

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH
LEVEL MEETING ON COMBATting SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE**

NEW YORK, 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

The United Kingdom welcomes the Secretary General's determination to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by both peacekeepers and civilians from within the UN and those operating in its name. Zero tolerance is a priority for the UK and we want see those who have committed heinous crimes are dealt with swiftly and effectively. The protection of children in particular, from rape, sexual exploitation and abuse is a top priority for us.

But we are not asking the UN Agencies to do anything we are not prepared to do ourselves. We will ensure that we have put in place appropriate measures both within Government but also through the partners and implementing agencies through whom we work, especially in the delivery of our international assistance. We are already supporting the work of the Special Coordinator on SEA, the Conduct and Discipline Unit of the Department for Field Support and providing training to peacekeepers on sexual violence and women's rights.

There is a lot more to do. The UK is already looking into what more we can do, how we can help those most affected and ultimately how we can stop Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Transparency and accountability for the actions of all those that operate in the name of the UN and of national Governments is critical. In that regard, the UN must lead by example. It is something that together we can and must stamp out. By this time next