

UK statement responding to ‘rebuilding better’ panel at the FFD Forum, 2 June

- Who can argue with Rebuilding better? But what does it mean in practice?
- Our starting points must be Agenda 2030, Addis and Paris. Let’s be frank: we were off-track before COVID, and they are now at serious risk of derailing.
- We should look at three important areas: climate, health, and inclusivity. And we should consider whether to insist that IFI/UN funding is spent on a sustainable recovery.

Climate

- On Climate, every country will face a choice: locking in a high emission pathway or moving to a greener, more resilient way of doing things. This will involve embracing new technology. Green growth also benefits our economies. In the UK, we have managed to grow our economy by 75% since 1990 and at the same time we’ve managed to cut emissions by 43%.
- It is clear that this transition must be fair and inclusive – no one can be left behind – and Satyendra reminds us that we should particularly think of the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States. How we rebuild our economies is going to have a profound impact, in terms of our society’s future sustainability, resilience, and the wellbeing of individuals across the globe. These are the principles that will guide the UK’s COP26 and G7 presidencies in 2021.

Health

- As part of the recovery, we must ensure that we rebuild more equitable, sustainable and resilient health systems, underpinned by universal health coverage – the foundation of preparing for future health threats.
- We must also ensure that One Health approaches, tackling anti-microbial resistance, and protecting sexual and reproductive health are built into our recovery plans.
- The UK will continue to champion immunisation, following what we hope will be a successful pledging summit for Gavi, the vaccine alliance, later this week. The UK recently announced \$2bn for Gavi over the next five years, on top of 400m dollars committed for research and development on covid-19 vaccines, including to Gavi. UK contribution to tackling covid-19 since outbreak started now at almost \$1bn.

Inclusivity

- Finally, we must not miss the opportunity to ensure that we build back fairer and more inclusively. Women and girls should play a vital role in the recovery.
- We must also consider vulnerability, including strengthening fragile societies to prevent conflict, and strengthen governance and accountability.

- Transparency is also important, so that citizens' trust is increased, and businesses are confident to invest.
- It is also vital to keep remittances flowing, as my colleague from Malawi said earlier. That's why the UK and Switzerland launched the Call to Action on 22 May, and we encourage Member States to join us in this endeavour.