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

**Statement**

**42nd Universal Periodic Review – Gabon**

**Tuesday 24th January 2023**

Thank you, Mr Vice-President,

On behalf of the UK, let me begin by offering my sincere condolences on the passing of Gabon’s Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr Michael Moussa Adamo.

The UK welcomes the positive steps taken by Gabon since its last review, including decriminalising homosexuality; affirming womens equal access to work; and passing new legislation on violence against women.

We note the establishment of the Gabonese Election Centre and hope that further protections are put in place before upcoming presidential elections.

We recommend Gabon:

1. Fully implements recent reforms protecting women’s rights, adding necessary definitions for discrimination against women into the administrative civil law framework.
2. Works to bring down the high numbers of unlawfully detained persons, including minors, and improve prison conditions, including by increasing resources.
3. Ensure the Gabonese Election Centre is fully resourced and empowered to help ensure free and fair elections, and deliver a fair process for reporting on and ensuring accountability for, any irregularities.

Thank you.