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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-fourth session**  
Geneva, 18-29 January 2016

### **Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\***

**Singapore**

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\* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 13 January 2016. The review of Singapore was held at the 16th meeting on 27 January 2016. The delegation of Singapore was headed by H.E., Ambassador CHAN Heng Chee, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At its 18th meeting held on 29 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Singapore.
2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Singapore: Botswana, Ecuador and the Maldives.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Singapore:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SGP/1);
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SGP/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SGP/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Lichtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to Singapore through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Permanent Representative Ambassador Foo Kok Jwee said that Singapore supported and remained committed to the UPR process. It provided a framework for all states to have a conversation on their human rights achievements and challenges on equal terms. The UPR allowed Singapore to listen to others' views, take stock of progress and engage its citizens and civil society, to achieve its goal of building a fair and inclusive society.
6. He noted that the UPR was also an opportunity for states to share their best practices and experiences in the promotion and protection of the rights of their citizens. Singapore would share how it had to manage the enduring challenges of dealing with primordial and visceral forces of race, language and religion in our diverse society, while trying to overcome its development and social challenges.
7. Head of the Singapore delegation, Ambassador-at-Large Chan Heng Chee, said that the heart of the Singapore story was finding the right political, economic and social strategies for the broad uplift of all communities in Singapore. Singapore was a multi-racial society with different languages, religions, and cultures. Its social harmony did not happen by chance but by deliberate choices and policies. Each community was prepared to accommodate others and not insist on the primacy of its race, religion, language or culture.

Crucially, the majority Chinese community agreed not to assert their majoritarian status, which helped to preserve the common space for all Singaporeans.

8. She said that the Government treasured every Singaporean. Singapore focused on the basics: security, fair opportunities for a good education, stable jobs, and home ownership in the first three decades of its nationhood. In the past ten years, in response to a widening income gap due to globalisation and the technological revolution, more was done to ensure social mobility, provide assurance for older Singaporeans, so as to ensure that Singapore remained an inclusive society.

9. She said that the Government remained committed to, and invested in, the relentless task of caring for Singaporeans and protecting their fundamental rights, independent of any UN human rights review process. Singapore was determined to remain a multiracial, fair and just society, with a culture of self-reliance and mutual support, as well as sustain the bond of trust between the Government and its people that was developed over the past 50 years. Good governance and a forward-looking outlook were also the other key ingredients for Singapore's success.

10. She noted that Singapore's society was changing. The Government had implemented several new policies since Singapore's last UPR to enhance social protection and strengthen social harmony, such as MediShield Life, the Pioneer Generation Package, and the Enabling Master plan for Persons with Disabilities. Singapore also signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), acceded to the UN Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Protocol in 2015, and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in July 2013.

11. She said that while Singapore's principles of governance, how it protected human rights and preserved social harmony, might not fully conform to how other societies have organised themselves, Singapore had to take a practical and not an ideological approach to human rights. She noted that countries in the West have had to review some of their more liberal policies because they proved inadequate in dealing with contemporary manifestations of terrorism, extremism and immigration. Every country should therefore be given the time and space to deal with its own development and advance human rights in its own way, taking into account its unique social and cultural context.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

12. During the interactive dialogue, 113 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

13. Nepal praised investment in education and health. It welcomed the ratification of CRPD and signature of ICERD encouraging Singapore to consider ratifying the remaining core international human rights instruments.

14. The Netherlands was willing to share experiences with Singapore on developing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. It expressed concern about executions and new death sentences since the previous UPR.

15. Israel welcomed the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, the Protection from Harassment Act, the Workfare Income Supplement scheme, "Medishield Life", and measures regarding senior citizens and employment of persons with disabilities.

16. Nicaragua highlighted the priority given to access to education, health, and high investment thereon, and advances to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

17. Nigeria appreciated efforts to strengthen social protection, education and health-care. It welcomed the increase of women in high positions, the Legal Aid Bureau and Criminal Legal Aid Scheme.
18. Norway encouraged Singapore to take more concrete measures to protect the human rights of sexual minorities. It expressed concern about the resumption of executions in 2014 and 2015.
19. Oman welcomed the social and economic development, and harmony and cohesion amongst citizens, and the ratification of CRPD in 2013.
20. Pakistan appreciated efforts to foster religious and ethnical harmony, including new Muslim laws, improvements in Shariah Courts and a social action plan towards de-radicalization.
21. Panama noted positively the recent modification of penal legal instruments. It wished to see total freedom of information for its citizens.
22. Paraguay welcomed the enlarged subsidies to protect older persons, the ratification of CRPD, and Plan on Improvements on Accessibility 2012-2016.
23. Peru underscored the progress made, including in implementing economic and social policies for a more just and inclusive society, and efforts to protect migrant workers.
24. The Philippines praised great strides in combating human trafficking, and efforts to uphold migrant workers' rights.
25. Poland noted there was space for improvement regarding institutional measures and cooperation with human rights mechanisms.
26. Portugal acknowledged Singapore's economic development while regretting the ending of a de facto moratorium on the death penalty by executing two persons in 2014.
27. Qatar praised efforts to protect and promote human rights, particularly measures regarding the right to education, health services and the elderly.
28. The Republic of Korea noted practical efforts to realize human rights, specifically the Healthcare 2020 Master-plan, the Silver Support Scheme and the Government-paid Paternity Leave.
29. The Russian Federation welcomed the new policy of extending social support to citizens, particularly the elderly and those with lower incomes, and the ratification of CRPD.
30. Saudi Arabia noted achievements, in particular those regarding improved social services provided to the elderly and to those with lower incomes.
31. Senegal noted measures to improve the education system, the situation of the elderly and people with low-income.
32. Serbia welcomed efforts to uphold socio-economic rights and to enhance social cohesion encouraging Singapore to explore the possibility of accepting the universal standards on civil and political rights.
33. Sierra Leone encouraged Singapore to incorporate into its legislation a clear definition of all forms of discrimination against women in line with CEDAW provisions.
34. Slovakia encouraged Singapore to fully implement the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act. It expressed concern about the imposition of the death penalty.
35. Slovenia welcomed programmes to promote and protect the rights of older persons.

