

Delivered by Chris Hayes

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## United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

### Universal Periodic Review—Ecuador

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Thank you Madam President,

Human Rights are enshrined in the 2008 Constitution and are one of the government's priorities, as demonstrated by the creation of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The social policies of the Government have to led to improvements in areas such as education and health, as well as the right of ethnic and sexual minorities, and the elderly.

The UK recognises the efforts of the Vice-President, Lenin Moreno, to significantly improve legal and working environments for those with disabilities. Progress has also been made in the investigation and prosecution of past human rights violations such as torture and enforced disappearance. The UK also recognises advances made by the government in reducing poverty and income inequality, as documented in the UN Economic Commission for Latin America.

However, the UK notes the serious concerns raised by a number of NGOs, Ecuadorian media and international bodies regarding potential restrictions on freedom of Expression contained in the draft Communications Law, currently being debated by the National Assembly and a recent reform of the Law of Democracy.

We have 1 **recommendation**:

- We urge the Government of Ecuador to engage in a constructive dialogue with the media, NGOs and international bodies to promote freedom of Expression in Ecuador.

Thank you Madam President.