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Atlantic Declaration Progress Review

Francesca Lentini, Policy Manager, BritishAmerican Business
Emanuel Adam, Chief Trade and Policy Officer, BritishAmerican Business
Duncan Edwards, Chief Executive Officer, BritishAmerican Business

Introduction

On 8th June 2023, during the UK PM's visit to the US, US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signed the 'Atlantic Declaration', a document designed to set a framework for a twenty-first century US-UK economic partnership.¹

The declaration, intended to strengthen US-UK cooperation in several important areas, sets out an ambitious list of aspirations, a so-called **Action Plan for a Twenty-First Century US-UK Economic Partnership (ADAPT)**, in five focus areas, ranging from leadership in critical and emerging technologies; cooperation on economic security and technology protection toolkits and supply chains; partnering on an inclusive and responsible digital transformation; building the clean energy economy of the future; and further strengthening the alliance across defence, health security, and space.

Reacting to the announcement, BAB welcomed the declaration as an opportunity to have both the US and the UK set new benchmarks in areas critical to their economies. BAB stated that together with trade and investment promotion, and domestic efforts to strengthen innovation and the growth potential of the US and UK economies, the Atlantic Declaration could be as important and impactful as an FTA. However, BAB also stated that the value for transatlantic businesses of the Atlantic Declaration will only be achieved if real outcomes are reached in the areas identified in the document.

As the Atlantic Declaration hits its six months' mark, BAB has conducted a RAG (Red Amber Green) review of the progress on the declaration's commitments as of December 2023. We fully acknowledge that it is only six months since the Declaration was signed and that the recent tragic developments in the Middle East have meant leading officials have had other priorities, but we nevertheless feel we should keep track of the progress being made.

We grouped the announcements listed in the text of the Atlantic Declaration into sixteen main commitments, split into the five sections identified in the declaration itself. While some of these commitments have clear timelines

attached to them, which makes it easier to assign a RAG rating, others do not come with a set deadline, or do not have an immediate or short-term one. In these cases, we have analysed what progress has been made so far in those areas, using government sources, media reporting, and information gathered through stakeholder outreach, as well as consultation with the BAB Trade Sub-Committee, while still recognising their timelines. Unsurprisingly, given the early stage of the discussions, most of the ratings are currently amber. BAB will update this report every 6 months to keep members informed of progress.

Overall, we found that, out of the sixteen commitments from the Atlantic Declaration taken into consideration for this report, three can be assigned a green rating, which means they have been met; twelve have been assigned an amber rating, as they have either been partially met, or have a longer-term timeline, which means they cannot be fully assessed yet; and finally, one has been assigned a red rating, indicating the commitment has not been met or is not on track to being met.

While we have seen some progress since the publication of the Atlantic Declaration, notably in the areas of the AI Safety Summit, the US-UK Data Bridge, and on sanctions, many of the commitments made in the declaration have yet to be visibly addressed.

For instance, we are yet to see concrete developments in the area of emerging technologies. Although some progress has been made on quantum technologies and cutting-edge telecoms, it would be good to see a shared workplan being published, outlining what steps the two countries will take to further their cooperation on science and technology. Another example is on export controls: in the declaration, the UK committed to consulting on updating its export controls regime by the end of the year. While the UK Government still has just under a month to publish this consultation, it would be good to see it released as soon as possible. A third example is around an ITAR exemption, with the Administration yet to ask Congress to add the United Kingdom as a "domestic source" within the meaning of Title III of the Defense Production Act. We are also

¹[THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION: A FRAMEWORK FOR A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY U.S.-UK ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP](#)

yet to see a Critical Minerals Agreement between the two countries, though we are aware of progress being made.

A full analysis of all the commitments can be found below. As the relationship between the US and the UK continues to evolve, BAB encourages both governments to continue implementing the commitments set out in the Atlantic Declaration to fully realise the potential of this agreement.

