

22 June 2010

STATEMENT BY MR. GUY POLLARD
HEAD OF THE UK DELEGATION
MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE,
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES

RIGHT OF REPLY TO ARGENTINA

Mr. Co-Chair,

I take the floor to exercise my right of reply to the statement just made by the distinguished delegate of Argentina.

The Government of the UK firmly rejects the assertion made in Argentina's extension request and repeated in the statement they have made today to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance.

The UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the UN Charter, underlies our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. The Islanders regularly make it clear that they have no wish either to lose British sovereignty or to become independent.

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.