

Delegation from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics for the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security; II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All and III. Combating Human Trafficking. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland looks forward to working multilaterally with Member States in addressing these issues at the upcoming conference.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

Nuclear Disarmament is an important factor for achieving international peace and security, as the risk of mass extinction through nuclear missiles can be a constant threat for all Member States. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the period of the Cold War have shown us, which power these weapons have and to what the constant threat of nuclear attacks can lead. The United Kingdom is aware of the responsibility nuclear weapons bring within the international community and is looking forward finding sustainable and safe solutions for nuclear disarmament. The United Kingdom pledges support to the GA resolution 1(1) of 1946, *Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy*, as the cornerstone document for international control of atomic materials. Being part of several treaties and projects regarding nuclear disarmament, the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) of 1968 is the key document for a successful and effective disarmament. It provides comprehensive measures not only for nuclear disarmament, but also in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons. Acknowledging the importance of NPT and especially focusing on Article VI of NPT - to pursue effective measures relating to nuclear arms control and disarmament under strict and effective international control, the United Kingdom is proud of its collaboration with the Kingdom of Norway in the UK-Norway Initiative (UKNI). It is the first-of-its-type collaboration between a nuclear weapon state (NWS) and a non-nuclear weapon state (NNWS) to face the challenges of nuclear disarmament without breaching the NPT. Furthermore, the United Kingdom is proud, that it has decreased its nuclear weapon arsenal, since the 1990s up to 50 %, to be a role model of responsible disarmament policy. With the UKNI, both countries made a huge step towards international nuclear disarmament in a way that on the one hand respects desires and security requirement of NWS, but also involves NNWS as an equal party in the disarmament process. As it is the unique collaboration, the United Kingdom is proud of the work done, and willing to share the knowledge, as this is going to affect the international security long lasting in a positive way. The United Kingdom suggests the implication of further initiatives like the UKNI. By hosting workshops, which the UKNI already did with interested NWS and NNWS in London 2011, and spreading expertise within this topic, the United Kingdom wants to take a leading role in this process. Additionally, the United Kingdom highly recommends the remaining states to sign or re-sign the NPT and encourage the international community and UN Organs like the International Atomic Energy Agency, to support them in this process.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

In modern society, access to energy is the basis for life of every human being. However, especially in least developed countries people still live with a lack of access to affordable and modern energy. Like SDG 7 points out, the international community has to ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All. The United Kingdom has played a key role with its various development aid projects but also with sustainable domestic policies. Hence, we are willing to continue this work and share knowledge for a sustainable development in the field of ensuring sustainable energy for all. The United Kingdom supports the GA Resolution 70/1 *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted in 2015, implementing the SDGs and therefore taking an important step in economic, social and environmental aspects towards an equal and united world. The so-called Paris Agreement of 2015, the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, has taken the international community into responsibility, as it indicates the importance of combatting climate change and the responsibility of fighting it. The United Kingdom is proud to have a leading role within the group that created the operational rulebook for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. In cooperation with Canada, the United Kingdom founded the Powering Past Coal Alliance

(PPCA) as a voluntary coalition of national and sub-national governments, businesses and organizations like business companies or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Through PPCA, the United Kingdom has brought together stakeholders worldwide in their desire to phase out coal. With its International Climate Finance (ICF), a voluntary project orientated on the Paris Agreement but leading beyond its measures, the United Kingdom has helped 57 million people and installed 1.600 MW of clean energy capacity especially in developing states and regions and lowest developed countries (LDCs). As part of the Paris Agreement, the United Kingdom pledged further \$7.35 billion for ICF between 2016 and 2020. Among the G20 states, the United Kingdom is the country that reduced the emissions quicker than any other state, reducing its emissions by over 40% while increasing the national economy by two thirds. With the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), the United Kingdom improves the energy efficiency of buildings across the country, especially focusing on low income and vulnerable households by spending more than \$840 million in funding per year. As especially rural areas of LDCs deserve special attention tackling the issue of electrification, the United Kingdom is also supporting the development and completion of small-scale on-grid renewable energy projects in Uganda by investing \$65 million in the Global Energy Transfer Feed-in Tariff (GET FIT). Encouraged by the GET FIT investment, additional \$440 million were invested in public and private sectors. GET FIT aims to demonstrate to developing countries that an effective regulatory regime and cost-effective tariffs will bring investment in renewable energies. Because of the immense success of GET FIT and the often proclaimed best-practice approach by the different UN bodies and agencies, the United Kingdom is proclaiming an adaptation of the GET FIT approach to the international level. By adopting it to the international level, GET FIT could be implemented in multiple countries at the same time, while other Member States or UN Development Programmes can serve as additional initial investors and create more attention for private investors. As renewable and clean energy production is an important part facing climate change as well, projects can request financial resources by funds focusing on climate change like the Green Climate Fund.

III. Combating Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking affects national and international levels and is therefore a problem that deserves the full attention and recognition of both. The fight against Human Trafficking is crucial to fulfill the goals of the 2030 Agenda, as it affects inter alia SDGs 5, 8 and 16. The United Kingdom is willing to continue its efforts on Combating Human Trafficking and to work in close cooperation with all Member States to find effective solutions to eradicate this crime. The United Kingdom commits itself to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) as fundamental documents for the standards of living, which must be granted every single human being, especially the most vulnerable, women and children, in our society. With the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, the Member States established an important common basis for fighting international crime actions like human trafficking. The United Kingdom supports GA resolution 64/293 of 2010, *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking of Persons*, as a significant measure to face this problem. The Council of Europe established the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings to combine the efforts in this topic, report about the status in Europe and recommend new measures to face human trafficking. The United Kingdom established its own National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which is a framework for identifying and referring to potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support that, works close with different governmental institutions, police forces and (inter)national NGOs. The United Kingdom welcomes the efforts taken so far, but to tackle the issue more efficient and to consider the huge progress in new technologies, we must also translate the measures established in modern times, as for instance the internet has rapidly developed and become more and more an important factor. The United Kingdom suggests the formation of a working group, which focusses on evaluating existing measures. It shall review how their efficiency can be increased and what measures single Member States can do, to face the problem of human trafficking effectively. The working group shall have a two-year mandate, which can be extended by the GA and consist of 15 national experts mandated after being elected by GA, 10 experts of the International Criminal Police Organization and 5 members of NGOs, actively engaged in this field. The 2017 established national working group on the improvement of the NRM can serve as a role model for the international working group. The suggestions of the working group shall be reported at the end of their mandate to the GA, which then votes upon the suggested improvements.