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2021 UN Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum

**Written Statement
5 May 2021**

Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

The United Kingdom has placed science and technology at the heart of our international policy as part of the Integrated Review.

Critically, we are prioritising funding to respond to COVID-19, and we are investing in innovation to achieve net-zero emissions around the globe.

International partnership is the lifeblood of this commitment.

Our global network of science attachés, and research and innovation hubs, are working alongside UK universities, research institutes and investors.

They are fostering new collaborations to tackle the global challenges we all share.

As the pandemic rolls on, the UK remains committed to worldwide equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests, working with all of our international partners to track the pandemic as it evolves, including the UN family, the G7, the G20, the European Union, the Commonwealth, the World Health Organization and others.

Our early funding and engagement with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations has critically helped to develop effective vaccines.

We recently announced an additional \$22 million to support its work coordinating the research, development, and manufacturing of future vaccines for emergency use.

The UK is also delivering large-scale and rapid whole-genome virus sequencing.

As we share this expertise through the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, including with countries without similar resources, we aim to inform a global understanding of this pandemic.

Similarly, the UK supports accelerating the development of clean energy solutions so that every country and sector can affordably meet net zero by 2050.

This is a priority for our COP26 Presidency, and our programme for November includes a great many sessions on science and innovation.

We know that to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, the global transition needs to move four times faster than the current pace.

To do this, we are prioritising research and development in zero emission transport, and affordable off-grid solar.

We are also working with partners in developing countries to improve resilience to climate impacts, and we are investing in climate-resilient crops.

As we speak, the UK is applying cutting edge research to tackle extreme poverty, in partnership with developing countries, through climate action, famine prevention, health security, conflict resolution and girls' education.

The UK will work with our international partners to harness digital technologies in an inclusive and responsible way, to promote a resilient and prosperous digital economy, ensuring that human rights are protected online, as they are elsewhere.

We warmly welcome the Forum's focus on leveraging science, technology, and innovation for sustainable and inclusive growth.

This will help us to recover faster, and to re-build a fairer, greener, and more open world for everyone.

Thank you.

ENDS.