36. South Africa regretted Singapore's decision to resume executions in 2014 after the two-year moratorium.
37. Spain welcomed the progress made in combatting trafficking in persons, and the National Plan to combat domestic violence. It encouraged repeal of Section 377 A of the Penal Code.
38. Sri Lanka praised positive steps to guarantee the rights of its citizens. It noted its accession to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
39. Sweden acknowledged Singapore's commitment to the UPR process.
40. Switzerland reiterated that the death penalty had no deterrent effect. It expressed concern about arrests without trial are authorised under the Penal Code and other laws.
41. Tajikistan appreciated measures to preserve mutual understanding among those who follow different religions.
42. Thailand welcomed the accession to CRPD, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, the ASEAN Convention on the same matter. It noted efforts to safeguard foreign workers' rights by strengthening the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act.
43. Timor-Leste welcomed the National Family Violence Networking System and the Inter-agency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons.
44. Trinidad and Tobago applauded the amendments made to the legislation to enhance the protection of workers, girls and young women, and initiatives to ensure the well-being of older Singaporeans.
45. Turkey welcomed measures to expand the social security networks encouraging Singapore to further strengthen its efforts to protect women's rights in various fields.
46. Uganda noted that many international instruments had yet to be ratified, including the Conventions relating to the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons.
47. Ukraine acknowledged Singapore's commitment to upholding the principles of secularism and multi-racialism to ensure equal standing and opportunities for all citizens.
48. The United Arab Emirates noted the progress made in social rights and freedom of religion.
49. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed new measures to protect migrant workers from exploitation. It urged revision to laws and regulations that can prohibit freedom of speech, media and assembly, and removal of scandalising the judiciary as an offence.
50. The United States of America welcomed the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act. It expressed concern about respect for individuals' civil and political rights, including those of LGBTI persons, and restrictions on freedom of expression.
51. Uzbekistan welcomed achievements to ensure the rule of law, and the ratification of CRPD and the Palermo Protocol.
52. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) welcomed the ratification of CRPD, and the progress to implement the national road-map for the integration of disabled persons into society.
53. Bangladesh appreciated the safeguarding of social harmony through legally protected respect for diversity. It noted efforts to safeguard migrants' wellbeing, and welcomed strengthened social protection for low-income citizens.

54. Zimbabwe noted policies and programmes to improve social protection, particularly for the elderly and low- and middle-income groups. It welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.
55. Afghanistan welcomed the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Plan for persons with disabilities to help those persons to better integrate in the community.
56. Albania welcomed measures to provide quality and affordable care for elderly persons putting in place programmes and relevant infrastructure for their benefit.
57. Algeria welcomed measures to strengthen social welfare programmes especially for the most destitute, and the national plan for the elderly.
58. Argentina welcomed the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons. It expressed concern about the use of the death penalty.
59. Australia welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the signature of ICERD, and the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act and the Penal Code (Amendment) Act.
60. Austria welcomed the progress achieved since its last UPR review, including the protection of the rights of the elderly and the disabled, and the fight against human trafficking. It encouraged extending an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression.
61. In response to questions on the death penalty, Singapore said no civilised society glorifies in the taking of lives. Singapore applies capital punishment to deter the most serious crimes such as murder and drug trafficking.
62. Singapore is small and densely populated, and situated in a region with major drug trafficking centres. Ensuring Singaporeans' fundamental right to safety and security is of paramount importance. By being tough on crime and putting emphasis on rehabilitation, Singapore's system succeeds in protecting lives while having one of the world's lowest homicide rates. Drug abuse rates are kept under control.
63. In 2012, Singapore made the mandatory death penalty discretionary under very specific situations. These changes were the result of a regular criminal justice review and rigorous debates in Parliament.
64. The application of corporal punishment in Singapore is guided by necessity and proportionality. There are absolute limits on the number of strokes, and it is administered under highly-regulated conditions.
65. Singapore enacted the Protection from Harassment Act in 2014 in response to calls for greater protection from harassment, including online harassment from its citizens and civil society.
66. Singapore keeps core treaties under review and engages seriously with treaty bodies. While Singapore is not party to certain treaties, its domestic policies are generally in compliance with their substance.
67. Singapore gives space for freedom of assembly without compromising order and stability. Public assemblies generally require permits, except those posing lower safety and security risks. From 2012 to 2015, 88 public demonstrations took place at the Speakers' Corner.
68. Singapore applies preventive detention without trial only as a last resort and only under exceptional circumstances to counter serious threats against public order or national security. The Internal Security Act is effective in addressing the threat of terrorism in today's heightened security climate.

