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

**Statement**

**38th Universal Periodic Review – Somalia**

**Thursday 6th May 2021**

The United Kingdom recognises Somalia’s cooperation with international partners on its human rights challenges but is disappointed by the absence of significant progress. We are concernedby the impact of the electoral impasse on the rights of the Somali people, and so call on Somalia’s leaders to refrain from further violence, return to dialogue, reach consensus, and hold inclusive elections without further delay.

The UK commends Somalia for establishing a legal framework for protecting journalists but remains concerned at the continued high levels of harassment and arbitrary detention.

We recommend that Somalia:

1. Adopt the 2018 Sexual Offences Bill urgently;
2. Establish an independent National Human Rights Commission;
3. Pass legislation allowing humanitarian organisations to operate within a clear framework and enable the Federal Government of Somalia to work towards the removal of illegal checkpoints and multiple demands of taxation, to access those most in need.

Thank you.