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The Rt Hon Philip Hammond
Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
King Charles Street
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14 July 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing as Chairman of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) to share with you a number of recommendations for the UK's engagement on UN peace operations, which arose from our national commemoration of the International Day of UN peacekeepers on 25 May.

Every year, UNA-UK and its Westminster Branch hold a joint conference with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) to mark this International Day. As the Government establishes its new cross-Whitehall Peacekeeping Policy Unit and draws up plans for the next UN summit on peacekeeping in September, you may be interested in the following recommendations made by participants at the conference to drive forward the reform of the UN's peacekeeping architecture:

UK Defence Ministerial

- Member states should not wait for the appointment of the next Secretary-General but should capitalise on the current momentum and use the UK-led Defence Ministerial in September 2016 to craft an achievable roadmap for reform to take forward the recent peace operations reviews;
- All member states should be encouraged to endorse the Kigali Principles at the Defence Ministerial.

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)

- All member states should ensure that domestic laws cover allegations of SEA by military, police and civilian peacekeepers abroad – the 2016 Defence Ministerial could be used to gather commitments for this purpose;
- Member states should establish an international tribunal for SEA cases – this could usefully be explored at the Defence Ministerial.

Coordination

- Major troop contributors should create a group to coordinate on their engagement with UN peace operations, including on training and capacity building;
- New troop contributors should establish a group in order to share lessons learned from their experiences engaging with the UN at a troop contributing level.

Leadership

- The Secretary-General should set up a panel of former SRSGs, Force Commanders and Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping to make recommendations for new SRSG and Force Commander appointments.

UNA-UK looks forward to continue working with HMG on peace operations as the Government takes forward its policy plans.

I hope you will ask your Department to consider these recommendations carefully and join other UN Member States in implementing them where possible.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chair, UNA-UK

CC: The Rt Hon Michael Fallon, Secretary of State for Defence