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

**Statement**

**40th Universal Periodic Review – Sudan**

**Wednesday 9th February 2022**

Let me start by applauding Ambassador Ali Mahmoud’s passionate advocacy on behalf of the democratic aspirations of the Sudanese people.

Once again, we strongly condemn last October’s military coup, the subsequent unlawful detention of civilians, and the violence against peaceful protestors.

We call on the Sudanese military, and Sudan’s civilian-led government once restored, to fully respect and protect all human rights and to deliver justice and accountability for all human rights violations and abuses.

We also urge all parties to cooperate with the continued work of the UN Expert on human rights in Sudan.

We recommend:

Firstly – that Sudan immediately opens civic space and defends Freedom of Expression and Assembly for all Sudanese, including civil society actors, human rights defenders and journalists; and

Secondly - That all Sudanese parties engage fully and in good faith with the UN-facilitated talks to reach a solution that leads to the restoration of civilian-led government, and free and fair elections.