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UK Statement for the Universal Periodic Review for Nicaragua - May 2014

Mr President,

The UK welcomes the Nicaraguan delegation and thanks them for their commitment to human rights.

We welcome the commitment of Nicaragua, and of the President personally, to eradicating poverty and to improving the human rights of the population. In this respect, we welcome the Nicaraguan Government's laudable goal of halving the number of under-nourished persons by 2015.

We are encouraged by Nicaragua's proactive work in the area of people trafficking and modern slavery and note the continuing work required, including in tourist areas. We hope that this will continue to be pursued vigorously, with adequate resources dedicated to it.

We welcome the Government's efforts to protect women and children from abuse and we would encourage Nicaragua to go further in promoting awareness programmes and ensuring that offenders are prosecuted to the full extent of Nicaraguan law.

We encourage Nicaragua to build on progress in addressing gender inequality, particularly in rural areas. We also encourage Nicaragua to embed LGBTI rights in the Nicaraguan Family Code.

We have two recommendations:

- First: that Nicaragua looks to ensure the continued separation of party and state to allow adequate transparency and space for further democratic growth, including the impartial functioning of the Supreme Electoral Council in line with recommendations made by regional and international institutions;
- Second: that Nicaragua further strengthens and supports the independence and impartiality of the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos and ensures that it fully adheres to the Paris Principles

Thank you Mr President.