69. Preventive detention is governed by the same robust checks and balances as normal arrests. Rehabilitation is a key component to help detainees reintegrate into society after release. Volunteers from the Religious Rehabilitation Group give religious counselling to counter radical ideology.

70. On TIP, Singapore established an inter-agency task force to combat TIP in 2010, launched a National Plan of Action in 2012 and enacted the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act in 2015. Singapore co-funds public awareness initiatives, and partners civil society to provide assistance, such as temporary employment and language lessons for the victims. Singapore was one of the first countries to ratify the ASEAN Convention on TIP in January 2016.

71. Responding to a question on conscientious objectors, Singapore underscored that it had no choice but to base its defence on citizen soldiers. National Service applies to all male Singaporeans and Permanent Residents, regardless of race or religion. Singapore recognises the freedom of religion as a constitutional right, but allowing individuals to opt out or choose alternative forms of National Service will weaken its strong public support and impact Singapore's defence.

72. On freedom of speech, no one in Singapore is prosecuted for criticising the government or its policies, and many do. Singapore's Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of expression. However, there must be safeguards against those who abuse this right to denigrate or offend the beliefs of others, or to incite racial or religious hatred.

73. Singapore's Online News Licensing Scheme (ONLS) puts print and online news on more equal regulatory footing, but does not change standards required of the content.

74. Singapore's media regulatory framework is complemented with a strong focus on promoting media and information literacy. The independent Media Literacy Council and the Inter-Ministry Cyber Wellness Steering Committee (ICSC) were established to achieve these goals.

75. On defamation suits involving politicians, Singapore places great importance on the credibility of public institutions and political leaders. Libellous allegations will be challenged in court. Trust and reputation are invaluable assets in Government which Singapore does not want to see debased.

76. Singapore affirmed that LGBTI persons are part of its society and their contributions are acknowledged like those of all citizens. The Government has to manage LGBTI issues sensitively and in a pragmatic way without fracturing Singapore's society because Singapore is basically a conservative society.

77. Section 377A of the Penal Code on sodomy, which was inherited from Britain during Singapore's colonial history, is not proactively enforced. LGBTI persons are free to lead their lives. Parliament decided after an intense debate in 2007 to retain this law. Singapore's Prime Minister noted at that time that it was better to accept the legal untidiness and ambiguity of leaving the law as it was, and it would not be wise to force this issue to settle it one way or the other. Singapore firmly opposes discrimination and harassment, and does not discriminate against LGBTI applicants to the civil service. Singapore's approach is "to live and let live", preserve the common space for all communities, and let society evolve gradually and decide collectively.

78. Azerbaijan noted the ratification of CRPD and accession to the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. It welcomed the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles Steering Committees.

79. Bahamas welcomed Singapore's people-centred policies and programmes, universal healthcare scheme, increased assistance to persons with disabilities, and accession to the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.
80. Bahrain welcomed steps to improve the living conditions, and to achieve social harmony and religious tolerance.
81. Viet Nam welcomed the achievements in protecting and promoting human rights since the last UPR.
82. Barbados noted Singapore's ethnic and religious diversity. It welcomed investment in housing, health-care and education, and attention for the elderly and less well-off.
83. Belarus noted Singapore's approach to combating human trafficking. It welcomed efforts to enhance social protection, and additional investments for education, health and housing.
84. Belgium encouraged Singapore to align its domestic legislation with CEDAW. It expressed concern about minors' still being enlisted in the army and judged by a military tribunal.
85. Benin welcomed efforts to promote education, healthcare and children's rights. It noted legislative reforms to protect women, children and girls against violence, negligence and exploitation.
86. Bhutan noted that Singapore's education and healthcare systems had resulted in an increase in the wellbeing of its citizens.
87. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) recognized advances on education and health, and welcomed the signing of ICERD encouraging its prompt ratification.
88. Botswana noted measures to fight human trafficking. It encouraged expediting the ratification of ICERD. It expressed concern that Muslim women do not enjoy equal rights regarding family, marriage and divorce.
89. Brazil appreciated policies to enhance social protection, and investments in education. It noted laws and policies promoting tolerance among ethnic and religious groups encouraging the prompt ratification of ICERD.
90. Brunei Darussalam noted the importance attached to quality and affordable healthcare. It welcomed efforts to provide education bursaries to children from two-thirds of Singaporean households.
91. Burundi welcomed measures to enhance the rights of children and persons with disabilities, the right to housing, and to combat human trafficking.
92. Cambodia welcomed the ratification of CRPD and achievements in housing, healthcare, education, protection of the elderly, and prevention of human trafficking.
93. Germany appreciated positive developments regarding freedom of opinion, especially during the latest elections. It expressed concern about the practice of caning, the death penalty, and the situation of foreign workers.
94. Chile noted the progress to implement previous UPR recommendations.
95. China noted achievements in housing, health, education and social services, and racial equality and freedom of religion, and measures to combat human trafficking.
96. Colombia welcomed the establishment of an Inter-ministerial Human Rights Committee tasked with follow-up and implementation of recommendations.

