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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Eritrea

We welcome Eritrea's participation in the UPR and we call on Eritrea to extend this cooperation to the whole UN Human Rights system, including the Special Rapporteur.

It is disappointing that there has been no visible progress on key human rights concerns since their 2009 UPR. We hope that this UPR will result not just in promises but in concrete human rights improvements.

Eritrea's security situation does not and never has justified the denial of basic human rights to its people. Eritreans have waited too long for the democratic government and the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in their Constitution to become reality. Only when they do can Eritrea meet her own development and prosperity goals. And only then will Eritreans stop fleeing their country in search of a better life, creating more tragedies like the one we saw off Lampedusa last October.

We would like to make 2 **recommendations**:

1. Implement all constitutional provisions and international obligations relating to the right to life, liberty and security of person, including by unconditionally releasing all prisoners held for their political or religious beliefs.
2. Implement Proclamation No. 82/1995, limiting national service obligations; and cease the practice of obliging citizens to serve in an armed civilian militia.

Thank you Mr President.