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

**Statement**

**43rd Universal Periodic Review – Burundi**

**Thursday 4th May 2023**

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes the Government of Burundi’s stated commitment to improving its record on human rights, and certain positive developments since its last review, including the recent acquittal and release of Tony Germain Nkina.

However, we are concerned that the human rights situation in Burundi has not improved sufficiently. We encourage Burundi to make genuine reforms to deliver on its commitment to ensure all of its people benefit from the full enjoyment of their human rights.

We recommend that Burundi:

1. Takes effective measures to establish an independent judiciary.
2. Engages fully with this Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN bodies working to improve the human rights situation in Burundi.
3. Identifies and implements policies which facilitate an active civil society, an open media, and addresses in particular threats to journalists and human rights defenders

Thank you, Mr President.