

## POSITION PAPER (POLICY STATEMENT)

*Country:* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Committee:* United Nations Security Council

*Topics:* Addressing the Threats of Non-State Actors

*Delegate:* Basil Novotny Aziz

*University:* Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The ascent of non-state actors (NSAs) since the onset of the 21st century has resulted in their acquisition of significant political influence and territorial control, thereby assuming a pivotal role within the international arena. **As entities or individuals not directly affiliated with any government entity**, NSAs possess critical leverage to function as proxies. The interests, structures, and influences of NSAs vary across types, encompassing International non-governmental organization (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations (MNCs), unrepresented nations and peoples organizations, religious groups, and violent non-state actors (VNSAs).

A principal factor contributing to the evolution of the Cobweb Paradigm in international politics was the proliferation of NSAs following the Cold War. The paradigms posit that non-state actors contribute to the erosion of authority and sovereignty within the conventional Westphalian state model (Chaudhry, 2017). Key phenomena such as globalisation have facilitated the ability of NSAs to contest national borders and claims of sovereignty. This phenomenon is not confined solely to VNSAs; it extends to MNCs as well, as they tend to prioritise the interests of their corporations over those of the nation. NSAs further challenge the authority of national governments over international affairs, operating outside state control and becoming entangled in armed conflicts, thereby introducing complexity to traditional methods of conflict management and resolution (Bianchi, 2009).

### PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED KINGDOM:

The United Kingdom is acutely aware of the escalating threats posed by non-state actors (NSAs) and has engaged in comprehensive discussions on this matter at various echelons, including the Parliament of the United Kingdom, the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Security Council, and the European Union, in previous instances.

Within a Parliamentary Publication entitled "The Middle East: Time for New Realism," published in 2017, specific attention was directed to Chapter 7, titled "Beyond the State," where the United Kingdom articulated its policy concerning the emergence of significant sub-state actors in the Middle East and other developing regions. It emphasised that "*it should be a priority of UK policy to build local ties and seek the broadest range of relationships with sub-state actors. This imperative necessitates a coordinated effort by the entire Government, extending beyond the purview of the Foreign Office*" (UK, Parliament, 2017). The document acknowledged the imperative of striking a balance between engagement with sub-state/non-state actors and averting the risk of undermining the central state.

In addressing the threat posed by violent non-state actors (VNSAs) and terrorist organisations, the Parliament underscored the nuanced nature of engagement. It stipulated that "*within the spectrum of non-state jihadist actors, a careful distinction must be made between Da'esh—millenarian and brutal—and other sectarian groups... there is a crucial disparity between being open to dialogue with individual members of such groups and being willing to negotiate with them. The latter should be contingent upon their willingness to*

*renounce violence.*” (UK, Parliament, 2017) The recommendation advocated for judiciousness on the part of the UK government in its interactions with NSAs, recognising the practical advantages of engaging with influential entities in the region while maintaining a cautious stance.

#### **CURRENT POLICY & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM:**

In this session of the Security Council, the United Kingdom expresses its readiness provide legal and regulatory expertise as well as broader support to non-violent NSAs looking to meet their obligations and strengthen their national frameworks to enhance global order. The UK advocates for multilateral action through a proposed resolution, co-sponsored by select Permanent Members of the Security Council, including the UK, and endorsed by other UNSC members, to be executed by the United Nations. The proposed resolution aims to effectively address contemporary threats posed by NSAs, encompassing the notions of legitimacy for non-state actors, issues pertaining to non-violent NSAs, the lack of accountability among international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), the role of multinational corporations (MNCs) in the international system, and the benefits of international cooperation in this urgent matter.

The United Kingdom underscores the influential role that violent non-state actors (VNSAs) play and the harm they inflict on global peace. During a speech titled 'Preventing the Heinous Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors' at the Security Council Briefing on the 1540 Committee (Non-Proliferation), Stephen Hickey, UK Political Coordinator at the UN, reiterated the UK's strong support for non-proliferation, especially concerning VNSAs. He emphasised, *“We only need to look at instances in recent years where chemical weapons have been used by groups such as Daesh in Iraq and Syria to realize what is at stake. We cannot stand by and allow the unconscionable use of such weapons to take place”* (Foreign & Commonwealth Office, 2019). Stressing that the use of such weapons by organisations like Daesh or Hamas is unconscionable, as is the government's use of chemical weapons against its own people or another state/actor, the UK proposes measures to regulate and limit the illegal export of arms to NSAs and VNSAs to uphold the UN Charter in maintaining international peace and security.

The United Kingdom has historically advocated for international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), with this commitment traceable to the London Declaration, which laid the groundwork for what is now recognized as the United Nations. The UK has steadfastly maintained its support for INGOs over the years. Consequently, the United Kingdom underlines the imperative for enhanced accountability measures for INGOs, recognizing that there is room for improvement in this regard. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom also acknowledges the pivotal contributions made by these INGOs, emphasizing their continuing vital role within the international system in upholding the charters that define its very essence.

Addressing the escalating influence of multinational corporations (MNCs), the UK emphasises these entities' paramount significance within the world economy. However, the United Kingdom is keen to highlight that the roles MNCs assume within the international arena must not adversely impact the operational autonomy of other states when conducting activities within their sovereign territories. Striking a delicate balance between acknowledging their economic significance and ensuring the preservation of the sovereignty of individual states remains a core consideration for the United Kingdom.

## POSITION PAPER (POLICY STATEMENT)

*Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

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*Topics: Situation on Korean Peninsula*

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION/ PAST ACTIONS:

The United Kingdom's diplomatic engagements with the Korean Peninsula trace their origins to the 1800s, notably fortified by the signing of the United Kingdom–Korea Treaty of 1883. The Republic of Korea officially established formal relations on 18 January 1949 (Harris,2014). The United Kingdom's historical involvement in the Korean War during the 1950s was of significant magnitude and has since blossomed into a productive bilateral relationship of support from all areas.

In the aftermath of the Korean Peninsula's division, relations with North Korea experienced a period of stagnation, influenced in part by the participation of the British Commonwealth Forces Korea in the Korean War. However, formal relations were officially initiated on 12 December 2000, following positive developments in North-South Korea relations(Harris,2014). The United Kingdom actively contributes to this bilateral relationship by providing English language and human rights training to officials in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Furthermore, the UK oversees and participates in bilateral humanitarian projects within North Korea, highlighting its commitment to fostering constructive relations within the Korean Peninsula (Denney,2012).

### CURRENT POLICY AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM:

The United Kingdom, with its historical involvement spanning over a century in the Korean Peninsula, acknowledges the intricacies inherent in the current regional dynamics. The UK actively engages with these issues on a comprehensive scale within the United Nations, extending beyond the confines of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). As a nation fostering bilateral ties, the UK recognises the imperative for peace and enhanced cooperation in the region.

Nevertheless, the United Kingdom adopted a firm stance concerning North Korea's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. This pursuit is perceived not only as a threat to a key ally of the UK but, more critically, as a menace to the strategic Asia-Pacific region. In response to the firing of two short-range ballistic missiles on December 23, 2022, stressing how these actions are a “breach of multiple UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea's repeated testing of ballistic missile technology poses a threat to our regional partners and global security.” (FCDO, 2022). This position is articulated in the UK Government's 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defense, Development, and Foreign Policy, which identifies opportunism by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as a pivotal factor contributing to the deterioration of the global security environment, thereby substantially undermining the global order (Morgan,2023). The United Kingdom restates its commitment to serving as a critical non-regional partner on matters of denuclearisation and sanctions enforcement, with the overarching goal of upholding peace and security for all.

Therefore, the United Kingdom strongly advocates for multilateral action through a proposed resolution, co-sponsored by select Permanent Members of the Security Council, including the UK, and endorsed by other UNSC members, to be executed by the United Nations. Given the UK's diplomatic relations with both parties involved, the proposed resolution aims to effectively and realistically redirect the ongoing 'situation' toward an outcome that is optimal for both sides. The emphasis is placed on critical issues, including the

inflexibility of the DPRK, the importance of denuclearisation, the current situation in the DPRK, the impact and use of sanctions, the humanitarian crisis, and encouragement for enhanced cooperation.

The latter aspect, namely the encouragement of further cooperation, is underscored by the UK, given its paramount importance. It is imperative that “*North Korea must return to dialogue and take credible steps towards denuclearisation in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner*” (FCDO, 2022).

In acknowledgement of the United Kingdom's enduring commitment to the region, it recognises the dire humanitarian situation confronting the DPRK. Consequently, the UK is committed to addressing this issue through humanitarian aid and the establishment of additional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within the country, with the aim of facilitating the livelihood of the DPRK's population. However, it cannot be stressed enough that the UK encourages further cooperation and dialogue by the DPRK to alleviate the harsh situation in North Korea. As stated in official documents, “*The UK is working closely with partners to urge the North Korean regime to prioritise the well-being of its people instead of the unlawful pursuit of nuclear and ballistic missile programmes*” (FCDO, 2022).

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