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

**Statement**

**Fifth Intersessional Meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council for dialogue and cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**19 January 2023**

Thank you Mr President .

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that we need to seize the opportunity to create greener, healthier, more inclusive and resilient economies and societies, and to accelerate progress for all. It has also shown us that human rights cannot be cast aside and must be central to our response. The Sustainable Development Goals must underpin our efforts.

2023 is a vital year for action, as the world faces multiple crises. Countries will have an increasing need for technology, finance and access to markets to support their development.

The UK is committed to doing its part to deliver the SDGs – and putting human rights at the centre of its efforts. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms that the SDGs “seek to realize the human rights of all”, and are grounded in the principle of Leaving No One Behind. The UK firmly supports these values, which aim to make the world fairer, healthier, safer and more prosperous for everyone.

We need to collectively step up our efforts to accelerate international progress towards the Goals, working together to achieve the collective vision agreed in Agenda 2030. We should not let the impact of the pandemic stall us from achieving progress in development, nor stop us guaranteeing people their fundamental human rights.

The pandemic has highlighted the need for a recovery that delivers for all of society, that is inclusive, and that promotes sustainable ways of living. Realising the Sustainable Development Goals is pivotal to this endeavour.