Further written evidence submitted by Saferworld

I write with a short clarification to the International Development Committee’s ‘The Future of UK Development Co-operation: Phase 2: Beyond Aid’ report where it references Saferworld’s written evidence, which is enclosed for reference.

We very much welcome the report, and in particular the Committee’s findings in regards to the need for a strong focus on conflict prevention in the UK’s overseas engagement.

However, we must clarify that Saferworld’s evidence does not argue that the NSC should have a stronger role in setting whole-of-government objectives (as the report states in paragraph 67). Rather, we flag to the Committee an announcement by the UK Government that the NSC will have a stronger role, including under the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (noted in Saferworld’s written evidence paragraph 21).

Our evidence intended to highlight this change to prompt further investigation by the Committee, as the motivations behind NSC decisions regarding conflict-affected states are not sufficiently transparent at this time. We therefore welcome the report’s commitment to pursuing further parliamentary scrutiny of the NSC by the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy and other Committees including the International Development Committee.

We also warmly welcome the Committee’s call for a greater prioritisation of DFID’s concerns by the NSC. We believe that greater discussion is needed in regards to how the NSC will make decisions about the UK’s engagement in fragile states and welcome any plans to follow up your report’s findings with further investigation into this matter by the Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to review our clarification of evidence.