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

**Statement**

**42nd Universal Periodic Review – Zambia**

**Monday 30th January 2023**

Thank you, Mr Vice President,

The United Kingdom commends Zambia’s progress on human rights issues since its 2017 review, including in access to education, tackling human trafficking, and through its global work championing an end to female genital mutilation.

The UK also congratulates Zambia for abolishing the the death penalty and repealing legislation on criminal defamation of the president. However, we remain concerned that Zambian prisons remain overcrowded with large numbers of prisoners held on remand or pre-trial detention for excessive periods.

We recommend that Zambia:

1. Make the necessary legislative changes to ensure the freedoms of expression and association are protected; and to ensure the police enforce these and other laws in a proportionate manner.
2. Enact legislation to facilitate access to information.
3. Finalise and enact the Anti-Torture Bill, to criminalise acts of torture, in line with its Constitutional obligations.

Thank you.