



**JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING  
OF UK-GHANA BUSINESS COUNCIL (UK-GBC)  
(Issued on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018, in Accra, Ghana)**

The first-ever meeting of the UK-Ghana Business Council (UK-GBC), was held on Sunday 14 October 2018 in Accra, Ghana and agreed on a set of clear actions to take forward a deeper and more strategic bilateral partnership, designed to enhance economic development, job creation, trade and investment. The meeting was co-chaired by the Vice President of the Republic His Excellency Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and Rt. Hon. Harriett Baldwin, Minister for Africa, United Kingdom.

The UK expressed support for Ghana's bold and ambitious policy for taking 'Ghana Beyond Aid' and committed to help match UK expertise, finance and policy assistance as closely as possible with Ghana's priorities. The two countries also agreed to explore ways to reduce barriers and business environment constraints to further trade and investment. The meeting welcomed the recent launch of the Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) Programme, which will help create thousands of jobs and attract significant new investment into Ghana. The Meeting also welcomed the recent announcement that UK Export Finance has significantly increased its market risk appetite for Ghana, and introduced a new facility to issue guarantees in cedis.

Ghana welcomed both the UK's intention to avoid trade disruption as it withdraws from the EU and the UK's continued participation in existing arrangements during the proposed Implementation Period between the EU and the UK. Both countries agreed to focus on steps to ensure trade continuity once current arrangements no longer apply to the UK, laying the foundations for a deeper trade and investment relationship in the future. The meeting recognised that this is a technical exercise at this stage rather than an opportunity to renegotiate terms.

The UK-Ghana Business Council noted the importance of the two-day UK-Ghana Investment Summit to be held from 15-16 October in Accra, Ghana in helping attract new UK investment into Ghana. Participants agreed that the UK-GBC should be held twice a year and that the next meeting would be held in London on 10 December, 2018.

Signed

Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta  
Finance Minister of Ghana

Rt. Hon. Harriett Baldwin  
UK Minister for Africa