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Overseas aid helps us as a nation build a prosperous future for all

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ager Close, Norwich.

There has been a lot of discussion in the media recently concerning the amount of aid given by the UK to poorer developing countries. I am pleased that the UK is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7pc of national income on overseas aid. Through this support, the UK is helping to build a more stable, prosperous future for us all.

Overseas aid is an investment in our future. Faced with cross-border challenges such as Ebola and climate change, Britain's national interests increasingly dovetail with our global responsibilities. Our security and prosperity, therefore, depend on us working with other states at international institutions such as the United Nations. This year, we have the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues. Countries will come together at

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the UN to adopt new global goals to tackle poverty and promote sustainable development. I want us to have a leading role in working hard for goals that are not just ambitious, but are inclusive and well-resourced. As well as

exercising leadership on the world stage, the UK must set an example at home.

This includes pressing ahead with enshrining the 0.7pc target into law, outlining how this country will support the new goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a real difference to the most vulnerable people. As UK citizens, and global citizens, we all have a stake in international development and in improving conditions for as many people as possible.