

I. Reassessing the Response to Global Terror, a Decade After 9/11.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland firmly stands by the actions of the United Nations in the past decade in their efforts to combat global terror. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has taken a strong stance against terrorism even before the events of 9/11 as shown by both S/RES/1267 and S/RES/1269 which established the 1267 committee to combat terror and condemned acts of terror. Since 9/11 the United Kingdom has been directly involved in combating terror in Afghanistan through the joint action of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) via the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). More recently in 2009, the UN General Assembly, with backing from the United Kingdom, has updated their Global Counter Terrorism Strategy through A/RES/64/297 which “[r]eiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism” and stressed the importance of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The United Kingdom welcomes these advances in combating global terror and believes that the global community must continue in these efforts until we can assure the safety of all of our citizens.

Presently, the United Kingdom identifies 58 organizations as terrorist organizations. 14 of these, including the Irish Republican Army (IRA), operate within Ireland and present a unique domestic threat. In 2011, Parliament laid out the three part Strategy for Countering Terrorism (SCT) and switched the nation’s focus to prevention and protection. This plan reacts to the 51% drop in international terror arrests inside of the United Kingdom and the increasing number of attacks against UK troops and delegations on foreign soil. These attacks have increased as much as 250% in some countries and pose a serious threat to the UK’s missions overseas. Because of this change in strategy by terrorist organizations, the UK has changed tactics on how to combat them. Specifically the United Kingdom has increased its funding targeted at stopping terrorism before it even begins. 30% of convicted terrorist have attended institutes of higher learning and with this in mind we have increased our funding of the National Union of Students (NUS) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to promote education and combat recruitment of our youth into radical groups. But this is not enough. The United Kingdom will not rest until we have seen the end of terror and freedom from the fear it instills.

Moving forward, the United Kingdom hopes to work closely with bodies already in place within the UN such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its actionable subsidiary the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to combat terror through peaceful and preventative means. The United Kingdom believes that a coordinated “hearts and minds” campaign should be enacted and would be effective in stopping terrorism before it can spread. To do this we must combat the factors that lead individuals to commit acts of terror which include poverty, illiteracy, inaccurate propaganda, racial or religious unrest, and orphaned children. The UK wishes to expand current foreign aid programs such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to combat these issues. Poverty can be fixed with sustainable water and food sources and a stable economy, illiteracy with education funding, propaganda with free press and a cooperative policy, unrest with minority protection and free elections, and orphans with HIV/AIDS protection and violence reduction. Each of these factors of terrorism must be stopped, and stop it we must ensure that the events of 9/11 are never repeated.

II. Responding to the Unrest Observed in the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland strongly supports the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan as created by S/RES/1996. The United Kingdom recognizes the progress made in the region since the peace agreement in 2005 and the creation of South Sudan in 2011, however the region remains destabilized and requires attention from the international community. The United Kingdom believes that by combating the reasons behind the conflict we can ease the conditions that cause the ongoing conflict to exist. These issues include scarcity of resources due to warfare and desertification of the region. The United Kingdom request that the data learned from the panels of experts established in S/RES/2091 be utilized in our decision making. Recently the Sudan has cut off access to their ports for the use of oil exportation thus further destabilizing the situation. Actions such as S/RES/1769 which created the African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) have made progress towards nullifying these issues in the region but more must be done. Stabilizing the region is paramount to Northern and Eastern Africa’s growth and prosperity which the United Kingdom completely supports.

The United Kingdom places the strengthening of both Sudanese governments and reduction of violence within their borders as a priority. As conflict continues in 7 of 17 Sudanese states, with over 2.4 million people across the country affected, a need for comprehensive action is required. The UK is in strong support of UNAMID and the UN's Interim Security Force for Abyei and hopes to grow these mission's mandates in the future to assist Sudan. Currently, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) is in the middle of an aid program set to supply over £150 million in water, education, wealth creation, security, and humanitarian efforts. By 2015 we hope to increase access to clean drinking water by 800 thousand people and to enroll 3 million people in health programs. On the issue of education, we have delivered over 7.2 million text books to 2800 schools and affected 1.27 million youth with plans to supply even more. The United Kingdom hopes to expand upon these actions in the future and work with other member states on these issues.

The United Kingdom strongly believes in the sovereignty of nations and the Sudan and South Sudan are no exceptions. However, we do believe that the events that have unfolded in the region are unacceptable and must be resolved for the stability of not only the Sudan but also the entire region. Steps must be taken to reopen the borders of the Sudan and South Sudan to allow aid and trade to flow. Through an effective multinational response we can reopen the ports of Sudan to South Sudan and provide the much needed aid. Based on past experience the United Kingdom has noted that economic sanctions evoked by the UNSC such as the ones in S/RES/751 and S/RES/1493 can reduce violence and the arms traded within a country. Whilst the United Kingdom does not advocate the use of force in this situation, certain economic or arms sanctions, if accepted by the entire body, could be used to stabilize the region. Once the situation has been solved peacefully international focus can return to providing the help that is required to ensure the safety of the people of both countries. The United Kingdom strongly advocates action in this case and is worried of the consequences if the situation is not rectified.

III. Children in Armed Conflict

It is the position of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that the use of under aged persons in any conflict is a war crime in accordance with the Rome Statute Article 8/2/b/xxvi. The United Kingdom also supports the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OP) established in Annex I of Resolution 54/263. Whilst the OP increases the age of recruitment into armed forces from 15 to 18, the United Kingdom maintains its recruitment age of 16 by following the safeguards set in place by the OP for underage recruitment as explained in Explanatory Memorandum 5759. Furthermore, The United Kingdom fully supports S/RES/1261 and S/RES/1314 which condemns the use or involvement of children in conflicts and establishes a special representative for children in armed conflict. Due to the significant progress the United Nations has made in the last two decades we believe that with further support we can remove children from the battlefields of the world.

The United Kingdom recognizes that sexual violence is one of the most overlooked factors concerning Children in Conflict. The Machel Reports have for almost two decades given the international community a comprehensive view on the subject of Children in Armed Conflict including acts of sexual violence. The follow up report presented to the General Assembly in A/62/228 showed progress but also highlights areas that require more attention. In the Cote d'Ivoire alone 51.7% of all sexual violence occurs on children below the age of 15 and in 2008 nearly 16,000 thousand cases were reported in the DRC. UNSC resolutions S/RES/1612 and S/RES/1882 have directly targeted sexual violence and the UK has worked with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to combat this issue. The creation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) has allowed individuals to report child rights violations including rape of other sexual violence; cases such as The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo presented before the ICC in 2012 demonstrate great strides have been made to combat the use of children in armed conflict. Even with these efforts a remarkable amount of perpetrators escape justice, only 2% being arrested in Kivu (DRC) for instance. The United Kingdom believes that we can not rest until the children of this world can live in safety and without threat or danger.

The United Kingdom wishes three actions to take place to combat the use of children in armed conflict. First, expand coordination between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict (OSRSGCAC) and UN peacekeeping missions. This can be done by allowing envoys from the office to participate with peacekeeping missions in conflict areas thus allowing peacekeepers to be aware of this issue this issue. Second, bring those responsible of utilizing children in conflict to justice. We must work with both governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify, locate, and capture those responsible of these crimes. Finally, we must stop the very conflicts that draw the youth of the world into combat. Furthermore, the children utilized in these conflicts must be rehabilitated and not held responsible for their actions. They are a victim of a terrible crime and it is our duty to protect our future from the crimes of the past. The United Kingdom knows that only by doing this can we truly end the use of children in armed conflict and bring peace to those affected.