

FCO Board, 31 October 2008

SUMMARY

The Board discussed the FCO's **finances**, and asked for proposals to simplify the process to allow DGs to assume more responsibility for their budgets. The Board agreed to review the financial situation fully at its November meeting, on the basis of the second quarter figures.

The Board discussed the **physical and IT security** risks to the FCO's operations, and concluded that they were being effectively managed.

The Board reviewed early work on the **Diversity and Inclusion Strategy** 2008-13, and welcomed 'fairness for all' as the central theme. It accepted that the FCO needed to work harder on diversity, and particularly on the number of women in the SMS, to improve the performance of the FCO as an organisation. It would approve a final draft in December, after further consultation and work on the statistical basis.

The Board heard updates on the FCO's progress towards **Investors in People** reaccreditation, and on the preparations for the **2009 Leadership Week**.

The Board asked for weekly updates on the **Future Firecrest** programme in the light of the delay to overseas roll-out, but agreed that deployment should still be completed by the end of 2009.