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

**Statement for CEDAW Virtual Day of General Discussion on draft general recommendations on the rights of indigenous women and girls**

**Thursday 24 June 2021**

Thank you Madam Chair.

The United Kingdom government is fully committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all individuals, including indigenous women and girls, without discrimination on any grounds.

Indigenous women and girls are often over-represented in underpaid sectors, and are too frequently disproportionately impacted by climate change. The UK recognises that climate change can undermine the enjoyment of human rights.  That said, climate change should not detract from States’ obligations to uphold the human rights of everyone, including indigenous women and girls.

In our COP26 Presidency, we will amplify the voices of those whose views are often most marginalised, empowering their voices and solutions as decision-makers, advocates and leaders. We have been working closely with indigenous women to ensure their invaluable wisdoms are embedded across COP processes.

We also continue to work overseas with international institutions to improve the situation of indigenous women and girls around the world.  In 1986 we ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and in 2007, we supported the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have long provided political and financial support to the economic, social and political development of indigenous peoples and we will continue to do so.

We would like to ask the panellists, what more can States do to uphold sustained and meaningful engagement with indigenous women throughout their climate policy-making?

Thank you.