97. Congo appreciated the ratification of the main international human rights instruments.
98. Costa Rica underscored social and development policies to address inequality while expressing concern about existing restrictions on peaceful demonstrations and freedom of expression.
99. Cuba welcomed efforts to strengthen social protection and improve healthcare, including the Progressive Wage Model and “MediShield Life”, and the national action plan for the elderly.
100. Cyprus welcomed reforms to enhance social protection, particularly for the elderly and low-income earners, and to improve quality of healthcare and housing.
101. The Czech Republic appreciated responses to its advance questions.
102. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea welcomed efforts to strengthen social protection, healthcare, care for the elderly, and to protect women and girls, children and persons with disabilities.
103. Denmark asked about what concrete steps had been taken to ratify CAT.
104. Ecuador welcomed efforts to promote intercultural, religious harmony, and to protect the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.
105. Egypt welcomed extensive social protection measures for older persons and groups with limited income in areas of housing, education and health.
106. Ethiopia appreciated the efficient healthcare systems, lifelong learning access to education, and improved social protection.
107. Fiji welcomed efforts to strengthen social cohesion between communities, the national action plan against human trafficking, and amendment of laws related to gender equality.
108. Finland welcomed the ratification of CRPD and ICERD. It encouraged decriminalization of consensual sexual activity and censorship guidelines discriminating against LGBTI-persons.
109. Singapore plans ahead to meet the needs of an ageing population and advocates a more positive view of older persons. To improve healthcare affordability, Singapore enhanced its MediShield Life scheme in 2015 to provide universal health coverage for life, regardless of age or pre-existing conditions.
110. Singapore’s vision is to create “A Nation for All Ages”. It launched an Action Plan for Successful Ageing in August 2015 to create a conducive workplace for all ages, re-organize its healthcare system to place a higher emphasis on preventive health and make the delivery of healthcare services more appropriate for the ageing population, refresh its city infrastructure to be more senior-friendly, and provide a greater range of social activities for its seniors.
111. Singapore has invited the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons to visit Singapore.
112. Singapore has improved welfare provisions to vulnerable groups in the quantum given, and the timeliness of protection, while ensuring they feel safe in their environment. The poor receive additional cash assistance above subsidies available to all citizens. Timely and flexible assistance avoids the “cliff effect” of a single poverty line, where those outside the line get nothing. Singapore established 24 Social Service Offices, and there are over 400 civil society organisations where people can get early help. This also enables the Government to receive regular feedback to adjust policies to match evolving needs.

113. Singapore's Enabling Masterplan (2012-2016) will make Singapore a friendlier and more accessible place for persons with disabilities. Transport and infrastructure are more wheelchair accessible, and spending in special education schools has increased by 50% in the last five years.

114. Singapore is strongly committed to its CEDAW obligations. To promote shared parental responsibilities, fathers get up to two weeks of paternity leave, and working mothers can share a week of maternity leave with husbands. Singapore also takes a gender-sensitive perspective on issues that have differing impact on women and men such as health.

115. Singapore will enact the Vulnerable Adults Act in 2016 to protect adults who suffer from or who are at risk of abuse, neglect or self-neglect. Singapore will also amend the Mental Capacity Act to protect the dignity and interest of individuals who lack mental capacity to make informed decisions on their own.

116. Responding to questions on corporal punishment of young persons, Singapore stressed that corporal punishment is the last resort. It is subject to stringent safeguards, after counselling and alternative disciplinary methods have repeatedly failed.

117. Singapore will consider extending the care and protection provisions under the Children and Young Persons Act from 16 to 18 years of age.

118. Singapore underscored that its racial and religious harmony is the result of continuing efforts by the Government, community organisations and citizens. Its Constitution affirms all citizens are equal before the law regardless of race, language or religion. The Presidential Council for Minority Rights scrutinizes bills to ensure that they do not unfairly discriminate against any race or religion. Singapore implemented an Ethnic Integration Policy to ensure a balanced mix of ethnic communities in public housing, and made English the working language so as not to favour any particular ethnic group. Group Representation Constituencies also ensure that minorities will always be represented in Parliament.

