**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland**

**Statement**

**44th Universal Periodic Review – Tuvalu**

**Wednesday 8 November 2023**

Thank you, Mr President,

Individual freedom and equality before the law are fundamental values for the UK, and we will always stand up for these in international fora. We are encouraged by Tuvalu’s progress in promoting and protecting human rights.

The recent anti-discrimination provisions in the Bill of Rights, constitutionally protecting women and those with disabilities, sends a strong signal of Tuvalu’s commitment to action in this area. We stand ready to support Tuvalu’s efforts to ensure that all groups in society are protected, enabling Tuvalu and its citizens to reach their full potential.

We recommend that Tuvalu:

1. Make effective use of its plural legal system to address the issue of violence against women and girls.
2. Broaden equalities legislation to cover sexual orientation and repeal all legislative provisions that criminalise consensual same-sex activity.
3. Reform existing legislation and practices under which women experience discriminatory treatment, such as the *Tuvaluan Lands Code* and the *Native Lands Act*, to ensure their alignment with the equalities legislative agenda.

Thank you.