Delegation from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament; Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System; and Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. The United Kingdom is deeply dedicated to the primary goal of the United Nations to protect international peace and security as well as to the promotion and protection of all human rights. It is therefore of highest importance to us to address these topics and we strongly advocate finding common and effective solutions.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

The UN Secretary-General determined five categories of technologies in his report *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact in International Security* (1990). Since then, out of these five categories, information technologies have expanded immensely and are indispensable today. Aside from the numerous great advantages and chances that a globalized, connected world offers, we must not forget that increasing dependency on information technology goes hand in hand with growing vulnerability of all Member States, as new opportunities of crime, such as cyberattacks, are created. Nevertheless, in 2017, half of the international community was lacking a national cybersecurity strategy. According to the UN Secretary-General, further ignoring this issue may turn it into a serious threat to international peace and security. Moreover, the growing sector of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) poses a challenge to the global community, considering the sector's lack of regulation and its high susceptibility to misuse. Therefore, immediate action is needed by the international community.

The United Kingdom welcomes the UN Secretary-General report *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security* (2017) as well as the adoption of the GA resolution 73/32 (2018) "Role of Science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament". It is already implementing this resolution through its National Cyber Security Centre, which was launched in 2016. Its vision is to make the United Kingdom one of the safest places in the world concerning its cyberspace through collaboration between the government and cyberspace experts from industry, academia and society. Furthermore, the United Kingdom acknowledges the document of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) "Study on Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles" (2015), which recognizes UAVs' special susceptibility to misuse compared to other technologies. The United Kingdom is currently cooperating with technology companies in order to develop innovative methods of control and surveillance to ensure the secure use of UAVs. While it strives to enhance regulation thereon, the broad benefits and opportunities the technology of UAVs offer cannot be impeded.

While acknowledging the efforts already made by the international community and its rising awareness of the importance of the role of emerging technologies in international security, the United Kingdom is concerned by the still wide-spread lack of security strategies concerning cyberspace. Therefore it wants to present its National Cyber Security Centre as a possible role model for its fellow Member States' national cybersecurity strategy. Its objective is to protect critical services from cyberattacks as well as to manage incidents of cyber threat when they occur. Weekly threat reports open to public, advice to organizations, analysis of threats and an annual conference involving high-level experts are some of the means that our National Cyber Security Centre employs. Noting the existing lack of technology which allows effective control and surveillance of UAV use, the United Kingdom proposes international cooperation thereon. We invite all Member States to set up cooperation with their national technology enterprises in order to accelerate the invention of appropriate technical means. We are looking forward to discuss with all member states on the topic in order to find common solutions to the issue during the conference.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

In order for the UN to be able to exhaust its great potentials as a global organization and to be able to effectively strive for its goals of international peace and security, accountability and transparency within the UN system are vital. The *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) determines the tasks and functions of all principal organs as well as the overall objective of the organization. Despite existing

efforts to improve mechanisms for accountability and transparency, the annual report of 2016 of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) finds that 78% of all inspected non-peacekeeping operations lack efficiency and effectiveness and need improvement.

The United Kingdom is deeply dedicated to enhancing the functionality of the UN. It therefore welcomes the adaption of GA Resolution 63/276 (2009) called "Accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, results-based managed framework", which emphasizes a strong need for accountability in the UN. The United Kingdom further acknowledges the agreement on a joint definition of accountability in 2010, developed by the UN Secretary-General, as a common ground. It also highly appreciates the work of all oversight bodies, such as the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System (JIU). Special attention should moreover be given to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), one of the UN organizations that voluntarily have subscribed to their own measures of monitoring and improving their accountability and transparency. The UNODC regularly is evaluated by the Independent Evaluation Section (IES). Likewise, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is evaluated by its Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU).

The United Kingdom believes that monitoring and evaluation is the main key to a more accountable and transparent UN system. Therefore, the United Kingdom wants to invite all organizations which are a part of the UN system to follow the example of UNODC and GCF and to form sections within their systems that are exclusively responsible for their own organization's evaluation. These sections will be able to focus completely on an organization structure they know very well, and therefore should be able to provide profound and thorough, individualized feedback. As a consequence, the task of the JIU and of the other external and internal oversight bodies, which bear the competences of recommending or evaluating the entire UN system, will then shift to the overall picture of the UN system, namely the evaluation of organizations and bodies in the context of their connections and interplays. The United Kingdom believes that since this change in focal points will lead to more individualized evaluation processes, the outcomes will be more effective and precise. The United Kingdom is looking forward to discuss this issue und hopes to find effective, joint solutions during the upcoming conference.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

According to UN-Women, violence against women is one of the most widespread human rights violations. 70% of women worldwide report having already experienced physical or sexual violence in their lives. Primary, violence against women leads to severe physical and mental harm of the victim, but violence against women also has profound global effects reaching beyond the victims. Health costs and salary losses of violated women are two factors that hinder and negatively affect global economic development. The United Kingdom therefore sees the urgent need for the international community to address this far-reaching issue immediately.

The United Kingdom believes that every woman and girl has the right to a life free from gender-based violation and discrimination. It has therefore been a party to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination against Women* (1979) since 1986. Furthermore, it acknowledges the adoption of GA resolution 67/144 (2012) which calls upon all Member States to protect and empower women. The United Kingdom has undertaken various steps in order to adhere to its commitments in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995), including among others the field of education, equal opportunities, and participation. Moreover, it has engaged in combatting female genital mutilation and forced marriages internationally. The United Kingdom highly appreciates the ongoing efforts of UN-Women in monitoring national implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Also, it is deeply dedicated to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), part of *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), which addresses gender equality.

While recognizing the efforts already made by the international community in order to fight women's rights violations, the United Kingdom is concerned about a lack of implementation of many important existing guidelines such as the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. It is convinced that joint monitoring of challenges and progress will forward implementation significantly. The United Kingdom therefore urges all Member States to strengthen or keep up their cooperation with UN-Women and to undertake national implementation reviews in order to participate in the upcoming UN-Women monitoring process, which is going to as well include regional intergovernmental meetings. The United Kingdom is highly dedicated to finding common solutions to this pressing issue.