119. The Government regularly engages ethnic and religious community leaders through the National Steering Committee on Racial and Religious Harmony. The Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles in every constituency bring together different ethnic and religious leaders to organize common activities and nurture networks of trust. Singapore intends to ratify ICERD in 2017.

120. Singapore's Constitution enjoins the Government to care for the interests of the Malays, the indigenous people of Singapore and overwhelmingly of the Muslim faith. The Administration of the Muslim Law Act established the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, Syariah Court and Registry of Muslim Marriages in 1968, which work closely together to ensure that the practice of Muslim law in Singapore is progressive and responsive to evolving social contexts, while adhering to the principles of Islam. The madrasahs provide an academic education within an Islamic environment.

121. Singapore explained how it creates better skills, better jobs and better careers as the best form of welfare for its workers. It recently implemented the SkillsFuture initiative, a national movement to develop an integrated system of education, training and career progression, and to foster lifelong learning. It provides grants and subsidies for training, support for leadership development, and fosters collaboration with employers and unions to meet industries' future manpower needs.

122. "Workfare" is a targeted scheme that helps low-income workers be self-reliant through continued employment through cash supplements, retirement savings top-ups, and up to 95% subsidies for training courses. For sectors facing depressed wages, the

Progressive Wage Model sets out training requirements in exchange for higher wages. These efforts contribute to social mobility.

123. Singapore has one of world's highest migrant worker concentrations. One in three persons in its workforce is foreign. Singapore values their contributions and is committed to safeguard their well-being and rights.

124. Surveys show a good majority of migrant workers are happy with their work conditions, and would recommend their families and friends to work in Singapore. Laws like the Employment Act provide them the same avenues of justice as locals. Additional safeguards are provided through the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act and the Employment Agencies Act. These mandate, among others, that employers give payslips, and that the withholding of passports against workers' wishes is illegal. Fees that Singapore employment agencies can charge workers are also limited.

125. The Government shares complaints with relevant Embassies in Singapore for investigations by their local authorities. Singapore has taken a range of actions against more than 2,000 errant employers in 2015. Every complaint of abuse reported is investigated. Singapore works with CSOs to reach out to foreign workers about their rights and where they can seek help.

126. Singapore noted that all types of foreign worker housing must adhere to rules on safety and well-being. The longer-term direction is to further improve workers' living conditions towards larger dormitories with full facilities.

127. Singapore introduced a weekly rest day for foreign domestic workers, and the maximum penalties for abuses of such workers under Singapore's Penal Code are 1.5 times the norm. The Government works with civil society to provide skills training on workers' rest days.

128. France welcomed accession to CRPD and signature of ICERD.

129. Georgia highlighted policies to enhance social protection for citizens, especially for low and middle-income citizens, and steps to improve education and healthcare. It welcomed the ratification of CRPD while encouraging ratification of the remaining international instruments.

130. Canada acknowledged accession to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

131. Ghana welcomed the Inter-agency Task Force to combat trafficking in persons and the National Family Violence Networking System.

132. Greece highlighted the progress in access to education for all, women's empowerment in public, corporate and civil society sectors, and protection of child victims of violence.

133. Haiti welcomed progress in achieving ethnic diversity, social harmony, and on open immigration policy.

134. Holy See noted the Inter-Agency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, and the national plan of action on trafficking in persons.

135. Honduras welcomed the ratification of the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

136. India welcomed the ratification of CRPD, high representation of women in public life, and recent legislative initiatives aimed at prevention of trafficking in persons.

137. Indonesia encouraged Singapore to consider developing a comprehensive human rights national action plan and strengthening national human rights institutions in conformity with the Paris Principles.

138. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated efforts in education, public health and protection of the elderly.
139. Iraq urged ratification of the remaining core international human rights treaties.
140. Ireland noted the ratification of CRPD and signature of ICERD, and the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons. Ireland expressed concern about the resumption of executions in 2014 and reports of restrictions on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.
141. New Zealand acknowledged that judges were allowed to exercise discretion in imposing the death penalty in some cases.
142. Italy welcomed measures to strengthen social protection, and investments aimed at improving the quality of education, healthcare and housing, and Singapore's commitment to advancing the rights of women and the situation of the elderly.
143. Jamaica welcomed Singapore's advances in social cohesion achieved through the promotion of human rights and rule of law.
144. Japan welcomed measures to; provide financial support for lower-income citizens, improve education and healthcare, promote the rights of persons with disabilities; improve the working environments; and respond to the challenges of the ageing society.
145. Kazakhstan welcomed the progress made in social protection, health, education, housing and women's rights, and the policy to ensure equal standing and opportunities to all citizens.
146. Kenya welcomed Singapore's progressive social policies that promote harmony and social inclusion.
147. Kuwait noted achievements in education, healthcare, and rule of law.
148. Kyrgyzstan noted ethnic and religious diversity in Singapore. It also welcomed policies to promote and protect human rights.
149. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the progress made in social protection, social harmony, building a fair and inclusive society, gender equality, quality of education and healthcare services, and freedom of expression.
150. Latvia welcomed measures to strengthen social protection, in particular those to ensure access to quality education for all, enhance gender equality, provide universal healthcare, and strengthen child protection.
151. Lebanon welcomed achievements in the areas of education, housing and healthcare.
152. Libya welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the creation of a government agency tasked with creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and efforts to raise the awareness on religious tolerance and social harmony.
153. Malaysia noted enhanced socio-economic protection for low and middle-income households through improved access to quality education, housing and healthcare. It welcomed Singapore's programmatic strategies to provide care for an ageing population.
154. The Maldives welcomed the ratification of CRPD, signature of ICERD, and accession to the UN TIP Protocol, and efforts to strengthen the national legislation on Trafficking in Persons.
155. Mauritius noted the Enabling Master-plan for persons with disabilities, the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, accession to the UN TIP Protocol, the IRCC Steering Committees to promote inter-faith and inter-racial harmony.
156. Mexico welcomed the ratification of CRPD.

