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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
UNGA 79, AGENDA ITEM 77

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

14 October 2024

Delivered by Lieve Caron

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Thank you Chair,

The United Kingdom would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of the Commission, the Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur for their ongoing work to promote the development of a legal framework to facilitate international trade law and investments. In particular, we would like to thank the Commission Secretariat for its excellent work in preparing for and facilitating the session.

Working Group I (Warehouse Receipts)

Chair,

The United Kingdom has followed closely the progress made by Working Group I and notes the adoption of the UNCITRAL/UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts by the Commission at its 57th session (and by the UNIDROIT Governing Council at its 103rd session in May).

Working Group II (Dispute Settlement)

Chair,

The United Kingdom has followed with interest Working Group II's deliberations on the UNCITRAL Model Clauses on Specialised Express Dispute Resolution, the UNCITRAL colloquium on electronic awards, and consideration of the topic of recognition and enforcement of electronic

arbitral awards. The United Kingdom looks forward to following future progress on these workstreams.

Chair,

The United Kingdom signed the Singapore Convention on Mediation on the 3rd of May last year and remains committed to:

- promoting mediation as an effective method of resolving disputes and improving access to justice,
- maintaining our position as a centre for international dispute resolution; and
- building on our long history of leadership in private international law.

The UK recognises that the Singapore Convention provides an important international mediation framework, and we look forward to further engaging with UNCITRAL on this Convention.

Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform)

Chair,

The United Kingdom was pleased to participate in the 46th, 47th, 48th and 49th sessions of Working Group III. The reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement is a crucial topic within the broader framework of international

trade law, and we remain committed to engaging in these discussions and contributing constructively to the reform options.

We welcome the positive strides made across various reform options, particularly the Commission's adoption, in principle, of the draft statute for the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution this July. This marks a significant milestone in the Working Group's efforts to achieve meaningful reforms, building on last year's adoption of the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators. These achievements reflect the continued dedication of the Working Group and provide strong prospects for success in the years ahead.

We look forward to participating in the 50th session of the Working Group in January 2025, where we hope to advance progress on the work programme. We remain committed to engage with States and representatives from the business community alike, and to continue discussions on the essential issues of: the multilateral reform instrument, the standing mechanism, and the procedural rules draft provisions.

Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce)

Chair,

The United Kingdom continues to follow closely the progress made by Working Group IV. We welcome the Working Group's continued consideration on the use of artificial intelligence and automation in contracting and support its approach to future work on this topic.

Working Group V (Insolvency Law)

Chair,

The United Kingdom was pleased to participate in the 63rd and 64th sessions of Working Group V. We welcome the progress that has been made on the creation of a "tool kit" for development of awareness of civil asset tracing and recovery mechanisms, and the continuing discussion on applicable law in cross-border insolvency situations. We agree that these continue to be worthwhile and beneficial subjects for the group to work on and look forward to attending and participating in the 65th session, to be held in December this year.

Working Group VI (Negotiable Cargo Documents)

Chair,

The United Kingdom was pleased to participate in the 43rd session of Working Group VI and its discussions regarding negotiable cargo documents. We continue to follow developments in this area with interest.

Chair,

In conclusion, the United Kingdom remains committed to the work of UNCITRAL and looks forward to continuing its work with the Commission.

Thank you.