



United Kingdom  
Mission to the  
United Nations

## **Statement by the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations on the Closing of the United Nations 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Fifth Committee Main Session**

**30 December 2021**

Mr Chair,

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to you and your Bureau for your untiring commitment to steer this Committee to successful completion of its work. Many thanks are due also to the Fifth Committee Secretariat and representatives from the Secretariat for their outstanding support, especially over this Christmas to New Year period.

The Committee has delivered numerous positive outcomes this session. The United Kingdom welcomes the swift decision on funding for the Black Sea Grain Initiative; the International Civil Service Commission Statute amendment which - after several years - will help ensure full implementation of post adjustment multipliers; the endorsement of a new parental leave framework that will contribute to greater equality, a more inclusive and empowering work environment; and the important decision to approve the design of updated conferences service facilities in Nairobi.

As a firm supporter of the Secretary-General's reforms, we are pleased that the Committee recognised the benefits of an annual budget cycle and decided to make it permanent. We encourage the Secretariat to consolidate and build further on these gains to ensure an even more results orientated, agile and responsive UN. We look forward to seeing the impact of these permanent changes on the intergovernmental budget review process and UN operations and mandate delivery.

But, Mr Chair, not all has been positive this session,

The Fifth Committee depends on all delegations striving for consensus. We have worked hard with like-minded partners to put forward many compromise positions

with a view to delivering outcomes that were acceptable to all. We appreciate those who have made genuine efforts to find compromise. Regrettably, this session saw growing inflexibility, disengagement and polarisation. This is the cause of our late completion of work and unprecedented number of items adopted at skeletal. In the case of Special Political Missions for the third successive year. The increased frequency of skeletal decisions in this session serves as a symbol of our failure to work together effectively to achieve consensus.

We welcome the adoption of an annual programme budget for 2023 that provides the UN with the resources to deliver the majority of the important mandates fully, effectively and efficiently. However, we profoundly regret that this does not include the consolidated resources for certain Human Rights Council mandates, as was requested by the General Assembly last year, and that the resources for these mandates could only be secured by a vote. Responsibility for our problems on this matter lies with the Advisory Committee. Its recommendations have served only to undermine stable and predictable funding for the human rights - one of the pillars set out in the UN Charter.

We must learn lessons from this session and we must find our way back to the traditional culture of compromise and cooperation on which this Committee depends. The UK stands ready to work with other delegations to achieve this.

Finally, Mr Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Kingdom, I would like to thank the staff of the United Nations, for their commitment and hard work throughout 2022. We wish them the greatest success in fulfilling United Nations mandates in the year ahead.

On personal note, I would like to thank colleagues from across the whole Committee for their support, assistance and collegiality throughout this session and for welcoming me into this unique and most important sphere of work.

Thank you and I wish you all a restful and happy New Year.