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

**Statement**

**45th Universal Periodic Review – The Congo**

**Tuesday 30 January 2024**

Thank you, Mr Vice President

We welcome steps taken by Congo to address human trafficking, including the adoption of the Combating Trafficking in Persons Act, and Congo’s ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

However, the human rights situation in Congo remains concerning, with persistent reports of torture and ill treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, and violence and discrimination against women and girls. We call on Congo to tackle these, including by fully implementing the UPR recommendations it accepted in previous cycles.

We therefore recommend that Congo:

1. Consider publishing an action plan showing how it will implement its accepted UPR recommendations, including those accepted during this cycle;
2. Include a definition of torture in the Criminal Code, which fully incorporates Article 1 of the Convention against Torture;
3. Take measures that enable the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in decision-making bodies, including by adopting a stronger definition of discrimination of women, in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Thank you.