

All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations

ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2012/2013

Meetings convened

Arms Trade Treaty Conference: prospects for an agreement (28 February 2013)

Speakers:

- Alistair Burt MP Minister for Counter Proliferation, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Kate Allen Director, Amnesty International UK
- Roy Isbister, Team Leader, Small Arms and Transfer Controls

Minister Burt updated MPs and Peers on the UK's preparations for the imminent Arms Trade Treaty Conference (18-28 March 2013) and reaffirmed the UK's resolve to strengthen the draft treaty text that emerged from the inconclusive negotiations in July 2012.

The meeting was chaired by Lord Hannay and was jointly hosted by the United Nations, Global Security and Non-Proliferation and Weapons and Protection of Civilians APPGs.

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Process for developing the post-2015 development framework (21 March 2013)

Speaker: Michael Anderson (DFID), the Prime Minister's special envoy on the post-2015 framework

As well as outlining the UK's role in devising the successor to the Millennium Development Goals, Mr Anderson described first-hand the workings of the UN's High Level Panel on the post-2015 development framework as well as speaking about the various opportunities for civil society and parliamentarians to engage with the process.

This meeting was chaired by Lord Hannay and hosted by the UN APPG.

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The UN's role in genocide prevention and R2P: theory and practice (15 April 2013)

Speakers:

- Adama Dieng - UN Special Advisor for Genocide Prevention
- Professor Ed Luck - Former UN Special Advisor for the Responsibility to Protect
- Dr Simon Adams - Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
- Kyle Matthews - Will to Intervene Project, Montreal Inst. for Genocide & Human Rights Studies

A select group representing Government, civil society, the UN and academia discussed how far R2P had come since the World Summit in 2005, and how effective it was in the following four areas: early warning and monitoring for effective prevention; implementing prevention on the ground; intervening to protect: when and how?; and galvanising international political will for R2P.

The meeting was chaired by Lord Hannay and hosted jointly by the UN APPG, the APPG on the Prevention of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity, the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation and the APPG on Weapons and the Protection of Civilians.

UNA-UK acts as the Secretariat of the UN APPG
Visit <http://www.una.org.uk/un-appg> for more info

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The Future of International Development: 2015 and Beyond (24 April 2013)

Speakers:

- Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development
- H.E. Wesley Johnson, Liberian Ambassador to the UK
- Sir Richard Jolly, former Assistant Secretary General of the UN

The event was part of the International Development APPGs' "Parliamentarians Ending Poverty" series and covered the lessons to be learnt from the Millennium Development Goals, the merits of the goal-based approach from the perspective of the world's poorest countries, and the UK's vision for the future of international development and the framework required to support it.

The event was chaired by Hugh Bayley MP and was hosted by the All Party Groups on International Development, of which the UN APPG is an active member.

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The Responsibility to Protect: Living or Dying? (15 May 2013)

Speakers:

- Gareth Evans, Co-Chair, Global Centre for R2P; Former Australian Foreign Minister
- Alex Bellamy, Secretary to the High Level Panel on the R2P in Southeast Asia

Both speakers highlighted the progress made on establishing and consolidating the principle of R2P, and the challenges of implementing the policy framework it prescribes for preventing and responding to mass atrocity crimes.

The meeting served as the launch for UNA-UK's first policy briefing on R2P, written by Professor Alex Bellamy. The report clarifies the principle's meaning and scope and considers the steps required to implement the norm at the UN Headquarters, within national governments and as part of the international response to emerging crises across the world.

Chaired by Lord Hannay, this meeting was hosted jointly by the UN APPG and the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation

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Mali: the French view: (3 July 2013)

Speakers: His Excellency Bernard Emié, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom

H.E. Bernard Emié spoke about the aims of the intervention and current progress in transferring military duties to the UN peacekeeping force. He also outlined lessons for future interventions in similar contexts.

Chaired by Lord Hannay, this meeting was hosted jointly by the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation and the UN APPG

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The UK's relationship with the UN Human Rights Council (3 July 2013)

Speakers:

- Baroness O'Neill, Chair, Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Sir Nigel Rodley, Member, UN Human Rights Committee

With the UK standing for election to the Council later this year, participants discussed the UK's human rights record and engagement with the Council to date, as well as possible future priorities.

This meeting was chaired by Lord Hannay and hosted by the UN APPG.

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UN APPG Annual General Meeting (3 July 2013)

During the meeting, the following Officers were elected/re-elected to the Group:

Lord Hannay – Chair
Baroness Coussins – Vice Chair
Baroness Kinnock – Vice Chair
Julian Smith MP – Vice Chair

Julian Smith also kindly agreed to act as the Group's Registered Contact.

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For more info on the UN APPG visit <http://www.una.org.uk/un-appg>