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From the Secretary of State

30 November 2009

Lord Hannay of Chiswick
Chair UNA-UK
3 Whitehall Court
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Thank you for your letter of 11 November on the negotiations on a review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

After a week of intense negotiations in Doha, States have agreed to a mechanism to monitor implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The UK position was clear from the outset: we supported a fully transparent and inclusive process and advocated for mandatory country visits, civil society involvement and publication of reports. Not all countries shared our views and some in particular argued for a confidential, inter-governmental process.

The final deal achieved a balance between mandatory publication of a summary report, civil society engagement at the self-assessment stage and access of reviewers to a wide range of sources on the one hand, and optional clauses on country visits, publication of the full reports and civil society engagement during the visit of the reviewers on the other. Although the agreement is not as strong as the UK would have liked, we are confident that it will provide a good framework to help states measure and fight corruption in all its forms.

As you may know the Bribery Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 19 November and was published on 20 November, and can be accessed as follows: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/bribery.html>

DAVID MILIBAND