If there is limited resource available, BAB would suggest both sides should focus on commitments with the potential for the biggest impact and the greatest chance of success. Specifically, we would recommend focusing on these five items out of the sixteen commitments identified in this review:



- Item 1 - Developing a shared workplan on critical and emerging technologies;
- Item 3 - Setting up a US-UK Strategic Technologies Investor Council;
- Item 12 - Launching a one-year Joint Action Group on Energy Security and Affordability (JAG);
- Item 13 - Launching a Civil Nuclear Partnership and a Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation (JSCNEC); and
- Item 14 - Optimising the US-UK longstanding defence cooperation, especially by passing the ITAR exemption in Congress.


BAB also recommends that officials in both countries explore more visible ways to have business and other stakeholders involved in the realisation of the full benefits of the declaration, so business can continue to offer its full support behind the set ambitions, and we are available to help in this process.




BAB RAG Review

“Ensuring US-UK Leadership in Critical and Emerging Technologies”

Commitment	Details	Timeline	Progress	BAB Rating
<p>1. Through different forums, including the US-UK Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the US-UK Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data, the US and the UK will develop and deliver a shared workplan on critical and emerging technologies, to be updated and taken forward.</p>	<p>In the context of Critical and Emerging Technologies.</p> <p>The two countries also commit to reducing their vulnerabilities across critical technology supply chains.</p>	<p>By June 2024</p>	<p>No progress yet, although not due until June 2024. No shared workplan has been released to the public yet.</p> <p>On 29 August, the US extended its science and technology agreement with China by six months.</p> <p>The US-UK Data Bridge has been finalised (see relevant section). This was a goal set at the inaugural meeting of the U.S.-UK Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data.</p> <p>In July 2023, the UK was granted Associate status in the Global Cross Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) Forum.</p> <p>2023’s objectives of the US-UK Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data can be found here.</p>	
<p>2. Launching collaboration across priority technologies, such as: quantum technologies, cutting-edge telecoms, synthetic biology, semiconductors, and AI.</p>	<p>This collaboration includes R&D and talent flows.</p>	<p>Generic/ no timeline</p>	<p>On quantum technologies: a few days prior to the publication of the Atlantic Declaration, a new collaboration on quantum information science between the US and the UK was announced.</p> <p>On cutting-edge telecoms: in early October 2023, the UK joined a global coalition for telecoms innovation with several countries, including the US. The main areas of this collaboration seem to be Open RAN, 6G, and China related security concerns.</p>	

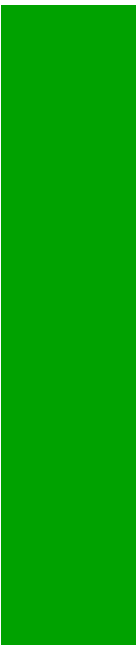
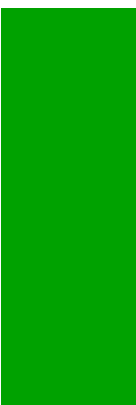
<p>3. Commitment to set up a US-UK Strategic Technologies Investor Council.</p>	<p>To mobilise private capital towards strategic technologies. The Council will bring leading investors from both side of the Atlantic together with national security experts to identify funding gaps and unlock new private investment.</p>	<p>By June 2024</p>	<p>Not set up yet, although not due until June 2024.</p>	
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“Advancing Ever Closer Cooperation on Technology Protection, Economic Security Toolkits and Supply Chains”

Commitment	Details	Timeline	Progress	BAB Rating
<p>4. Addressing the national security risks posed by certain types of outbound investment in sensitive technologies.</p> <p>The declaration states both countries will “act according to [their] own respective timelines”.</p>	<p>The US and the UK have a shared objective in preventing their companies’ capital and expertise from fuelling technological advances that will enhance the military and intelligence capabilities of countries of concern.</p> <p>In particular, the US will work on developing a targeted set of controls on outbound investments in sensitive technologies with a core national security nexus; the UK will engage with business to develop an evidence base to assess and inform how the</p>	<p>Generic/ no timeline</p>	<p>Progress on the US side: in August 2023, US President Joe Biden signed an Executive Order on Addressing United States Investments In Certain National Security Technologies And Products In Countries Of Concern.</p> <p>The UK is considering whether to follow the US’ example.</p>	

