International Day of UN Peacekeepers 14th Annual Conference

Sustaining Momentum
What Next for UN Peace Operations?

0930–1730, 25 May 2016
RUSI, Whitehall

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Sustaining Momentum: What Next for UN Peace Operations?

This annual conference, jointly organised by the United Nations Association–UK, UNA Westminster and RUSI, is the UK’s most authoritative public review of UN peacekeeping activities and its efforts to resolve violent conflict worldwide. The conference brings together practitioners, diplomats, military and the public in an expert discussion of the most important issues in peacekeeping today – from politics to procurement.

With the prospect of operations in the Middle East, a key theme of this year’s conference is the future operating environment for peacekeeping: where the next UN deployments might be, and what it will mean for operational requirements. At the same time, it will also consider how the capabilities of peacekeeping operations might be changing more generally.

With the UK having announced that it will host the next UN summit on peacekeeping this year, the time is right to examine the content of peace operations reform, its political and bureaucratic prospects – and the role the UK can play in driving the process forward.

As a result, the agenda is now squarely focused on implementing the promises of last year’s peace operations review panel and the peacekeeping summit. It is up to the Secretariat and member states to implement the reforms suggested and navigate potential political differences. Differing visions for peace operations in the twenty-first century must be reconciled; and changes to the systems and structures for mounting and sustaining peace operations must be balanced with a consideration of what political momentum might actually make possible – particularly as the UN looks towards potential future operations in complex security environments.

We encourage attendees to participate in a discussion over Twitter as the conference takes place – join the global debate on #PKDay2016
### Session 1: Conflict prevention and the primacy of politics

The High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations stressed that peacekeeping cannot be a substitute for an effective political process, nor can mandates focus on the military aspects of peacekeeping without a wider political strategy. What does this emphasis mean for peace operations in practice? How can peacekeeping contribute to political processes for resolving or preventing conflict?

**Lord Hannay of Chiswick**, Co-Chair of the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group

**Dr Christine Cheng**, Lecturer in International Relations, Department of War Studies, King’s College London

**Chair: Dr Karin von Hippel**, Director-General, RUSI

### Session 2: 14th Folke Bernadotte Memorial Lecture

**Jean-Marie Guéhenno**, President and CEO, International Crisis Group

**Chair: Sir Jeremy Greenstock**, Chairman, UNA–UK

### Session 3: Do lessons learned become lessons acted on?

This session considers the priorities for peacekeeping reform and its wider bureaucratic and political context. While peacekeeping has been slow to adapt to new challenges, a renewed emphasis on mission capabilities and the increased participation of Western militaries may offer a fresh opportunity to build consensus.

**Melinda Simmons**, Head, Conflict Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Victoria K Holt**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, US Department of State

**Lt Gen (Rtd) Philip Campose**, former Vice Chief of Army Staff, Indian Army

**Chair: Natalie Samarasinghe**, Executive Director, UNA–UK
This session looks at UN peace operations in complex security environments. What could the next generation of peace operations look like in terms of the challenges they will face and the tools they may have? New UN operations may face threats of violent extremism and organised crime in particular. But is the UN the right body to tackle these kinds of problems and, if not, what could this mean for future missions?

**Matthew Moore**, Head of Future UAS Capability, Thales

**Dr Annette Idler**, Director of Studies, Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford

**Dr Andrew Glazzard**, Director of National Security and Resilience Studies, RUSI

**Chair: Kevin Steeves**, Head of the Director’s Office, Chatham House

**1720**

Closing remarks