157. Montenegro welcomed the National Family Violence Networking System, and criminalization of rape of a spouse asking about the Government's plans to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape, and ensure that the definition of rape covers any non-consensual sexual act.

158. Morocco welcomed the progress made in education, health and housing, as well as various initiatives to promote and protect the rights of children, persons with disabilities and victims of human trafficking.

159. Myanmar welcomed the progress made in social protection, healthcare, the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, care for migrant workers and their well-being, and preserving social harmony.

160. Namibia welcomed efforts to improve the lives of citizens in all stages such as the increase of annual expenditure on education and support of low-income Singaporeans through the Workfare Income Supplement Scheme.

161. Uruguay welcomed social policies for vulnerable sectors while expressing concern about criminalization of homosexual relations. It positively noted that the death penalty was no longer mandatory for some offences.

162. In closing, Ambassador Chan said that Singapore would examine each comment and question carefully to consider how to further improve Singapore's efforts to realise human rights.

163. She added that Singapore had a strong position on gender equality and would strive to do better. Singapore would actively review the need to repeal marital rape immunity.

164. Ambassador Chan expressed appreciation for many delegations' acknowledgement of Singapore's good work in strengthening social protection and social harmony.

165. Singapore will continue to consult its citizens and civil society. Singapore will have to chart its own course, and will adapt its policies to remain relevant in the ever changing social, economic and political circumstances and serve Singaporeans best.

## **II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\***

**166. The following recommendations will be examined by country Singapore which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016.**

**166.1. Consider the ratification of the international human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a party (Nicaragua);**

**166.2. Continue its accession to the core international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);**

**166.3. Consider ratifying the human rights treaties, to which Singapore is not yet a party, especially the International Covenants (Costa Rica); Promptly undertake the necessary procedures for ratification of the core human rights treaties, including the ICCPR and ICESCR (Japan); Consider ratifying other core human rights treaties such as the ICESCR and the ICCPR (Mauritius);**

**166.4. Ratify more human rights treaties, especially the ICESCR and the ICCPR (Israel);**

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\*\* The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 166.5. Sign and ratify the human rights instruments already accepted in the previous UPR (Uruguay);
- 166.6. Consider ratifying the ICERD (Ghana);
- 166.7. Ratify the ICERD (Georgia; Kenya; Morocco; Russian Federation);
- 166.8. Ratify the ICERD signed in 2015 (Senegal); Complete the ICERD's ratification process (Turkey); Ratify the ICERD at the earliest opportunity (Australia); Work towards ratifying the ICERD which it signed in 2015 (Zimbabwe);
- 166.9. Ratify all core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including the ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT (Latvia);
- 166.10. Ratify the ICERD and consider ratifying the ICESCR (Slovakia);
- 166.11. Become a party to the ICCPR and its Optional Protocols (Sweden);
- 166.12. Facilitate acceding to both the ICCPR and ICESCR (Republic of Korea); Consider acceding to the ICCPR and the ICESCR (Thailand);
- 166.13. Consider ratifying the ICCPR (Ghana);
- 166.14. Fulfil its international obligations by ratifying as a matter of priority the ICCPR and ICESCR (France);
- 166.15. Ratify the ICCPR (Montenegro; South Africa);
- 166.16. Ratify other core international human rights treaties, particularly the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the ICERD, the CAT, and the OP-CEDAW (Slovenia);
- 166.17. Ratify the ICCPR and its Optional Protocols and the ICESCR and its Optional Protocol (Finland);
- 166.18. Ratify the ICCPR and its Second Optional Protocol, the ICESCR and its Optional Protocol, as well as the CAT (Portugal);
- 166.19. Take appropriate measures towards acceding to other core international human rights instruments, namely the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the ICERD and the CAT (Kazakhstan);
- 166.20. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);
- 166.21. Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);
- 166.22. Consider ratifying the ICESCR (Ghana);
- 166.23. Consider the possibility of acceding to the ICESCR, the ICRMW, and the OP-CRC-SC (Egypt);
- 166.24. Consider ratifying the ICESCR, the ICCPR and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Optional Protocol thereto (Namibia);
- 166.25. Remove its reservations to CEDAW and sign its Optional Protocol (Sweden);
- 166.26. Accede to the CAT (New Zealand); Ratify the CAT (South Africa; Switzerland);
- 166.27. Consider ratifying the CAT (Ghana);

