



## **United Kingdom**

### **Mission**

**To the Office of the  
United Nations and Other  
International Organisations at Geneva**

## **2<sup>ND</sup> Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development**

### **United Kingdom Statement**

**Mr Chairman,**

The United Kingdom reaffirms its support for the goals of the Geneva Declaration. The negative impacts of armed violence remain as relevant now as they did when the Declaration was signed in 2007. In fact, the combined call for development, peace, security and human rights enshrined in the Geneva Declaration has been shown to be especially relevant in 2011; with the Arab Spring throwing these issues into sharp focus, and with the World Development Report recognising the central role that violence and conflict plays in holding back development. The increase in signatories to the Geneva Declaration since the last Ministerial conference confirms the broader interest in these crucial issues.

The United Kingdom has been at the forefront of those calling for greater recognition of the links between violence, conflict and development. Our development programme is increasingly focussed in fragile and conflict-affected states where armed violence is a daily reality, fuelled by the widespread availability of weapons. The development outcomes that we are committed to supporting will only be achieved if this violence and its drivers are addressed. As work done through the Geneva Declaration has illustrated, this requires action to tackle the instruments of armed violence, to deal with those agents that perpetrate it, and to work with the formal and informal institutions that can provide the long-term solutions that are needed. We also firmly believe that this action must be led and driven by national actors.

At the national level, our bilateral programmes in Africa, the Middle East and Asia are working with national actors on a wide range of such activity, from disarmament and arms control processes in Nepal and South Sudan, to community security and community policing initiatives in Jamaica and DRC, to strengthening the delivery of accountable security and justice in Sierra Leone, Malawi and Bangladesh. We are also committed to key global initiatives, particularly the development of an Arms Trade Treaty that through creating strong international standards for global arms transfers will help tackle the harmful effects of irresponsible trading. The UK is one of the seven UN Member State co-authors of the Arms Trade Treaty and is fully committed to continuing work towards securing a robust and effective Treaty. We are also supporting the work of the UN, World Bank and other international partners in identifying innovative and effective approaches to reducing the impact of armed violence.

New initiatives for the UK in the last year have reinforced our commitment to making progress in this area. We have a renewed emphasis on tackling violence against women and girls, and are strengthening both our programming and policy in this under-resourced area, with new initiatives underway from India and Nepal to South Africa and Malawi. We have also recently published a cross-governmental Building Stability Overseas Strategy setting out an integrated approach to tackling conflict and instability that places people's experience of conflict and violence at its heart.

We are also more focussed than ever on delivering clear results with British taxpayers' money, more rigorously reviewing the evidence underpinning our interventions and finding better ways to measure the impact of our work.

And we are committed to achieving this collaboratively. We welcome the work done under the auspices of the Geneva Declaration to identify successes and innovative approaches, and particularly on the crucial area of measuring and monitoring results. We commend the role that governments, international actors including the UN and civil society organisations are playing, and encourage them to strengthen their efforts to reduce all forms of violence and its associated impact on vulnerable groups. And we hope that the work done and evidence produced through the Geneva Declaration process will continue to inform other relevant international initiatives, for example the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

I thank you Mr Chairman.

[Check against delivery]