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

**Statement**

**47th Universal Periodic Review – Dominica**

**Thursday 7 November 2024**

Thank you Madam Vice President,

The UK welcomes the delegation of Dominica and welcomes its continued commitment to and constructive engagement in the UPR process.

We would like to thank the honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Henderson for responding to some of the UK's advance questions.

We welcome the High Court decision to repeal Sections 14 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act, overturning the ban on consensual same-sex relations.

We also welcome Dominica’s commitment to promoting and safeguarding the rights of Persons with Disabilities, and take note of the comments on this in the Minister’s statement. We encourage Dominica to ensure that the newly established National Commission for Persons with Disabilities makes tangible legislative and policy progress, in alignment with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We welcome Dominica’s vote of support for the UN General Assembly Third Committee resolution on the ‘Moratorium on the use of the death penalty’ and encourage the Government of The Commonwealth of Dominica to establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty.

We further welcome the positive comments made this morning about progress towards ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture.

**We have 3 recommendations:**

1. Establish and provide funding for an independent national human rights institution.

1. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming towards the abolition of the death penalty.

1. Draft and pass an updated National Policy and Plan of Action on Gender Equality to align with best practices in combatting Gender Based Violence.

Thank you, Madam Vice President.