

**Responses to Recommendations**

**SINGAPORE**

Review in the Working Group: 6 May 2011  
 Adoption in the Plenary: 22 September 2011

**Singapore’s responses to recommendations (as of 06.01.2012):**

<b>In the Report of the Working Group:</b>	<b>In the Addendum:</b>	<b>During the plenary:</b>	<b>Summary:</b>
52 recs. accepted (among which 17 are considered already implemented or in the process of implementation); 21 rejected; 39 pending	Out of the 39 pending, 9 were accepted, 23 accepted in part - underlined in blue (parts of n° 96.2, 96.3, 96.6 and 93.10 pertaining ICERD were fully accepted) and 7 rejected	No additional information provided	Accepted: 84 Rejected: 28 No clear position: 0 Pending: 0

**List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/18/11:**

A - 94.1. Continue its commitment to advancing the lives of its people through the provisions of best education, housing and medical care, which has rightfully earned its international recognition (Brunei Darussalam);

A - 94.2. Continue to take positive steps to enhance the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, especially in the areas of health, education and the care of the disabled (the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);

A - 94.3. Continue applying programmes and measures aimed at ensuring universal access of its population to its excellent educational and health services and maintain the highest possible quality of these services (Cuba);

A - 94.4. Continue its commitment in assisting the enrolment of poor children in education and ensuring their health care (Oman);

A - 94.5. Continue its efforts in providing health care (Saudi Arabia);

A - 94.6. Continue with its plans to guarantee the right to education (Saudi Arabia); continue the programme of the provision of quality education including new investments in the development of education (Zimbabwe); continue efforts in developing and improving the quality of education so as to preserve human dignity and development in the country (Qatar);

A - 94.7. Continue taking effective policy and other measures to ensure adequate housing for its citizens, particularly in the lower income bracket (Malaysia);

A - 94.8. Continue applying its socio-economic and development strategies and plans in the country (Cuba);

A - 94.9. Continue to take proactive and innovative steps aimed at ensuring sustainable development policies related to the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

A - 94.10. Build on its record and take additional measures to guarantee basic economic and social rights, such as in education and health, in particular for communities such as disabled, lower income persons and people living with HIV and AIDS (Botswana);

A - 94.11. Continue its ongoing efforts for further promoting the rights of disabled people (Afghanistan);

A - 94.12. Consider improving and protecting particular groups including disabled and elderly (Oman);

A - 94.13. Continue its efforts in protecting the rights of specific groups such as women, children, the disabled, the aged and migrant workers (Brunei Darussalam);

A - 94.14. Continue to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of foreign workers (India);

A - 94.15. Continue efforts in protecting the dignity and safety of migrant workers, including through appropriate institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);

A - 94.16. Continue to strengthen measures to promote the human rights of migrant domestic workers, including by seeking to further improve working conditions of domestic workers in Singapore (the Philippines);

A - 94.17. Consider enhancing cooperation with countries of origin of migrant workers including on refining the process aimed at protecting such workers from exploitation, with a view to better managing the broad range of challenges in dealing with migrant workers (Malaysia);

A - 94.18. Continue its positive engagement with neighbouring countries in combating trafficking in persons (Indonesia); continue the positive participation and coordination with neighbouring countries in the context of combating trafficking in human beings (United Arab Emirates);

A - 94.19. Consider ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Belarus, Philippines);

A - 94.20. Continue to carry out further measures to strengthen the harmony between different ethnic and religious communities (Viet Nam); continue with the successful policy of ensuring inter-ethnic and interreligious harmony in Singapore (Russian Federation); continue efforts in setting and implementing additional measures to enforce harmony and social cohesion between the different ethnic groups in the country (Qatar); continue its civic efforts at all levels, in particular at local levels, to promote racial and religious harmony (Pakistan);

A - 94.21. Continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights while also safeguarding the institution of the family in all its component parts, and to preserve religious tolerance (Indonesia);

A - 94.22. Continue efforts to promote and protect human rights while preserving the institution of the family in all its components and preserving religious tolerance, prioritize the maintenance of racial and religious harmony through delicate management of relations between the different races and religions

and share best practices with other countries regarding the promotion of racial and religious tolerance (Algeria);

A - 94.23. Continue its efforts to increase the representation of women at senior levels within the public administration, including the diplomatic service, judiciary and educational institutions, as well as the private sector (the Republic of Moldova);

A - 94.24. Pursue its efforts to improve the status of women in order to enable them to reach their full potential and contribute to the social and economic development of the country (Algeria);

