

30 September 2013

Your reference: SMITH001/05
Our reference: MIN/55090/2013

Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chairman
UNA UK
3 Whitehall Court
London
SW1A 2EL



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Dear Sir Jeremy

Thank you for your letter of 04 September to the Foreign Secretary about the informal interactive dialogue of the UN General Assembly on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). I am replying as Minister for Conflict Issues.

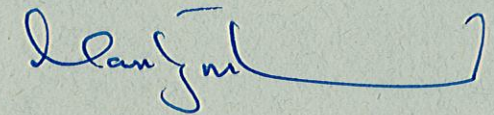
The UK is fully committed to the concept of the R2P. We believe that it should be the governing principle of all countries' work across the conflict spectrum, as well as on human rights and development. Building good governance, the rule of law, inclusive and equal societies, and effective judicial and security sectors all contribute to building a preventive environment in which R2P crimes are less likely to take place.

We welcome the Secretary General's fifth report on R2P which focuses this year on the state's responsibility to protect. The interactive dialogue provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the report and was attended by our Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR), Peter Wilson CMG. Sadly your letter arrived too late for us to include your suggestions in the UK's intervention. However, the DPR did touch upon some of the points mentioned in your letter including the preventative aspects of R2P.

I agree that integrating an atrocity prevention lens across government is of crucial importance. The focus of the Government's Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS) is prevention of conflict. BSOS helps us ensure that the atrocity prevention lens you cite is integrated into our foreign policy approach. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) already works closely with partners across government, including Cabinet Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development, to identify flashpoints around the world where conflict could escalate, especially in countries where mass atrocity crimes are a risk.

The FCO does appoint the UK's Focal Point on R2P. However due to recent staffing changes the Focal Point role is yet to be confirmed. This should be done within the next few weeks and I will ask my officials to contact you separately to keep you informed of developments.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Simmonds', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK SIMMONDS MP
Minister for Africa, the Overseas Territories, Caribbean and International Energy