

From Her Majesty's Ambassador Owen Jenkins



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25 August 2020

His Excellency Mr Mahendra Siregar
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
JI Taman Pejambon 6
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Dear Bapak Mahendra,

Thank you for meeting me yesterday. I found the discussion insightful and valuable; it highlighted for me the breadth of the positive agenda on which the UK and Indonesia are engaged, from bilateral trade through to key global security issues we are addressing together at the UN Security Council.

As we discussed during the call, I am writing to you with more information on how we would like to take forward close and transparent consultation with Indonesia on proposed UK legislation on due diligence in agricultural commodity supply chains.

As I noted during our meeting, in July 2019, the Global Resource Initiative Taskforce – an independent group of senior business, finance, government and civil society leaders – was convened by the UK Government to recommend actions to support sustainable supply chains, livelihoods and growth. In March 2020, the group made several recommendations, including that the UK introduce a requirement on businesses trading in the UK to undertake due diligence on their agricultural supply chains in relation to deforestation risk.

The UK Government has now considered this recommendation and is proposing to take an approach to agricultural commodity due diligence legislation which is based on ensuring that all relevant products meet the legal requirements in their country of origin. We would like to consult on this “legality-based” approach and develop this policy together with the Government of Indonesia, other international governments, businesses, industry bodies and civil society organisations, to ensure it is designed with mutual respect for existing processes, and to the mutual benefit of our joint goals on trade, growth and sustainability. During our call, we discussed the need to find shared solutions, and agreed that sustainability and trade must be approached as more than just technical issues. This is very much our understanding, given the political and economic importance of agricultural commodities. I would like to highlight our desire to ensure that discussions take into account the importance of all aspects of this important issue to our bilateral relationship.



The consultation process will be announced officially by the UK on 25 August, lasting until 5 October. Deputy Minister Ibu Musdalifah Mahmud from the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs has very kindly offered to coordinate the discussion between our governments, and I sincerely welcome engagement with your ministry directly and through the CMEA to ensure we champion the excellent work that Indonesia continues to do on sustainable supply chains, and that we develop our approach to this legislation with Indonesia and other important stakeholders. The detailed consultation documents can be found here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/duo-diligence-on-forest-risk-commodities>

As ever, I remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss these – or other – matters further.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Jenkins