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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 87,
UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION
STATEMENT BY AMY TOWNSEND
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There is only a small number of offences for which the courts in the United Kingdom can exercise jurisdiction where there is no apparent link to the United Kingdom. Details of these offences are referred to in the Secretary-

The United Kingdom continues to consider that the lack of consensus between States on the nature, scope and application of universal jurisdiction indicates that it would be premature to take a definitive view on the crimes to which universal jurisdiction should apply or on a methodology to determine such crimes. It is important that questions as to whether universal jurisdiction or another form of extra-territorial jurisdiction should apply to a particular crime are approached collaboratively between States, as has been done to date, through treaties. The United Kingdom therefore continues to doubt whether the issues faced by States in respect of universal jurisdiction are best addressed by the International Law Commission.

I thank you Mr Chair/Madam Chair