

process will be easy or quick, but we must pursue it in parallel with our military approach. And we, in the meantime, remain fully committed to our military efforts to defeat Al Qaida and to support the Afghan National Security Forces.

In addition to talking about Afghanistan, we spoke about the economic and commercial ties that have been subject to the entire G–8. President Hollande, I think, is appropriately committed to a growth strategy that ensures, we all are able to lower our unemployment rates, particularly when it comes to youth unemployment, and to build a fiscally prudent strategy for long-term economic growth. And the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is a strong component of a broader, comprehensive strategy that we all have to pursue with respect to growth.

In the Middle East and Syria, we very much share the view that it is important for us to build on the G–8 communique—to move towards a political transition inside of Syria, to build a strong opposition that can function in a post-Asad world—and that we will continue to work to try to find a political solution to this process and, most importantly, alleviate suffering and ensure that chemical weapons are not used by anyone inside of Syria. Both of our governments have strong evidence that, in fact, chemical weapons have been used in the past by the Asad regime. But we are very comfortable with the approach taken by the G–8 that allows the U.N. the full powers it needs to investigate and establish these facts on the ground.

I congratulated President Hollande and his entire team for the effective work that they've done in Mali. This is a situation in which France was able to stop the splintering of a nation-state by a terrorist organization and now is in a position to reaffirm democracy and legiti-

macy and an effective government inside of Mali. That involved considerable sacrifice on the part of the French people, but it's part of a broader commitment on both our parts to pursue a smart counterterrorism policy that works with partners in the region.

And finally, I wanted to say that I welcome France's decision to support the EU designation of Hizballah—Lebanese Hizballah—as a terrorist organization. I think that sends a powerful signal that Europe stands firmly against Hizballah's terrorist activities and is consistent with the view that the only way that we can bring about a peaceful and prosperous Middle East is to isolate extremism and to promote those persons and institutions that are committed to a pluralistic, open, and tolerant society that's based on rule of law.

And so we are very much committed to continuing to strengthen our cooperation with the French Government. When countries like the United States and France act in concert, we can get an awful lot done. And I very much appreciate not only the partnership, but also the friendship of President Hollande. He extended an invitation for me to visit France, and I told him that we are always happy to visit France.

And so we hope that we have the opportunity to schedule that perhaps some time next year.

[At this point, President Hollande spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter, but no transcript was provided.]

The President. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. at Lough Erne Resort. In his remarks, he referred to Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and President Bashar al-Asad of Syria.

Joint Statement—Group of Eight Lough Erne Declaration June 18, 2013

Private enterprise drives growth, reduces poverty, and creates jobs and prosperity for people around the world. Governments have a

special responsibility to make proper rules and promote good governance. Fair taxes, increased transparency and open trade are vital

drivers of this. We will make a real difference by doing the following:

1. Tax authorities across the world should automatically share information to fight the scourge of tax evasion.
2. Countries should change rules that let companies shift their profits across borders to avoid taxes, and multinationals should report to tax authorities what tax they pay where.
3. Companies should know who really owns them and tax collectors and law enforcers should be able to obtain this information easily.
4. Developing countries should have the information and capacity to collect the taxes owed them—and other countries have a duty to help them.
5. Extractive companies should report payments to all governments—and governments should publish income from such companies.
6. Minerals should be sourced legitimately, not plundered from conflict zones.
7. Land transactions should be transparent, respecting the property rights of local communities.
8. Governments should roll back protectionism and agree new trade deals that boost jobs and growth worldwide.
9. Governments should cut wasteful bureaucracy at borders and make it easier and quicker to move goods between developing countries.
10. Governments should publish information on laws, budgets, spending, national statistics, elections and government contracts in a way that is easy to read and re-use, so that citizens can hold them to account.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement—Group of Eight Leaders Communique *June 18, 2013*

2013 LOUGH ERNE

Preamble

1. As leaders of the G8, we are committed to open economies, open societies and open governments as the basis of lasting growth and stability. We have today agreed concrete steps to play our part in ensuring a safe and prosperous world.

2. We met at a time of continued economic uncertainty. Our urgent priority is to promote growth and jobs, particularly for the young and long-term unemployed. We will continue to nurture the global recovery by supporting demand, securing our public finances and reforming our economies to deliver growth.

3. Our economies together make up around half of the global economy, and we have a responsibility to support prosperity worldwide. We agreed actions in three specific areas:

- Trade—a key engine of global economic growth. We will break down barriers to trade at home and abroad by resisting protectionism and concluding a set of ambitious trade deals. In particular, we welcome the launch of negotiations for an EU-US trade agreement, the major progress towards agreeing the Trans Pacific Partnership and the launch of the EU-Japan trade agreement negotiations and we look forward to the completion of the EU-Canada trade agreement. We aim to finalise all these deals as soon as possible. We also welcome the trade and economic integration of Russia with some of the countries in the region, which will be pursued in line with World Trade Organisation (WTO) principles. We are committed to strengthening the multilateral trading system and securing