



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: 17th Meeting of States Parties

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Statement: Falkland Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

Delivered under agenda item 8 'Informal Presentation of Requests Submitted under Article 5 and of the Analysis of those Request' as a right of reply in response to the statement made by Argentina on Tuesday 27 November 2018.

Madam Chair,

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas of both territories, nor about the principle and the right of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter and in article one of the two UN 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% 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.

Thank you Madam Chair.