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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
UNGA78

EXPLANATION OF POSITION
Draft resolution A/C.6/78/L.21
Peremptory norms of general international law (jus cogens)

17 November 2023

Delivered by Jonathan Hollis

Check against delivery

Thank you Chair.

I would like to start by commending the facilitator of this resolution, Matúš Košuth, for his sterling efforts towards finding a consensus text on this topic, which has been so divisive in the Committee. The United Kingdom considers the resolution to be a fair balance between the different views in the Committee. It was important that the Committee did not take this negotiation into another session, given the important work we have to do.

For the United Kingdom's part, the ILC's draft conclusions on jus cogens do not in all respects reflect current law or practice. Our position remains as set out in our submissions to the ILC, as well as our statement to the Sixth Committee during its seventy-seventh session on the ILC's Report.

It is therefore essential that the draft conclusions are taken forward alongside the views of States and the UK is pleased that paragraph four of the resolution takes note of the comments of States.

Before I close, I would like to echo my Singaporean colleague in thanking Huw for his dedication and contribution to the Sixth Committee over many years.

Thank you Chair.