlantic region. We will remain committed to NATO-EU cooperation. We will also place greater emphasis on sharing information to better respond to a growing range of hybrid and transnational threats, such as, serious organised crime and weapons proliferation.
8. Together, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom will display strong resolve in our principles to uphold international law, freedom, democracy, international commitments and the rules-based security order in Europe in the face of any violations. As part of this, we will look to strengthen technical sanctions dialogue between our two governments, to ensure we hold hostile actors to account.
9. We are seriously concerned about systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms aimed at suppressing democracy in Belarus. We will continue to work with our partners to hold those responsible for human rights violations to account. We support the efforts of the Belarusian people in calling for free and fair elections and a more democratic future.
10. We recognise the strategic importance of the Western Balkans for the security and stability of Europe. Our long-term goal is to increase the region's capacity to be a net

exporter, rather than importer, of security and to help to address regional challenges. We will work together with likeminded partners to help to embed democratic institutions and entrench our values, while combating external influences that are incompatible with these. We will continue to support the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and promote the normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, in support of the EU-facilitated Dialogue.

### **Economic Cooperation and Technology**

11. We recognise the link between economic cooperation and security partnerships and welcome the strong trade and investment relationship between the Czech Republic and United Kingdom. We will work together to support individuals and companies in our respective countries to further strengthen economic links, bringing together governmental bodies, regulators and businesses to boost bilateral trade and investment.
12. We will also work together to promote resilient and diversified supply chains for critical goods and materials as well as addressing harmful industrial subsidies, market-distorting actions of state-owned enterprises, and dumping.
13. We will intensify co-operation on cyber security to improve our citizens' security and promote mutual prosperity. We will work together, to shape the rules, norms and standards governing the next wave of technologies, to ensure the digital economy delivers economic growth while protecting our interests and respecting our shared democratic values. We will improve our coordination on the development of technical standards, in particular in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). We will also work together to promote the fair and honest application of these new technologies, and the diversification of 5G/6G telecoms supply chains, including through the platform of the Prague Security Conference, to challenge malign use of technology.
14. The Czech Republic and the United Kingdom recognise the fundamental importance of science and innovation cooperation to underpin our economic and security partnership. We will build upon existing close cooperation between our respective research and higher education institutions, particularly in the fields of physics, medicine and chemistry. We will share best practice and collaborate closely on trusted research, science diplomacy and research culture.

### **Global Challenges**

15. The Indo-Pacific is a region of great opportunity, at the centre of global economic and population growth, but also with unresolved conflicts, multiple flashpoints, including non-traditional security threats such as climate change and new security challenges, such as in cyber. We will work together with Indo-Pacific partners to promote prosperity and sustain peace and security across the region.
16. Within the Indo-Pacific region, we recognise the role of China, its growing influence and the challenges associated with this. We will increase our cooperation to defend

our interests and shared values in the international system. We commit to work together to ensure China is held to its international obligations, including on human rights. We also commit to maintaining constructive dialogues with China where possible, including on common challenges such as climate change.

17. On Africa, and particularly the Sahel, Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa, we will explore opportunities to support joint delivery of our shared development and humanitarian goals. Through our British Investment Partnerships approach, the UK already has an offer of honest and reliable infrastructure investment globally, including in Africa. In line with sectoral priorities set out in its forthcoming new strategy on Africa the Czech Republic will promote investment and creation of employment opportunities on the continent. Together with partners in Africa and in multilateral fora, we will work to promote good governance, human rights, particularly the right of women and girls and other vulnerable groups, and tackle impunity, including for crimes of sexual violence in conflict. This will include discussions at the Human Rights Council on promoting and protecting human rights and holding to account perpetrators of human rights abuses and violations. We will also work together and with regional partners to limit the space for extremism, and tackle the challenges and risks posed by irregular migration.
18. The Czech Republic and the United Kingdom share the same position that urgent action is needed to limit global warming and keep 1.5 degrees of warming within reach. We will seek to raise ambition on climate and biodiversity as we build back from the pandemic for a better future, and our vision will be characterised by high standards, transparency, and reliability. This includes through creating conditions for timely coal phase out and sharing best-practice in bilateral engagement with third countries in areas such as technology sharing. We will work in international fora, including through the Czech presidency of the Council of the EU 2022, and the UK COP presidency post-COP26, to secure global action to shift to a green economy.

### **Implementation of the Joint Statement of Intent**

19. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will develop triennial Delivery Plans to guide our joint activities and cooperation undertaken under this Joint Statement.
20. We will hold regular strategic dialogues on foreign and security policy and bilateral cooperation, including an annual meeting to review and support delivery.
21. These dialogues will include consultation, coordination, exchanges of information and cooperation at political/strategic, senior official, expert, planning and working levels. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will identify opportunities for joint events and activities and share knowledge through expert exchanges.
22. We welcome the possibility of extending our cooperation to new areas, regions and themes, and exploring opportunities to leverage our respective development programmes.

Signed in two originals in Prague on the date stated below:

27 May 2022



Jan Lipavský  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic



Elizabeth Truss  
Secretary of State for Foreign,  
Commonwealth and Development  
Affairs of the United Kingdom