

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
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25 November 2015

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 November regarding the National Security Strategy (NSS) and the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). I wanted to write again now that the NSS and SDSR have been published to express our appreciation for the strong language on the UK's commitment to UN peace operations.

UNA-UK is particularly pleased by the positive plans the Government has outlined for UN peacekeeping, particularly the commitment to double the number of military personnel, announced in September, and increase civilian and law enforcement experts in the field and UN headquarters. We welcome the UK's commitment to continue championing reform that seeks to increase the efficiency and impact of UN missions, and to work with partners like the African Union, Japan and China to support their efforts to improve the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping. The UK has much to give in terms of strengthening the capacity of particular missions and providing political momentum for implementing reforms.

The announcement on the creation of a new UN Peacekeeping Unit to bring together Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MOD) expertise is especially welcome. UNA-UK would be delighted to support the establishment and work of this Unit, and we will be in touch with the Multilateral Policy Directorate at a working level to this effect.

UNA-UK is glad to have a positive working relationship with both the FCO and the MOD on UN peacekeeping and looks forward to continuing to cooperate on making UN peace operations more agile, effective and well supported in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chair, UNA-UK



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