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

**Statement**

**38th Universal Periodic Review – Palau**

**Friday 7th May 2021**

Thank you.

The United Kingdom recognises Palau’s progress on human rights issues since its 2016 review, including in the field of domestic violence with the criminalisation of marital rape. Furthermore, we pay tribute to Palau’s continued democratic values which are demonstrated through an independent media and judiciary and the continued fight against corruption.

We encourage Palau to continue its engagement with the UK and other members of the international community in order to advance democracy and human rights internally.

We recommend that Palau:

1. Develop and implement a National Action Plan on modern slavery with clear performance indicators and allocation of responsibilities.
2. Ratify and implement the 2014 ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930.
3. Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you.