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

**Statement**

**Universal Periodic Review – Democratic People’s Republic of Korea**

**May 2019**

Thank you,

The UK welcomes the DPRK’s signing up to the joint declaration of commitment for 12 years of quality education for girls in 2018, its engagement with the UPR and its recent report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, we remain deeply concerned by reports of ongoing, widespread and systematic human rights violations in the DPRK. It is unacceptable that citizens face surveillance, imprisonment or even death for their religion or belief. Moreover, citizens are not allowed access to independent media or information sources. We urge the DPRK to allow human rights actors immediate and unhindered access to the country.

We recommend:

1. Taking immediate action to cease the practice of forced labour, including the use of prisoners and children, as defined by Article 1 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.
2. Putting in place time-bound plans for accession to the Convention against Torture.
3. Ending all surveillance and censorship of individuals, organisations, media and communications that is contrary to international human rights laws and standards.

Thank you.