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# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,  
UNGA 6, AGENDA ITEM 88

STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

15 OCTOBER 2021



(what we call definitive signature) or following ratification or completion of domestic procedures.

Before the United Kingdom ratifies an agreement, it must be laid before Parliament for twenty one sitting days, during which time both Houses of Parliament have an opportunity to scrutinise the agreement. Because of our dualist system, this is separate from any legislative process. If any domestic law needs to be introduced or amended in order to implement a treaty, that will be done and approved through a separate parliamentary procedure, and we will coordinate the entry into force of the domestic legislation with the entry into force of the relevant treaty at the international level. Not all treaties will, however, require domestic legislation.

In the case of treaties subject to ratification, it is only when the treaty has completed parliamentary scrutiny, and any necessary legislation has been adopted, that the United Kingdom will proceed to ratify or notify completion of domestic procedures. We will always register a treaty with the UN Secretariat after entry into force and after publication of the treaty in our own Treaty Series.

The Parliament of the United Kingdom has recently undertaken a number of inquiries into UK treaty scrutiny process and the reports of the various committees considering this issue are published on the UK Parliament website.

Like all States, the United Kingdom also enters into non-binding arrangements, such as memoranda of understanding. The United Kingdom believes that it is essential that any such non-binding arrangements are drafted in such a way as to ensure that the intention not to create legal relations is clear, and that they can be readily identified as such, and are clearly distinguishable from legally binding treaties.

The United Kingdom remains open to participating in an exchange of views on the drafting of non-binding arrangements particularly if this would assist in developing a consistent approach internationally.

Mr/Madame Chair,

The Regulations which give effect to Article 102 of the UN Charter have become a crucial tool for treaty makers. We welcome this opportunity to review the regulations and ensure they remain fit for purpose and we welcome efforts to promote universal registration of treaties. At the same time,