- 166.28. Consider ratifying the CAT, the ICRMW, and ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);
- 166.29. Intensify its efforts to ratify the CAT (Denmark);
- 166.30. Initiate the procedures aimed at ratifying the CAT (Chile);
- 166.31. Ratify the CAT and its Optional Protocol (Cyprus; Lebanon);
- 166.32. Ratify the CAT and Optional Protocol thereto, as well as the ICCPR and the ICESCR (Czech Republic);
- 166.33. Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty and corporal punishment, including ratifying CAT and its Optional Protocol (Sweden);
- 166.34. Sign and ratify the CAT and ICPPED (France);
- 166.35. Complete the process of accession to OP-CRC-SC (Kyrgyzstan);
- 166.36. Ratify the CRC, in particular the OP-CRC-SC (Senegal);
- 166.37. Withdraw reservations and declarations made on the occasion of accession to the CRC and gradually incorporate its provisions into domestic law (Uruguay);
- 166.38. Accede to the OP-CRC-SC (Ecuador); Ratify the OP-CRC-SC (Australia; Paraguay);
- 166.39. Consider accession to the OP-CRC-SC (Albania);
- 166.40. Continue to work towards completion of necessary internal processes so that it may accede to the OP-CRC-SC (Bahamas);
- 166.41. Speed up the consideration of accession to the OP-CRC-SC (Belarus);
- 166.42. Consider accession to the ICRMW (Peru); Consider ratifying the ICRMW (Ghana);
- 166.43. Ratify the ICRMW (Algeria; Ecuador);
- 166.44. Sign and ratify the core international human rights instruments, including the ICRMW, the CAT, the ICPPED and the ICCPR (Sierra Leone);
- 166.45. Take efforts toward the accession of international human rights instruments, including the ICRMW and the CAT (Indonesia);
- 166.46. Consider ratifying the ICPPED (Ghana);
- 166.47. Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Benin);
- 166.48. Consider favourably accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Peru); Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC (Ghana);
- 166.49. Accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC (Poland); Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Benin; Botswana; France; Latvia); Become a party to the Rome Statute of the ICC (Austria);
- 166.50. Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC (Cyprus; Portugal);
- 166.51. Ratify core international human rights instruments, in particular the Rome Statute of the ICC, the ICRMW and the OP-CAT (Honduras);

- 166.52. **Take measures to ratify ILO Conventions 111 and 189 and to amend the labour legislation so that it also apply to foreign domestic workers and ensure that such workers are entitled to adequate wages, decent working conditions, benefits and access to complaint and redress mechanisms (Brazil);**
- 166.53. **Review its policy with respect to the ratification of ILO Convention No 111 (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 166.54. **Ratify ILO Conventions Nos. 87, 111, 169 and 189 (Benin);**
- 166.55. **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol to it, as well as the CAT (Ukraine);**
- 166.56. **Continue to ensure the implementation of ratified human rights treaties (Pakistan);**
- 166.57. **Take further steps in order establish an independent national human rights institution giving emphasis to the protection of women's rights (Greece);**
- 166.58. **Continue to improve its legal instruments in the field of human rights and social protection (Tajikistan);**
- 166.59. **Further implement international human rights norms into the national legislation (Uzbekistan);**
- 166.60. **Enact comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status or disability (Canada);**
- 166.61. **Review laws and regulations that call for immediate and automatic deportation of migrant workers on health grounds (Uganda);**
- 166.62. **Align its legislation to the definition of discrimination against women in accordance with Article 1 of the CEDAW, and adopt laws and policies for the full participation of women in both public and private decision spaces (Paraguay);**
- 166.63. **Continue incorporating the CEDAW provisions into its domestic legal system in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Serbia);**
- 166.64. **Consider incorporating into its legislation a definition of discrimination against women (Timor-Leste);**
- 166.65. **Continue efforts to harmonize its legislation and ensure equality between men and women, particularly in marriage and family relations (Botswana);**
- 166.66. **Place high priority on the full incorporation of CEDAW into the domestic legal system (Greece);**
- 166.67. **Consider adopting laws and policies on the promotion of the full participation of women under equal conditions in decision-making in all sectors of public, political and professional life (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**
- 166.68. **Abolish Section 377A of the Penal Code (Norway);**
- 166.69. **Take necessary measures to eliminate legislation that criminalizes same sex relations and to repeal section 377A of the Penal Code (Slovenia);**
- 166.70. **Decriminalize consensual homosexual relations between adults (Spain);**

