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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 77,
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTY SECOND SESSION

STATEMENT BY MR PHILIP DIXON
FIRST SECRETARY (LEGAL)
UNITED KINGDOM MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chairman,

The United Kingdom would like to align itself with the statement of the European Union, and makes this statement in its national capacity.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of the Commission, the Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur. We would also like to thank the Commission Secretariat for its excellent work in preparing for and facilitating the session.

Working Group I

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom continues to support Working Group I and its work to develop standards which will reduce the legal obstacles faced by small businesses.

Working Group II

Mr. Chairman, the United Kingdom supports the efforts of Working Group II to improve the efficiency of arbitral proceedings.

We commend Singapore for its hosting, on 7th August, of the signing ceremony of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation – known as the “Singapore Convention on Mediation”. The United Kingdom did not sign but was represented at the ceremony by our High

Commissioner. We are currently considering whether the United Kingdom should apply the Convention.

Working Group III

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom thanks the Secretariat for its work facilitating discussions in Working Group III on the possible reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement. We were pleased to participate in the working group's 36th, 37th and 38th sessions.

The United Kingdom welcomes the Secretariat's continued support and the approach it has taken in considering the views of stakeholders. We support further such engagement, including with the business community.

The United Kingdom believes that UNCITRAL's expertise makes it ideally suited to hosting discussions on this important issue. We value UNCITRAL's ability to bring together a wide variety of stakeholders in Working Group III and recognise its long-standing and unique role in developing international investment law and business rules.

Working Group IV

The United Kingdom is pleased to continue to support Working Group IV. In particular, we would like to thank the Secretariat for its preparation of draft legal text prior to the Working Group's 58th session which made for significant progress.

We recognise the increasing importance of this work in the creation of an aligned and interoperable global market for electronic identity and trust services in order to facilitate digital trade.

On 2nd May the United Kingdom's electronic identity scheme, GOV.UK Verify was notified under the 'eIDAS Regulation' (EU Regulation 910/2014), allowing verified electronic identities to be sent cross border within the European Union for use in public sector services.

The United Kingdom continues to work towards recognition of equivalent forms of electronic identity and authentication at a global scale, ensuring that these are secure, trustworthy and easy to use across borders.

Working Group V

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom was pleased to participate in the 54th and 55th sessions of Working Group V on insolvency law. At these sessions the Working Group made good progress on its mandate, progressing its work on the insolvency of micro, small and medium-sized entities and finalising new Model Law provisions for multinational enterprise group insolvency. The new Model Law provisions were adopted at the 52nd Commission session in Vienna in July this year.

The United Kingdom also welcomed the Commission's decision at that session to allocate time, from Working Group V's next two

sessions, to conduct colloquia on asset tracing in the area of insolvency and on applicable law in cross-border insolvencies.

The United Kingdom looks forward to taking part in further deliberations on the insolvency of micro and small entities, and in the colloquia, over the next two sessions of the working group. Although we have no doubt that a suitable and equally capable successor will be selected, we will nevertheless miss the very able chairmanship of the Working Group by Mr Wisit Wisitsora-At, who we understand is no longer able to attend.

Working Group VI

Mr. Chairman, the United Kingdom continues to support the efforts of Working Group VI as it explores the need for, and the development of, an international instrument relating to the judicial sale of ships.

The United Kingdom remains committed to the work of UNCITRAL.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.