



MINUTES

Session 2026/27

International Relations and Defence Committee

Minutes of the 11th Meeting, held at 10.30am on 2 September 2026

Present: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
Baroness Blackstone
Lord Bruce of Bennachie
Lord Darroch of Kew (remote)
Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie
Lord Grocott
Lord Houghton of Richmond
Lord Lamont of Lerwick
Lord de Mauley
Lord Robertson of Port Ellen (chair)
Baroness Prashar

Adviser in attendance: Dr Andrew Ehrhardt (specialist adviser)

1. Apologies and notices

Apologies were received from Lord Alderdice and Baroness Crawley.

2. Multilateralism inquiry: focus on UK approaches to multilateral engagement

At approximately 10.30am, the Committee heard, in public, from:

- Professor John Bew, Professor of History and Foreign Policy, Department of War Studies, King's College, London and former Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister (2019-24)

A full transcript was taken.

The following member declared a relevant interest:

- Lord Robertson of Port Ellen – Lead Reviewer, Strategic Defence Review 2025

3. Multilateralism inquiry: admissibility of written evidence submission

The Committee *agreed* to reject written evidence submission MUL0020.

4. AOB

The Committee considered its forward work programme.

5. Date of next meeting

The Committee would next meet on Wednesday 9 September at 10.30am in a committee room tbc.

3 September 2026