A - 94.25. Continue developing its legal and institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights (Afghanistan); consider developing further the legal and institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country (Malaysia); continue to develop the institutional and legal framework in respect of human rights (Jordan);

A - 94.26. Continue to work to strengthen national human rights institutions, while consolidating the achievements in human rights (Nepal); continue to strengthen its human rights institutions and develop further measures to ensure the effective implementation of their mandates (Lesotho);

A - 94.27. Continue its cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations to develop its legal and institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights in Singapore (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

A - 94.28. Further continue its stated policy of studying and reviewing its policy towards ratification of key international human rights instruments (Ethiopia); continue to carry out comprehensive reviews and studies on its existing legislation and level of preparedness, moving towards accession to international human rights instruments as it deems appropriate in the context of its institutional and legal framework, resources and national priorities (Indonesia);

A - 94.29. Continue to undertake appropriate steps with a view to ratifying the human rights instruments mentioned in paragraph 158 of the national report (Bhutan);

A - 94.30. Undertake concrete and appropriate steps towards ratification of and accession to international human rights instruments (Viet Nam);

A - 94.31. Continue on its path of aligning its national legislation with its international obligations under the instruments to which Singapore is a State party (Afghanistan);

A - 94.32. Accentuate measures to provide assistance, care and support to persons at risk of infection and those living with HIV/AIDS, through improved access to prevention, treatment and counselling services (Trinidad and Tobago);

A - 94.33. Continue with its efforts to further promote and protect human rights and freedoms (Sri Lanka);

A - 94.34. Engage the civil society in the follow-up process to the universal periodic review (Poland);

A - 94.35. Establish an effective and inclusive process to follow up on the implementation of recommendations emerging from the universal periodic review (Viet Nam).

**95. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined and enjoy the support of Singapore, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:**

A - 95.1. Maintain the momentum given to positive social policies relating to health care (Afghanistan);

A - 95.2. Expedite implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2007–2011 Enabling Masterplan to improve the lives of persons with disabilities (Bhutan);

A - 95.3. Accelerate effective implementation of the recommendations of the 2007–2011 Enabling Masterplan of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports and the National Council of Social Service to review and plan services for persons with disabilities (the Sudan);

A - 95.4. Step up efforts in fighting trafficking of human beings (Belarus);

A - 95.5. Take additional efforts in preserving inter-ethnic and interconfessional harmony in the country (Belarus);

A - 95.6. Share positive experiences and best practices with other countries regarding racial and religious tolerance (Zimbabwe);

A - 95.7. Intensify its efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, inter alia, by advocating and promoting women's empowerment, and through capacity-building, gender-sensitivity training, and public awareness-raising activities (Indonesia);

A - 95.8. Ensure gender-equality is enshrined in the Constitution (France);

A - 95.9. Take further steps to ensure the representation of women in senior levels within the public and private sectors is increased (South Africa); intensify efforts to enhance women's participation in the decision-making process in both public and private sectors, in accordance with the progress achieved in the field of education of women (United Arab Emirates); give the required attention to promoting women's participation at the decision-making level in both the public and private sectors (Algeria);

A - 95.10. Take measures to bring about a change in attitudes, with a view to eliminating stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society (the Republic of Moldova);

A - 95.11. Ensure the incorporation into the domestic legal system of the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Egypt);

A - 95.12. Increase attention to programmes for broken families (Oman);

A - 95.13. Provide and improve training programmes on human rights for the judiciary and law enforcement personnel (Jordan);

A - 95.14. Modify its legislation in such a way as to shift the burden of proof of the guilt of a person facing the death penalty to the prosecution instead of requesting the person to prove its own innocence (France);

A - 95.15. Make available statistics and other factual information on the use of the death penalty (Finland);

A - 95.16. Provide support for women prisoners with HIV/AIDS (Thailand);

A - 95.17. Share experience and good practices with all other countries in the areas of development and protection of human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

**96. The following recommendations will be examined by Singapore, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than by the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2011:**

A - 96.1. Consider ratifying the outstanding international human rights instruments and further update domestic laws to be in line with the articles of those treaties (Lesotho); review its policies in order to accede to the core international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Finland); consider, as appropriate, the accession to core human rights instruments (Jordan);

A - 96.2. Consider ratifying other core international human rights instruments, starting with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the instruments mentioned in paragraph 158 of the report, as well as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Algeria);

continue to take appropriate measures at the national level with a view to ratifying international human rights instruments, notably those mentioned in paragraph 158 of the national report, including  
A - the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),  
A - ICERD, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC) (Morocco); Consider acceding to ICERD, OP-CRC-SC and CRPD (Swaziland); consider expediting becoming a party to ICERD, CRPD and OP-CRC-SC (India);

