



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Secretary of State

6 April 2016

Our reference: MIN/95677/2016

Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chair
United Nations Association – UK
3 Whitehall Court
London
SW1A 2EL

Mr Don Deya
Chair
ICRtoP

Dear Sir Jeremy

Thank you for your letter of 10 March on behalf of the United Nations Association – UK and the International Coalition for Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), urging support for the General Assembly resolution on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle.

As you will recall, the UK has been and remains strongly committed to R2P. We work directly with other states and through the multilateral system to drive forward the principle and seek consensus for its implementation. This position was reiterated in the 2015 National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review. With respect to the draft General Assembly resolution, the UK Government supports unanimous agreement to a resolution that reaffirms commitment to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect and protects key principles of the UN charter.

We believe that R2P should be a guiding principle in all countries' work on conflict, human rights, and development. This is why the UK Government is increasing the levels of funding we devote to tackling conflict issues over the course of this Parliament. We are also focussed on action to end the violent extremism that is a cause of some of the worst atrocities we see today.

Since the agreement of the R2P principle at the World Summit 10 years ago, we have been vocal in lobbying for inclusion of R2P language, where relevant, in resolutions at the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

Yours sincerely
Philip Hammond

THE RT HON PHILIP HAMMOND MP