Joint Investigative Bodies to Combat Organised Transnational Crime

**Lines to take**

1. Thank you, Mr Chair for giving me the floor. Thank you to panelists for their informative presentations and to the Secretariat for the detailed background papers.

2. Thank you to my Romanian colleague in particular on noting the close joint working with UK on these matters.

3. The UK supports discussion of the potential benefits and attendant risks of joint investigative bodies in combatting transitional organised crime. Discussions will need to remain alive to jurisdictional issues as has been highlighted by other delegates

4. We believe that joint investigative bodies can be effective means for operational cooperation or coordination between two or more Parties.

5. A very good and recent example of this is in the field of drugs and organised crime. Our joint cooperation has been clearly demonstrated by the UK’s National Crime Agency (NCA) working with forces across Europe, notably France and the Netherlands, to deliver the UK’s biggest and most significant law enforcement operation.

6. This led to over 800 Europe-wide arrests on 02 July 2020 after messages on EncroChat were intercepted and decoded. EncroChat is an encrypted platform used by criminals.

7. We welcome the points raised on measuring impact and evaluation of JITs. For the UK the impact of this particular JIT is demonstrated through £54 million in criminal cash being seized, alongside significant volumes of drugs and firearms.

**Special Investigative Techniques (including covert surveillance)**

1. Thank you, Mr. Chair, thank you to the panelists for their presentations and the Secretariat for its comprehensive background paper shared ahead of today’s session.

2. For the UK, special investigative techniques are a key tool for Law enforcement agencies in the detection, prevention, investigation and prosecution of serious crime including terrorism and child sexual exploitation and abuse. This applies both in online and offline spaces.

3. The UK supports the principle that Parties should have the legal basis, rooted in human rights, for carrying out undercover investigations.

4. We believe good practice should be centered on human rights, and respect for law including concepts such as necessity and proportionality. Investigations should, where appropriate, be subject to conditions and
safeguards which provide for the appropriate protection of human rights and liberties.

5. In terms of safeguards we endorse mechanisms for oversight, redress and appropriate data protection and privacy for individuals. In terms of oversight in the UK, like other delegations, we have both judicial and parliamentary oversight. We also have independent oversight through the Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office.

6. The UK would want to ensure that any development in this sphere does not have a negative practical impact on current capabilities.