96.3. Accede to the following human rights instruments:

A - CRPD,  
A - the ICERD and the OP-CRC-SC (Sudan);

A - 96.4. Consider, within its vision, acceding to other core human rights treaties, including ICERD (Botswana); re-evaluate its policy on the ICERD (Trinidad and Tobago);

A - 96.5. Accede to ICERD (Oman); ratify ICERD (Afghanistan);

A - 96.6. Become a party to CRPD (Bhutan); become a party to both CRPD and A - its Optional Protocol and set a specific time frame for the ratification process (Thailand);

A - 96.7. Accede to OP-CRC-SC (Iraq, Poland, Afghanistan);

A - 96.8. Consider ratifying core international human rights treaties to which Singapore is not yet a party (ICCPR, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), ICERD), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), OP-CRC-SC, and CRPD with its Optional Protocol (Slovenia);

A - 96.9. Consider acceding to ICESCR, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and ICRMW (Egypt);

A - 96.10. Ratify ICCPR and ICESCR and other core international human rights treaties, such as CAT, CRPD and ICERD, and their optional protocols; and withdraw its reservations on key principles of CRC and CEDAW (Czech Republic);

A - 96.11. Consider ratifying remaining core human rights treaties, namely: ICESCR, ICCPR, ICERD and CAT (Poland);

R - 96.12. Include in its plan for ratification ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols, ICESCR, CAT, ILO Convention No. 87 (1948) concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, and ICRMW (Timor Leste);

A - 96.13. Sign, ratify and implement ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, CAT and A - CRPD (United Kingdom);

A - 96.14. Take measures towards signing and ratifying the ICCPR and the ICESCR as soon as possible (Japan);

A - 96.15. Accede to ICERD and ratify ICCPR, as a matter of priority (Ghana);

A - 96.16. Accede to instruments to which it is not yet a party, with priority given to ICCPR and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);

A - 96.17. Study further and consider ratification of other international human rights treaties, namely: ICESCR, ICCPR, ICERD and ICRMW (Kazakhstan);

A - 96.18. Consider signing and ratifying ICRMW (Indonesia);

A - 96.19. Take measures in order to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Republic of Moldova);

A - 96.20. Consider withdrawing the reservations made on the two Conventions it has ratified (Finland);

A - 96.21. Implement the recommendations of treaty bodies with regard to the implementation of Singapore's commitments under CEDAW and CRC (Slovenia);

R - 96.22. Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste, Thailand, Poland, Egypt, Canada);

R - 96.23. Take steps to create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (the Republic of Moldova);

R - 96.24. Establish a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (South Africa);

R - 96.25. Establish an independent elections body (Canada);

A - 96.26. Enhance cooperation with labour-sending countries to ensure foreign workers go through proper and legal channels to work in Singapore and continue efforts to protect the rights of all foreign workers from exploitation (Myanmar);

A - 96.27. Strictly enforce relevant regulations including the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act and the Passport Act, which prohibit employers to hold on to passports, travel documents and work permits of their foreign workers (Thailand);

A - 96.28. Extend the protection afforded by labour law to the entire range of domestic workers (Djibouti);

A - 96.29. Adopt legal protection for migrant workers and enforce them, including with respect to wages and working hours, and address allegations of excessive agency fees and forced detention by "repatriation companies" (Canada);

A - 96.30. Implement measures adopted to educate foreign workers, in their native languages, of their rights and responsibilities and avenues for assistance (Sri Lanka);

A - 96.31. Continue its path of developing a financial system that will allow for assisting workers wishing to demand reparations in cases of litigation with their employer (Switzerland);

A - 96.32. Address the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and xenophobia in relation to concerns about migrants and the living and working conditions of migrant workers, abolish corporal punishment for immigration offenders and enact an anti-discrimination law (United Kingdom);

A - 96.33. Put in place measures to strengthen the protection of victims of trafficking: among others, to screen and protect victims of human trafficking instead of treating them as criminal offenders, to provide them with temporary shelters during legal proceedings, to support witness protection programs and to provide appropriate remedial measures other than deportation (Thailand);

R - 96.34. Circulate and implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules), which will further enhance administration of justice (Thailand);

A - 96.35. Repeal or at least narrow the restrictions on public discourse on the issue of ethnicity, language, race, religion and politically sensitive issues in order to ensure the full enjoyment of freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Slovenia);

A - 96.36. Continue to engage with the United Nations special procedures and in particular positively respond to the invitation requests by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Czech Republic);

A - 96.37. Harmonize its various strategies on children and families under a comprehensive national plan of action for children, and further consider the accession to OP-CRC-SC (the Republic of Moldova);

A - 96.38. Adopt a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination against all groups of children (Poland);

R - 96.39. Establish an independent body monitoring the fulfilment of child rights empowered to receive and investigate complaints on the violations of the rights of the child (Poland).

