

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Morocco

Thank you Madam President,

The United Kingdom welcomes the Moroccan delegation to Geneva and applauds Morocco's strong commitment to the UPR process. We note Morocco's increased engagement with international human rights instruments including special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and its decision to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. We urge Morocco to fully implement the recommendations of the 2011 UN Committee Against Torture and welcome further visits by UN Special Rapporteurs.

The UK is strongly supportive of Morocco's ongoing internal reform process. We welcome in particular the emphasis on human rights in Morocco's new Constitution, and the establishment of the National Human Rights Council in 2011.

We have been concerned by the imprisonment of journalists and students because of opinions expressed, and by the long-standing detention without trial of Sahrawi detainees arrested during the Gdim Izik protests in 2010.

On these and other issues, we look forward to full implementation of the new Constitution and hope to see further progress on human rights in the context of the country's wider reforms.

The UK continues to be concerned with human rights in the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara. In line with UNSCR 2044 we call on Morocco to work to ensure full respect for human rights there.

We have 2 **recommendations**:

1. To complete the ratification of Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture and appoint the required monitoring body.
2. To abolish the death penalty.

Thank you Madam President.