Thank you, Chair, Good morning, Excellencies, Colleagues,

As one of last year's co-chairs the United Kingdom congratulates– and thanks–you and the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for a thought-provoking and instructive 2024 Forum.

Much has progressed in the past year. In November, the United Kingdom hosted the first AI Safety Summit where we announced $47 million for our flagship 'AI for Development' programme, which builds local AI skills and boosts innovation in developing countries.

As AI rapidly evolves, we need a coordinated global approach that seizes opportunities for solving humanity's shared challenges and accelerates progress toward the SDGs to advance peace and resilience globally.

Additionally, we should increase efforts to tackle the effects of climate change by addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges in developing countries' food and land-use systems.

The UK is supporting climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture and forestry through the launch of the UK-Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research Centre for cutting-edge research on climate-resilient and nutritious crops and sustainable

agricultural practices. This will benefit people, climate, and nature. Over 44 million people around the world are eating biofortified foods because of UK-supported research.

Lastly, the United Kingdom is championing progress towards an open and secure research ecosystem that is more inclusive of developing countries, to support greater multilateral and bilateral collaborations on science and technology.

For example, the Research and Innovation Systems for Africa Fund is currently strengthening African research and innovation systems to deliver homegrown solutions to African communities' social, economic, and health challenges.

We are also enabling digital access through UK Tech Hubs in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Brazil, and Indonesia which supports digital entrepreneurs, SMEs and tech start-ups across their respective local digital ecosystems.

Thank you very much.