**97. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Singapore:**

R - 97.1. Declare an immediate moratorium on executions with the aim of abolishing the death penalty (Finland); impose as soon as possible a moratorium on the death penalty, with the view to its definitive abolition, in line with General Assembly resolution 65/206 (France);

R - 97.2. Impose a moratorium on all executions and, eventually, abolish the death penalty and in this regard, ratify ICPPR and its second optional protocol (Switzerland);

R - 97.3. Immediately impose a moratorium on executions, with a view to complete abolition of the death penalty; make public information about past executions and death sentences handed down by the courts; and review the Penal Code and the Misuse of Drugs Act, with a view to repealing all provisions on mandatory death sentencing and removing all presumption of guilt clauses (Czech Republic);

R - 97.4. Support the international moratorium on death penalty executions with a view to abolition, and end the imposition of the mandatory death penalty (Canada);

R - 97.5. Take steps towards the abolition of the death penalty and, during the process to abolish it, remove mandatory death sentences and release basic information about the death penalty, including the number of people sentenced to death and awaiting execution on death row (United Kingdom);

R - 97.6. Remove from legislation the mandatory nature of the capital punishment for a number of crimes (France); repeal provisions for mandatory death penalty (Slovenia);

R - 97.7. Immediately put a stop to caning as a form of punishment and repeal all laws providing for this punishment (Czech Republic); put an end in practice to all forms of corporal punishment and derogate the laws allowing for this practice (France);

R - 97.8. Put an end to all practices of corporal punishment that takes place in educational facilities and detention centres (Djibouti);

R - 97.9. Actively review the level of protection of children within the criminal justice system, through raising the age of criminal responsibility and avoid the trying of cases involving children between the ages of 16 and 18 in adult courts (Trinidad and Tobago);

R - 97.10. Ensure that "preventive detention" under the Internal Security Act and the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act is only used in exceptional circumstances and does not violate the right to a fair trial (Slovenia);

R - 97.11. Review existing provisions with regard to detention without trial and adopt new provisions to inform those detained of their right to counsel and guarantee their access to Counsel immediately upon arrest (Canada);

R - 97.12. Repeal legal provisions criminalising sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex (Slovenia); draw the consequences of the positive evolution of society with respect to homosexuality by abolishing the provisions of the Penal Code related to private relations between consenting adults (France);

R - 97.13. Introduce legislation to make marital rape illegal in all circumstances (Canada);

R - 97.14. Accept a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Slovenia);

R - 97.15. Consider issuing a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Slovenia).

**98. The recommendations above do not enjoy the support of Singapore for the reasons explained in the national report and during the interactive dialogue.**

**99. The following recommendations did not enjoy the support of Singapore as Singapore considers that they are based on incorrect assumptions or premises:**

R - 99.1. Review the de facto ban on peaceful public demonstrations, the use of anti-defamation laws; and the registration process for civil society and associations, to ensure that such laws, as adopted and enforced, are consistent with international human rights guarantees of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association (Canada);

R - 99.2. Abolish the defamation law and ensure protection and promotion of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association through legislative reform and policy changes (Czech Republic);

R - 99.3. Abolish the penal law on defamation and ensure, through legislative reform and political change, that freedom of expression, as well as freedom of association and peaceful assembly are guaranteed to all inhabitants, citizens or not, of the country (Switzerland);

R - 99.4. Implement the 18 recommendations made by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute in its 2008 report "Prosperity Versus Individual Rights" (United Kingdom);

R - 99.5. Prohibit corporal punishment and put in place an educational system respectful of the physical and psychological integrity of minors (Switzerland);

R - 99.6. Fully incorporate the principles and provisions of CRC into the domestic legal system, especially those regarding corporal punishment (Poland);

*Disclaimer: This classification was made by UPR Info based on United Nations documents and webcast. For more information about this document, read our "Methodology". For questions, comments and/or corrections, please write to [info@upr-info.org](mailto:info@upr-info.org)*