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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 80,
REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS
SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION

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UNITED KINGDOM MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr/Madam Chairperson

1. I would like to start by thanking the Chair of the Drafting Committee, Mr. Mahmoud Hmoud and the Director of the Codification Division, Mr. Huw Llewellyn for their welcomed updates.
2. The Government of the United Kingdom, would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the members of the International Law Commission for their continuing efforts, and in particular, to the Secretariat for steering the work of the ILC through the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank the Secretariat for its ongoing engagement with States on how best to move things forward under these unprecedented circumstances.

Mr/Madam Chairperson

3. The UK is proud to have been closely involved in the founding of the United Nations, and indeed to have hosted the first meeting of the General Assembly in London in January 1946. At the moment of the UN's 75th Anniversary, the United Kingdom reaffirms its belief in an international order based on international law, and its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, which sits at its apex. For the United Kingdom, the Charter stands as a framework for international cooperation and a reminder of the importance of the rule of law and human dignity.
4. One of the biggest challenges for international law is ensuring that it keeps pace as the world changes. New threats, including the global health pandemic, climate change and risks emanating from new technologies demonstrate the need to retain a forward-looking spirit as we work to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.
5. The United Kingdom recognizes the important role of the International Law Commission in meeting this challenge through promoting the progressive development of international law and its codification. The Government of the United Kingdom welcomes the selection and consideration of practical topics that are of international concern, and underlines the importance of ensuring that proposals to develop the law undergo rigorous analysis and debate.
6. Finally, I would like to underline the UK Government's continuing commitment to working alongside its international partners to strengthen the international rules based system, to support the United Nations in its activities, and to contribute to the valuable work of the International Law Commission.

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair