



Department  
for International  
Development



Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State

Sir Jeremy Greenstock  
Chair  
United Nations Association UK  
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London, SW1A 2EL

23 September 2015

*Dear Sir Jeremy,*

Thank you for your letter of 15 September outlining your views of the challenges facing the UN in its 70<sup>th</sup> year.

My Department has fully engaged in the Strategic Defence and Security Review and drafting of the new National Security Strategy. We have taken particular interest in the aspects relating to the role of the UN and other multilaterals. Supporting the existing Rules Based International Order, within which the UN is a key institution, will continue to be an important part of the UK's approach.

At the same time, DFID is conducting its own Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews which will inform our position on the role of the UN in delivering HMG and DFID's strategic objectives, including the Global Goals to 2030, and its implications for our programming over the next five years.

We will continue to engage in Member State dialogue on the future positioning of the UN Development System in the lead up to the negotiation of the next Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review and appointment of the new Secretary General in late 2016. We have also been engaging closely with the UN's own Peace Operations and Peacebuilding Architecture reviews.

In your letter, you requested a clear rationale for UK participation in UN peacekeeping. The UK's approach on this issue will be addressed by the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

You also make a number of specific recommendations for the UK's attention to UN peace operations and atrocity prevention. These areas are led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with whom we work closely. As a member of the UN Security Council P5, the UK firmly supports UN peacekeeping, and strives to make it more effective, as well as taking a clear stance against all atrocity crimes and against impunity for perpetrators. Peace Operations and atrocity prevention are both being considered in the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

DFID will continue to prioritise conflict prevention and peacebuilding throughout its work, building on our achievement of dedicating 30% of UK ODA to fragile states since 2010. We continue to support the OECD-DAC in updating and clarifying the ODA reporting rules, including to ensure that conflict prevention is properly reflected as a part of development activity.

Atrocity prevention is an important part of broader strategies to address conflict and fragility, especially in developing countries. DFID addresses these issues as part of an integrated approach across the UK government, using development, defence and diplomacy tools together to tackle the underlying drivers and triggers of violence and instability, including atrocities.

I welcome your support for the role of the UN in relation to wider UK objectives and wish you the best for continued efforts to improve the process for appointment of the next Secretary General.

*Best Wishes,*

*Justine*

JUSTINE GREENING