



Foreign Affairs Committee

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Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

28 February 2019

Dear Sir,

As you are aware the current UK Government strategy on UN peacekeeping ends in 2020. I am writing to ask what the UK's intended commitment to UN peacekeeping will be post-2020. As part of your response I would like to know,

- Do you plan to maintain the same levels of UK troops deployed on UN peacekeeping missions?
- Will troops be deployed to the same countries or deployed to other UN missions?
- What progress has been made by the UN towards reforming how incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse are addressed? Will this progress affect the UK's commitment to UN peacekeeping?

We will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain.

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair



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Minister of State

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee
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18 March 2019

Dear Tom

Thank you for your letter of 28 February about the UK's intended commitment to UN peacekeeping post-2020.

We have been considering our future role and potential initiatives ahead of the successful completion of our three year commitment to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), with a view to setting out our strategy for post-2020. This includes looking at the feasibility of new deployments as well as improving training coordination and building training partnerships with African states. That work is ongoing across government, but we are not yet at a stage to make a firm commitment. We will of course inform you of our plans at the earliest opportunity.

We continue to work closely with the UN and other Member States to support the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping reform agenda. Last August the UK was among the first to endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations, having co-chaired part of the consultations. We will use programme funding where this can best support implementation.

Thanks to Tackling Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), this remains a central plank of our peacekeeping reform work. It is the Government's view that we should engage with the UN as a partner in tackling SEA. At UNGA 2017, the Prime Minister joined the Secretary-General's Circle of Leadership on SEA and we negotiated and signed his Voluntary Compact on SEA. Over the past three years, the UK has provided £3 million to support the Secretary-General's efforts to tackle SEA and improve accountability in peacekeeping. These funds have been used to support staff posts, to deliver more effective system-wide coordination, and to establish robust vetting and mandatory pre-deployment training and communications projects, focussed on providing redress for victims. For the next financial year the UK will provide a further £800,000 to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and £200,000 to the office of the Secretary-General's Victims' Rights Advocate, Jane

Connors. I have asked our Joint Unit to brief you or the Foreign Affairs Committee Clerks directly. Please do let me know if this is of interest and we can set this up.

Jon Gue
Tariq

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief