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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SIXTY-NINTH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 79,
STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA
CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF
VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS

STATEMENT BY MR. JESSE CLARKE
FIRST SECRETARY (LEGAL AFFAIRS)
UNITED KINGDOM MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

14 NOVEMBER 2014

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Mr. Chairman, the United Kingdom welcomes the adoption by consensus of this resolution on the Status of Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts. We thank the delegation of Sweden for their considerable efforts in facilitating the negotiation of the resolution, which has made substantial progress.

The United Kingdom attaches great importance to this resolution as a reaffirmation of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for those

and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict. It is therefore a matter of great regret that this Committee was unable to agree to include in the resolution a reference even a factual reference to the 2013 Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The Declaration recognises that rape and sexual violence inflict unimaginable

endorsed the 2013 Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. It is frustrating that this clear and critically important statement of international humanitarian law made by the overwhelming majority of UN Member States has been excluded from the resolution. It defies understanding that a few delegations felt unable to recognise the efforts of 155 Member States to prevent rape and sexual violence in armed conflict and hold perpetrators to account.