

Madam Chair,

1. I would like to begin by congratulating Ambassador Mahmoud Hmoud on his election as Chair of the International Law Commission. The United Kingdom thanks Ambassador Hmoud for his expert chairing of the Session and his excellent and clear report to the Sixth Committee.

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8. The United Kingdom is grateful to the Commission and to the Special Rapporteur, Mr Shinya Murase, for their hard work to conclude the topic '**Protection of the atmosphere**'. The work this year was sensitive to the concerns of States, and the United Kingdom welcomes the finalisation of the work with the adoption, on second and final reading, of a preamble and set of 12 draft guidelines, with commentaries.
9. The United Kingdom considers the draft guidelines to be a potentially useful contribution to the international law on protection of the atmosphere. It continues, however, to emphasise the significance of existing international obligations concerning protection of the environment that already address many of the issues concerning protection of the atmosphere.

Madam Chair,

10. I now turn to the topic of '**Provisional application of treaties**'. The United Kingdom is grateful to the Commission, and especially to the Special Rapporteur, Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, and the Drafting Committee for their work on this important set of guidelines. The United Kingdom welcomes the Commission's adoption on second reading of the 'Guide to Provisional Application of Treaties', including the draft guidelines, accompanying commentaries and a draft annex containing examples of provisions on provisional application.
11. The Commission is to be commended for giving due weight to the comments of States. Some important clarifications were introduced, both in the guidelines themselves and in the commentaries. Above all, in draft guideline 6 the Guide makes clear the legal effect of provisional application. The Guide to Practice seems likely to become a useful tool for all those who have to address questions on provisional application.

12. The United Kingdom strongly supports the recommendation before this Committee, especially in encouraging the widest possible dissemination of the guidance. A consistent approach from all countries and jurisdictions to provisional application will aid the negotiation and drafting of treaties, and promote a uniform approach. The United Kingdom, however, remains of the view that provisional application should not become a routine occurrence and should remain a tool used in a specific context.

Madam Chair,