

UK's Opening statement – for Monday 29 July

Chair,

The UK looks forward to continuing discussions to strengthen international tax cooperation, and we thank you and the Bureau members for your work in advance of this session.

We believe there is a role for the UN to play in international tax cooperation and recognise the desire to make progress on this. We therefore remain committed to working in partnership with other members and stakeholders to ensure we agree terms of reference that receives broad approval from Member States.

In light of this commitment, and like many other countries, the UK made sincere efforts to find compromises and common ground in the First Session.

The UK, like many others, continues to believe that, in order to achieve the objectives of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the UN, decision-making should operate on the basis of broad consensus.

We also believe that work on international tax cooperation at the UN should be based on the principle of comparative advantage, seeking to complement, and create synergies with, the progress made by other institutions, as highlighted by UN resolution 78/230.

It is the UK's view, that international cooperation should focus on areas that cannot be effectively addressed domestically.

We continue to believe that the Terms of Reference should include a principle of “maximising participation and coverage, by reflecting the views and interests of a diverse range of countries, so that the Framework Convention can attract the widest possible support for implementation.” After all, taxation agreements need comprehensive participation and cooperation to be effective and minimize tax-related illicit financial flows,

We hope we can use this session to find common ground and to agree terms of reference that receive broad approval and support from UN Member States.

Thank you.