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

**Statement**

**38th Universal Periodic Review – Niger**

**Monday 3rd May 2021**

The United Kingdom recognises Niger’s progress on human rights issues, including its most recent success in holding democratic elections and its commitment to improving education for girls.

We call on the Government of Niger to ensure human rights are protected and any human rights abuses and violations are dealt with swiftly and properly.

We recommend that Niger:

1. Set out a plan for improving the implementation of the 2003 law criminalising slavery, ensuring judges across Niger are more aware of the law and better able to implement it, including through training;
2. Commit to ensuring humanitarian actors can access those most in need, including ensuring Nigerien military actors and other relevant bodies participate in civilian-military coordination platforms and related training;
3. Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections.

Thank you.