	UK can best calibrate its actions to respond effectively to these risks.			
5. The UK will consult on updating its regime on export controls.	“The United Kingdom will consult later this year on updating its export control regime and consider how best to flexibly and rapidly tackle sensitive technology transfers. The United Kingdom will also consult on the targeting of end uses and end-users of concern.”	By the end of 2023	The consultation has not been published yet, although not due until the end of 2023. The UK Strategic Export Control List was updated in July 2023.	
6. Strengthening the partnership on sanctions.	The US and the UK commit to continuing coordinating their work to tackle sanctions evasion, and “intend to jointly target those facilitating Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine in Russia, Belarus, and in third countries.”	Generic/ no timeline	In July 2023, the inaugural UK-US Strategic Sanctions Dialogue took place, hosted by the US Department of State in Washington DC. This Dialogue “delivered on the 2023 Atlantic Declaration commitment to strengthen our cooperation on sanctions strategy, design, targeting, implementation, mitigations, and enforcement, bringing together UK and US departments and agencies to discuss priorities across geographic and thematic sanctions regimes.”	

“Partnering on an Inclusive and Responsible Digital Transformation”

Commitment	Details	Timeline	Progress	BAB Rating
<p>7. Establishment of a US-UK Data Bridge, which was committed to in principle by both countries.</p>	<p>The data bridge completes the triangulation of transatlantic transfers between the EU, UK, and US. US companies that already participate in the EU-US DPF will now be able to partake in the UK-US data bridge.</p> <p>The two countries also commit to coordinate to further “promote trust in the digital economy, including through support for the Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) Forum and the OECD’s Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities.”</p>	<p>Generic/ no timeline</p>	<p>The UK-US Data Bridge was agreed, and has been active since 12th October. It will be in effect as a UK extension to the EU-US Data Privacy Framework (DPF).</p>	
<p>8. The UK will be hosting the first global summit on AI Safety this autumn, with the US having committed to attend at a high level.</p>	<p>The aim is to bring together key countries, as well as leading technology companies and researchers, to drive targeted, rapid international action focused on safety and security at the frontier of this technology, including exploring safety measures to evaluate and monitor risks from AI.</p>	<p>By the end of 2023</p>	<p>The AI Safety Summit took place on the 1st and 2nd November at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire. The goal of the Summit will be to begin a global conversation on how to best manage the risks from recent advances in frontier AI.</p> <p>More information about the Summit can be found here.</p>	

9. Launch of a Collaboration on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs).	To allow the two countries to gain more valuable insight from data and train responsible AI models, enabling economic and societal benefits, while protecting individuals' privacy and democratic principles.	Generic/ no timeline	Progress is yet to be seen on this specific collaboration. However, the US and the UK already have a history of collaboration in this area. For instance, in 2022, the two countries launched Innovation Prize Challenges in Privacy-Enhancing Technologies to Tackle Financial Crime and Public Health Emergencies.	
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“Building the Clean Energy Economy of the Future”

Commitment	Details	Timeline	Progress	BAB Rating
10. Commitment to making the 2020s the decisive decade for climate action, implementing the respective 2030 nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, and meeting the 2050 net zero emission goals.		Generic/ no timeline	With UK PM Rishi Sunak's recent Net Zero policy delays, these commitments could be at risk. In October 2023, the UK's Climate Change Committee released an annual progress report on the UK's ability to meet its decarbonization targets from 2030 onwards, which overall criticises Sunak's recent policy changes.	
11. Launching negotiations on a Critical Minerals Agreement with a congressional consultation	In August 2022, the US introduced the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This included the Clean Vehicle Credit , a subsidy for the purchase of qualifying battery or fuel cell operated vehicles in the form of a tax credit. To qualify for the full subsidy, a vehicle needs	Immediately	Unclear at what point of the negotiations we are, but we have heard that good progress has been made. POLITICO labels the negotiations “ongoing”. On 28 October, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said “significant progress” was made on a U.S.-UK critical minerals agreement. The US already has a Critical Minerals Agreement with Japan, which	

