

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH
COMMITTEE, UNGA78

Expulsion of Aliens

Agenda item 71

2 November 2023

Delivered by Melina Lito

(check against delivery)

Mr Chair,

On the topic of Expulsion of Aliens, the position of the United Kingdom has always been, and continues to be, that this is a challenging and problematic subject, which seeks to intrude directly on national border management plans.

The United Kingdom remains firmly of the view that the topic of expulsion of aliens is unsuitable for a convention or other legally binding instrument at the present time. The United Kingdom does not accept that the draft articles reflect customary international law, and does not agree with the content of those articles which are said to represent the progressive development of international law.

Indeed, the United Kingdom considers that the role of States to control their own borders and manage migration particularly that of an irregular character, remains especially important and should be afforded considerable discretion. States must continue to enjoy the right to manage borders and control immigration in accordance with national sovereignty.

Mr. Chair,

The United Kingdom took the opportunity at the Seventy-Second Session in 2017 to append detailed comments on the draft articles to the written version of our statement. I have not set out those comments in my statement today, and nor do I annex them to this year's written text. However, those comments remain the formal position of the United Kingdom on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.