



Note No: 152/22

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and has the honour to present the United Kingdom's response to note LA/COD/50/1 from the Office of Legal Affairs dated 11 January 2022 in respect of General Assembly resolution 76/106 of 9 December 2021 concerning the criminal accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission.

The response of the United Kingdom, which concerns the request for States to provide information and observations on their implementation of resolution 76/106, is attached to this Note.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations

New York

1 June 2022

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Response to request for information on the implementation of resolution 76/106 concerning the criminal accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission

1. This note provides the response of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to note LA/COD/50/1 from the Office of Legal Affairs dated 11 January 2022 in respect of General Assembly resolution 76/106 of 9 December 2021 and the request for States to provide information and observations on their implementation of that resolution, in particular paragraphs 10, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 20 thereof, as well as any practical problems in the implementation of the resolution.

Capacity building

2. In February 2022, INTERPOL publicly announced¹ that the £10m United Kingdom-funded safeguarding project, Project Soteria², was operational. Project Soteria establishes an advanced level of global collaboration between law enforcement agencies and aid sector organisations to prevent sexual offenders from working undetected in the aid sector and to take action if they do. Project Soteria's focus is on the humanitarian and development sectors, but strengthening the capacity of law enforcement to investigate, prosecute and arrest perpetrators of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse will have a positive impact in other areas as well, including greater accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission who have committed crimes of this nature. In support of OP12(d) of General Assembly resolution 76/106, Project Soteria will assist host States in enhancing their capacity to conduct effective investigations in respect of crimes of a serious nature. After a period of detailed consultation and design, Project Soteria will run until 2025 in selected countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. Project Soteria is exploring how to build synergies with the United Nations Clear Check system and the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme³.
3. The United Kingdom has developed a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence investigations course for police deploying into United Nations and African Union peacekeeping missions. The course introduces the concept of Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centred investigation, delivering specialist knowledge and skills for dealing with complex and traumatic investigations, enabling police officers to support the most vulnerable victims and bring more perpetrators to justice. In the last year, the UK has delivered this training in Ghana and Zambia and to the East Africa Standby Force in Kenya.

¹ <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2022/INTERPOL-rolls-out-initiative-against-sexual-abuse-in-the-aid-sector>

² <https://www.interpol.int/How-we-work/Capacity-building/Capacity-building-projects/Project-Soteria>

³ <https://misconduct-disclosure-scheme.org/introduction>

Sharing best practice

4. Last year, the United Kingdom provided an update on the United Kingdom's Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the Act) which extends the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to additional violent and sexual offences. The offences in question include rape, sexual assaults and other forms of non-consensual activity, as well as certain forms of harassment (including putting people in fear of violence and stalking). Pertinent to OP10 of General Assembly resolution 76/106, in 2021 the United Kingdom provided assistance on developing similar legal measures by sharing information about the Act with Member States at the Action for Peacekeeping event on *Strengthening the Conduct of Peacekeeping Personnel* organised by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy, and Compliance and the Department of Peace Operations, and highlighting the importance of such legislation as a valuable tool to bring to justice any United Kingdom national or resident who commits relevant offences while serving or on mission for the United Nations.

Other information and observations

5. The United Kingdom has no information or observations to provide in relation to the other paragraphs in General Assembly resolution 76/106.