

# Reinforcing our support of UN Peacekeeping Initiatives: UK Statement at the UN General Assembly

Mr Chair,

Mr Chair, I thank you, Bureau members, Fifth Committee Secretariat, ACABQ, and UN Secretariat for continued efforts in support of the Fifth Committee.

Since its inception, the UK is a strong and a long-standing supporter of UN Peacekeeping. Last week we closed our UNSC Presidency by dedicated a new tree on the UN North Lawn to the memory Sir Brian Urquhart, the British Under Secretary General widely known as the founder of UN Peacekeeping.

In this session we must ensure peacekeeping operations receive adequate, cost-effective financing and staffing in support of full mandate delivery, including on human rights and gender, building on lessons learned from the pandemic. We must also break the cycle of failing to agree a cross cutting resolution if we are to deliver our responsibilities in providing proper guidance.

I would take this opportunity to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by Peacekeepers, and those who support them. We look forward to discussing the important issue of troop reimbursement rates, and the safety, security and health of peacekeeping personnel, including mental health, and the Secretary General's proposal on PTSD.

Safety and security should be a right for all, of course. On sexual exploitation and abuse, we expect member states to agree a resolution, and we urge continued, sustained whole-of-UN system commitment and action, through strengthened leadership and organisational culture, including on prevention, response and survivor support.

We would reiterate that peacekeeping is the highest contributor to climate change within the UN system, and urge greater progress on reducing impacts, including through continued progress on efficient, professional, sustainable supply chain management.

Mr Chair,

An effective, inclusive organisation is critical across the UN system, not just in peacekeeping, so we look forward to ensuring adequate funding for the strategic action plan of the Secretary General's Task Force on addressing racism. Doing so will help address racism and promote dignity for all staff, giving the UN benefit from diverse perspectives and life experiences. We also look forward to discussing progress on better accessibility for persons with disabilities, to ensure full and equal participation in UN meetings and conferences.

Mr Chair

Other important issues this session include options for enhanced funding for prevention and peacebuilding and resuming discussions on the UN's financial situation to put it on a more stable footing, on which we will make statements later in the session.

Lastly, as we strive for continuous improvement and accountability we welcome the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and Office for Investigation and Oversight Services.

Mr Chair, the United Kingdom looks forward to rapid progress this session under your leadership and guidance, in support of timely closure.