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# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,  
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 82,  
RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

STATEMENT BY UNITED KINGDOM MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Mr/Madam Chair,**

1. I would like to start by commending the UN for its support and activities to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels, and welcoming the General Assembly's call for dialogue to be enhanced on this topic.
2. The United Kingdom is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. We believe that these are the absolute foundations on which open, stable and prosperous societies thrive.
3. The United Kingdom promotes and defends democracy, human rights and the rule of law through membership of international organisations, including the Commonwealth, NATO, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and through a range of activities at both the national and international levels. We express our continuing support of the UN Rule of Law Unit, and commend the important role played by UN peace operations in supporting national authorities across the world to strengthen rule of law systems and institutions.
4. The Global Human Rights sanctions regulations established earlier this year underline the United Kingdom's position as a global force for good, its commitment to the rules-based international system, and preparedness to stand up for victims of human rights violations and abuses around the world, is This ground-breaking regime provides powers to impose sanctions in response to serious violations or abuses of human rights.
5. The United Kingdom has long supported efforts to tackle impunity for serious international crimes, and I we are pleased to announce to the Sixth Committee that we support the initiative led by Slovenia, Argentina, Belgium, Mongolia, the Netherlands and Senegal on the adoption of a Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes.

**Mr/Madam Chair**

6. Member States have been invited to focus their comments during this debate on "Measures to prevent and combat corruption". For the United Kingdom, the link between the Rule of Law and the fight against corruption is clear. The Rule of Law provides the basis for political stability, democratic governance and accountability and is essential in the fight against corruption. And corruption and illicit financial flows can undermine rule of law and contribute to instability. Therefore, preventing corruption and the Rule of Law must go hand in hand. Where Rule of Law has broken down, corruption can flourish and where corruption prevails, Rule of Law cannot be maintained.
7. The United Kingdom is committed to the fight against corruption, which threatens the national security, prosperity and hinders achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The UK's commitment is reflected at three

levels: globally through international frameworks such as UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and international dialogue through G7, G20, OECD; domestically by enacting legislation and making it harder for corruption and illicit finance to take place in the UK, and finally by supporting anti-corruption efforts overseas.

8. The United Kingdom welcomes the upcoming June 2021 Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) on corruption as an opportunity to reinforce and review global commitments on anti-corruption.
9. The United Kingdom Government are acting robustly to tackle corruption and all forms of economic crime and illicit finance - including money laundering, terrorist financing and fraud – by delivering a strong legislative framework that includes the UK Bribery Act and the Criminal Finances Act, through public registers of beneficial ownership information, and by delivering UK Economic Crime Plan, and the 2017-22 UK Anti-Corruption Strategy.
10. The United Kingdom works in partnership with a large number of countries through various programmes to prevent and combat corruption, to strengthen transparency and accountability and to prevent economic crime, including through illicit financial flows. To highlight three of these programmes:
  - i. **The Global Anti-Corruption Programme (GACP)** which takes forward a range of international commitments from the UK anti-corruption strategy, including implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption in over 35 countries, strengthening the impact of the OECD's anti-corruption work, and enhancing the capacity of developing countries to recover stolen assets.
  - ii. **The International Action Against Corruption (IACT) Programme** which supports international/specialist partners such as the World Bank and UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and Transparency International.
  - iii. **UK Action Against Corruption (UKACT) Programme** funds the National Crime Agency, Crown Prosecution Service and UK Central Authority to investigate corruption in developing countries with a UK connection, confiscate stolen assets and enable developing countries to request legal assistance on corruption matters.
11. Despite good progress in recent years, and recognition by organisations such as the OECD and Financial Action Task Force for being highly pro-active in detecting and preventing financial crime, the United Kingdom acknowledges much more needs to be done to tackle the scourge of corruption and deter international illicit finance. The United Kingdom will continue to strengthen its anti-corruption efforts- the Government is currently exploring a corruption sanctions regime, which would further strengthen the armoury of international anti-corruption tools and it will continue to work with international partners and multilateral institutions to boost global efforts to tackle corruption, increase

transparency, and will promote Anti-Corruption measures in procurement systems and free trade agreements.

12. The United Kingdom stands ready to contribute further to Sixth Committee discussions on this topic.

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair