General Assembly

Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 25 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the published instructions on the right of reply, the United Kingdom would like to exercise its right of reply in response to a statement by the distinguished representative of Argentina.

On 24 September, during the general debate under agenda item 8 of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Argentina made reference to the Falkland Islands, further to which the United Kingdom wishes to place the following statement in the official record of proceedings:

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas of both territories, nor about the principle and the right of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 of the two Covenants on human rights, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

This means there can be no dialogue on sovereignty unless the Falkland Islanders so wish. The 2013 referendum, in which 99.8 per cent of those who voted wanted to maintain their current status as a territory of the United Kingdom, sent a clear message that the people of the Islands do not want dialogue on sovereignty. Argentina should respect those wishes.

The United Kingdom's relationship with the Falkland Islands and all of its overseas territories is a modern one, based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each territory to determine their own future.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Karen **Pierce**