



All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations

ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2011/2012

Meetings convened

The Arab Spring: an overall view (21 June 2011)

Speaker: Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, former Foreign Minister of Algeria, former UN envoy and member of The Elders

As an Arab League Special Envoy, Ambassador Brahimi brokered the 1989 Taef Agreement which ended the 17-year long civil war in Lebanon. After retiring as Algeria's Foreign Minister in 1993, he went on to lead numerous UN missions. He served as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan 1997-1999, and from 2001-2004, he led the UN mission to Afghanistan. In 2004 he travelled to Iraq as a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to help form an Interim Government. He is a member of The Elders, a collection of world leaders working to address difficult global challenges.

Chaired by Lord Hannay, the meeting was jointly hosted by the United Nations APPG and the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation.

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Prospects for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in 2012 and Beyond (20 October 2011)

A discussion on the prospects for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in 2012 and beyond from a range of international viewpoints, including from the perspective of the League of Arab States, China, the UN and Russia.

Speakers:

- Ambassador Wael Al Assad, Director, Disarmament and Multilateral Relations Department, League of Arab States
- Dr. Jianqun TENG, Director, Centre for Arms Control & International Security Studies, Beijing
- Dr. Randy Rydell, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Office of the High Representative, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Dr. Vladimir A. Orlov, President, PIR Centre (The Russian Centre for Policy Studies), Moscow

Chaired by Lord Hannay, the meeting was jointly hosted by the United Nations APPG and the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation.

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Dr Ed Luck, Special Advisor to the Secretary General on R2P, addresses UN APPG (13 December 2011)

Speaker: Dr Ed Luck, Special Advisor to the Secretary General on R2P

Dr Luck visited London to address the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group (UN APPG) on the importance of R2P and its role in current and future international affairs. In the meeting, which was hosted by Lord Hannay, Chair of the UN APPG, Dr Luck described this year's events in Libya as a watershed for R2P. Despite controversies surrounding international action in Libya, he said that the implementation of R2P had offered real hope and a promising opportunity to the people of that country.

Since its introduction at the 2005 World Summit, the 'responsibility to protect' principle (R2P) has been refined and clarified by the work of Dr Luck who has been instrumental in its theoretical development as well as helping to create a path for putting the principle into practice.

Chaired by Lord Hannay, the meeting was jointly hosted by five All-Party Groups: the United Nations APPG, the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation, the APPG on the Great Lakes Region of Africa, the APPG on Human Rights and the Genocide Prevention APPG.

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The importance of the UK's relationship with the UN (18 January 2012)

Speaker: Henry Bellingham MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the United Nations

Henry Bellingham MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the United Nations, praised the UN's work in 2011, from South Sudan's independence to peacekeeping in Côte d'Ivoire, and outlined some of the challenges ahead, including Somalia, which he described as being "at the top" of the UK's agenda. The meeting also provided an excellent opportunity for members to quiz the Minister on the UK's relationship with the UN.

The meeting was chaired by Lord Hannay and hosted by the United Nations APPG.

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Joint APPG meeting on the UN Arms Trade Treaty (25 April 2012)

Speakers: Alistair Burt, Foreign Office Minister for Counter Proliferation, and Anna MacDonald, Head of Arms Control at Oxfam and co-chair of the Control Arms Coalition

The APPG on the United Nations together with the APPG on the Weapons and Protection of Civilians hosted a vibrant, well-attended parliamentary meeting on the prospects for a strong Arms Trade Treaty. The event, co-chaired by Lord Hannay and Martin Caton MP, saw participation from MPs, Peers, NGOs and members of UNA Youth.

During the meeting, speakers Alistair Burt, Foreign Office Minister for Counter Proliferation, and Anna MacDonald, Head of Arms Control at Oxfam and co-chair of the Control Arms Coalition, outlined their objectives and expectations for negotiations soon to take place on the Arms Trade Treaty at the UN in New York from 2-27 July.

Co-chaired by Lord Hannay and Martin Caton MP, the meeting was jointly hosted by the United Nations APPG and the Weapons and the Protection of Civilians APPG

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The UN's response to the Arab Spring (2 May 2012)

Speakers: Sir Mark Lyall Grant, UK Ambassador to the UN, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, UNA-UK Chairman and former UK Ambassador to the UN

Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair of the UN APPG and a former UK Ambassador to the UN, chaired the event, while Sir Jeremy Greenstock, UNA-UK Chairman and another of Sir Mark's predecessors, acted as a respondent. With collective Security Council experience spanning more than 20 years, the three diplomats took the opportunity to reflect on its evolving role. More than 120 UNA-UK members, NGO representatives, parliamentarians and diplomats participated in a wide-ranging discussion that covered issues including international justice, energy security and UN reform.

Chaired by Lord Hannay the event was hosted by the UN APPG.

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Towards a more secure and WMD-free Middle East (20 June 2012)

Speakers: Ambassador Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Facilitator for 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and Mark Fitzpatrick, Director, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Programme, The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

Ambassador Laajava spoke alongside Mark Fitzpatrick (International Institute of Strategic Studies) at a meeting jointly hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on the United Nations and on Global Security and Non-proliferation, where Mr Fitzpatrick's UNA-UK-commissioned paper on the Zone was officially launched. Chaired by former UN Ambassador Lord Hannay of Chiswick, the meeting was well-attended by parliamentarians and staff from a number of embassies and high commissions, as well as members of the NGO community.

Chaired by Lord Hannay, the meeting was jointly hosted by the United Nations APPG and the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation.

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A meeting with the Dalai Lama (20 June 2012)

The meeting provided a unique opportunity for Parliamentarians to hear directly from His Holiness the Dalai Lama's views on International Development whilst also providing MPs and Peers with an extended opportunity to ask His Holiness any questions they might have related to this subject area.

The meeting is being co-hosted by the APPGs on International Development in conjunction with the CPA UK and British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and is the second event in the seminar series Parliamentarians Ending Poverty following on from the first session held with Bill Gates.

UNA-UK acts as the Secretariat of the UN APPG
Visit <http://www.una.org.uk/un-appg> for more info

The meeting was co-hosted by the APPGs on International Development – a coalition of APPGs of which the UN APPG is a member.

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A discussion with the Elders Jimmy Carter, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu (3 July 2012)

Three of the Elders: Jimmy Carter, Mary Robinson and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, are visited Westminster to discuss the role of UK Parliamentarians in promoting a more just, sustainable and equitable world. No longer bound by the interests of any nation, government or institution, the Elders are free to speak difficult truths, and engaged with parliamentarians on a range of critical issues related to sustainable development, promoting equality for women and girls, and conflict and development.

The meeting included an introduction from the Speaker and was chaired by Lord Hannay.

The meeting was co-hosted by the APPGs on International Development – a coalition of APPGs of which the UN APPG is a member.

For more info on the UN APPG visit <http://www.una.org.uk/un-appg>