	<p>to be equipped with a battery with at least some of its critical mineral content from the US or a country the US has an FTA with.</p> <p>Without a US-UK Critical Minerals Agreement, the UK risks being excluded from US automotive supply chains.</p>		<p>was signed on 28 March 2023. On 28 October 2023, the UK signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Japan on critical minerals.</p> <p>US-EU deal on track to be reached this year.</p> <p>In October 2023, the UK hosted the Principals' meeting of the Minerals Security Partnership for the first time, focused on boosting responsible investment and sustainable finance in critical mineral supply chains. The meeting was co-chaired by US Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Jose Fernandez. The US and the UK are two of fourteen partners forming this partnership.</p>	
<p>12. Launching a one-year Joint Clean Energy Supply Chain Action Plan, to identify actions to accelerate the buildout of capacity in both countries to meet the clean energy demands of the future.</p>	<p>Under the one-year plan, the US and UK will establish a Joint Action Group on Energy Security and Affordability (JAG) to, by the end of 2023, identify and determine near-term actions to accelerate the buildout of capacity sufficient to meet future clean energy demands in their respective countries and globally. The US and UK will conduct public-private consultations across clean energy supply chains, including with producers of offshore wind power and electric vehicle batteries, and conduct rapid stress-test exercises, which could form a model for future work on supply chain resilience.</p>	<p>By the end of 2023</p>	<p>While the JAG has theoretically been set up, no clear outputs from this group have been identified or published so far.</p> <p>In terms of public-private consultations, the UK published the following calls for evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling industrial electrification • UK Battery Strategy 	

<p>13. Launching a Civil Nuclear Partnership and a Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation (JSCNEC), designed to deliver on shared commitments.</p>	<p>“Our joint activity and leadership will support and facilitate the safe, secure, and sustainable international deployment of advanced, peaceful nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors, in accordance with the highest non-proliferation standards and consistent with a 1.5 degree Celsius limit on global warming.”</p>	<p>By the end of 2023</p>	<p>While the JSCNEC has theoretically been set up, no clear outputs from this group have been identified or published so far.</p> <p>On 8 November 2023, UK and US formed a new partnership to accelerate global fusion energy development.</p>	
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“Strengthening our Alliance Across Defence, Health Security, and Space”

Commitment	Details	Timeline	Progress	BAB Rating
<p>14. Optimising the US-UK longstanding defence cooperation.</p>	<p>Specifically, the US “President plans to ask the United States Congress to add the United Kingdom as a “domestic source” within the meaning of Title III of the Defense Production Act.”</p>	<p>Generic/ no timeline</p>	<p>The UK (and Australia) are still waiting for Congress to pass the ITAR exemption.</p> <p>As a reminder, back in April 2023, Pentagon had submitted a legislative proposal to Congress that would amend the law to add both UK and Australia to Title III.</p>	
<p>15. Enhancing the two countries’ collaboration on biological and health security.</p>	<p>The two countries commit to collaborate further on biological security to bolster future health and economic resilience. They will also enhance cooperation on tackling emerging infectious disease threats, including preventing market failures in the space of R&D of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.</p>	<p>Generic/ no timeline</p>	<p>On 12 June 2023, the UK published a new Biological Security Strategy to strengthen the UK’s defences against infectious diseases, biological attacks and antibiotic resistance. The press release mentions the Atlantic Declaration and the UK’s commitment to strengthen their “bilateral collaboration with the United States on biological health and security, including through closer cooperation to tackle drug-resistant infections.”</p>	

16. Strengthening space collaboration.

The US and the UK are committed to enhancing their bilateral commercial space cooperation, taking tangible steps within space sustainability and their respective regulations.

Generic/
no timeline

A good step forward: in August 2023, the UK [announced](#) the recipients of the first phase of its £20 million International Bilateral Fund investments, which will help UK to form “collaborations that will progress space research and catalyse investment in new technologies.” US’ organisations were included as recipients of this funding, among other countries.

The AFA’s Air, Space & Cyber Conference, held in early September 2023, [highlighted](#) how “the creation of the U.S. Space Force in 2019 helped spark a wave of new military space organizations around the globe and opened the door to more collaboration and discussion with allies,” but that more still needs to be done if the US and the UK want to achieve true space collaboration.

[According](#) to Air Marshall Harvey Smyth, UK Air and Space Commander, “the US and its closest allies are still struggling to find space programs where they can work together to develop new technologies and capabilities.”

For queries and comments, contact:



Francesca Lentini
Policy Manager
BritishAmerican Business
flentini@babinc.org