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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
UNGA 80

Item 79: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
on the work of its fifty-eighth session

21 October 2025

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.

Chair,

The United Kingdom has followed with interest the proposed reforms that Working Group II is considering which aim to modernise arbitration frameworks and promote the acceptance of electronic awards.

With regards to the Singapore Convention on Mediation, the United Kingdom recognises the important role that mediation can play in resolving commercial disputes and promoting access to justice, alongside other dispute resolution methods such as litigation and arbitration. The United Kingdom is currently consulting with stakeholders on implementing this Convention and intends to ratify it once the necessary implementing procedures are in place.

Chair,

The United Kingdom was pleased to participate in the 50th, 51st and 52nd sessions of Working Group III. The reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement continues to be a crucial topic within the broader framework of international trade law, and the UK remains committed to engaging in these discussions and contributing constructively to the reform options to improve ISDS practice.

We welcome the progress that has been made across reforms, particularly with regards to the UNCITRAL Toolkit on Prevention and Mitigation of International Investment Disputes, adopted by the Commission in July 2025. We note that in other areas achieving progress has been more challenging, nevertheless we are optimistic that going forward the Working Group can turn towards compromise in order to find consensus, and we look forward to participating in the 53rd session.

Chair,

In line with the work of Working Group IV on Electronic Commerce, the United Kingdom has funded law reform projects by the Law Commission of England and Wales to explore and expand electronic commerce opportunities. Where needed, we are modernising the law to provide clarity, as with the Property Digital Assets Bill, which is currently before

Parliament. This Bill would establish a new category of personal property in law to cover digital assets such as crypto-tokens.

Chair,

The United Kingdom continued in its role as a key contributor to development and discussion of cross-border insolvency issues through its attendance and participation at the 65th and 66th sessions of Working Group V, and at the 58th session of the Commission in July 2025.

The Commission session represented a milestone in terms of success for the Working Group, where the paper presenting a toolkit for development of legislation relating to Asset Tracing and Recovery was formally adopted by the Commission.

Other matters under consideration by the Working Group include applicable law in the context of insolvency proceedings. This is an important subject in which member States are seeking to reach consensus on the applicable law when an insolvent entity has interests in more than one jurisdiction. The United Kingdom's view is that the law of the jurisdiction where the main insolvency proceedings are located has priority in the first instance.

The United Kingdom welcomes the decisions taken by the Commission to hold a colloquium at the 67th session of the Working Group on the Guide to Enactment and Interpretation of the original UNCITRAL model law on cross-border insolvency proceedings.

The United Kingdom looks forward to continuing its participation in the valuable discussions of Working Group V, with the objective of achieving more efficient cross-border insolvency processes, leading to better outcomes for industry both in this jurisdiction and globally.

Chair,

Regarding Working Group VI, the United Kingdom was pleased to see the finalisation of the new Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents at the Commission's 58th Session in July. This marked the culmination of several years of intensive work by Working Group VI to develop a new international private law Convention to promote international trade and associated trade financing via multimodal transport.

The United Kingdom welcomes the constructive and pragmatic deliberations at the 58th Session to take account of concerns by the maritime sector. The amendments agreed at this session will ultimately

enhance the Convention and broaden its appeal across transport sectors, which must be a key objective of the work of Working Group VI.

The United Kingdom looks forward to supporting the completion of the work on the NCD Convention by finalising the Explanatory Report at the 47th Session of Working Group VI in December this year.

Chair,

The United Kingdom was pleased to discuss the legal nature of verified carbon credits issued by independent carbon standard setters during the Commission's 58th session. We welcome the progress made on this important issue.

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

Thank you, Chair.