- 166.71. Revoke legal provisions criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults (Sweden);
- 166.72. Repeal laws that criminalise homosexuality (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 166.73. Repeal the anti-sodomy law, which criminalizes the private consensual conduct of gay men (United States of America);
- 166.74. Formally repeal Section 377 A of the Penal Code criminalising homosexual acts (Austria);
- 166.75. Take the necessary measures to eliminate legislation and policies that criminalize, in a direct or an indirect way, same sex relations and discriminate against LGBTI people (Brazil);
- 166.76. Eliminate provisions in national legislation that discriminate against women and other groups such as LGBTI persons, including revising the Section 377A of the Penal Code (Czech Republic);
- 166.77. Repeal Section 377 A of the Penal Code in order to decriminalize homosexuality (France);
- 166.78. Consider de-criminalizing same-sex relations (Greece);
- 166.79. Enact a national migrant legislation in order to protect the rights of migrant workers and to ensure that migrant workers who wish to pursue claim against employers are not forced to repatriate without access to justice (Afghanistan);
- 166.80. Abolish corporal punishment as a legal penalty, in particular caning (Switzerland);
- 166.81. Establish both domestic violence and marital violence as crimes under domestic law in accordance with international standards (Paraguay);
- 166.82. Criminalize gender violence and modify the definition of rape to define it as non-consensual sex within or outside marriage (Spain);
- 166.83. Criminalize explicitly domestic violence and marital rape and make sure that the definition of rape is in line with international standards, and take steps to facilitate the reporting of domestic and sexual violence and protect victims (Belgium);
- 166.84. Continue working on the legislation on domestic violence crimes, particularly regarding the inclusion of a definition of sexual violence that also encompasses any non-consented sexual act within marriage (Colombia);
- 166.85. Introduce legislation to make marital rape illegal in all circumstances (Canada);
- 166.86. Decriminalize defamation and make it a civil offense in accordance with international standards (Belgium);
- 166.87. Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and revise its national legislation, inter alia the Internal Security Act and the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, in order to eliminate media censorship and prevent self-censorship, in this regard, protect bloggers from persecution and harassment for the exercise of their human rights (Czech Republic);

- 166.88. Review media laws to align them with international human rights standards on freedom of expression (Latvia);
- 166.89. Adopt legislative measures in order to permit the realization of peaceful demonstrations and promote freedom of expression (Costa Rica);
- 166.90. Review existing legislation in order to enhance the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Italy);
- 166.91. Consider the necessary legislations and policies to effectively guarantee the protection and promotion of freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Mexico);
- 166.92. Review the use of anti-defamation laws and the registration process for civil society and associations to ensure that such laws are consistent with the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and do not constitute a de facto ban on peaceful public demonstrations (Canada);
- 166.93. Enact a law that protects migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Congo);
- 166.94. Adopt a comprehensive legislation that guarantees the protection of the rights of migrant workers (Honduras);
- 166.95. Repeal the law that deports foreign workers suffering from sexually transmitted diseases (Congo);
- 166.96. Review the nationality law to provide persons born to Singaporean mothers before 15 May 2004 an opportunity to acquire Singaporean nationality (Kenya);
- 166.97. Enact new legislation for providing early intervention and better protect vulnerable adults from abuse and harm due to neglect and self-neglect (Albania);
- 166.98. Consider enshrining in law, protection for rights for 16 to 18 year-olds, either by amending the Children Young Persons Act or through other legislation (Jamaica);
- 166.99. Strengthen the role of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights to allow for the adapting of human rights policies to meet the national concerns in a changing global economic and social environment (Barbados);
- 166.100. Continue to strengthen its human rights mechanisms and consider establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 166.101. Take steps in order to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland); Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste); Consider to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 166.102. Seriously consider establishing an independent national human rights institution with a wide mandate to protect and promote human rights, especially in cooperation with civil society (Republic of Korea);
- 166.103. Establish an independent national human rights institution for the protection and promotion of the rights of women (Uganda);

- 166.104. Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);
- 166.105. Continue the progress in the human rights policies, and focus on the practices adopted in various sectors concerned with the advancement of the country such as education, health and care for the elderly (Bahrain);
- 166.106. Provide the Office for Women's Development with the necessary resources to promote gender equality in all policy areas (Fiji);
- 166.107. Adopt a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as recommended by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (Netherlands);
- 166.108. Take steps to carry out recommendations with regard to the implementation of commitments under the CRC (Slovakia);
- 166.109. Continue commendable efforts to establish the principle of social harmony among the members of the community (Oman);
- 166.110. Continue to implement policies for the development of its people under SDGs (Pakistan);
- 166.111. Continue its efforts to enhance religious tolerance and maintain peaceful co-existence among followers of different religions (Qatar);
- 166.112. Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the principles of social justice, and enhance social cohesion (United Arab Emirates);
- 166.113. Further its endeavours with regard to the smooth and productive activities of the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles Steering Committees, and continue its efforts to strengthen social harmony in the country (Azerbaijan);
- 166.114. Further introduce effective measures to enhance gender equity, and to create practical facilities for persons with disabilities to effectively participate in the labour market (Viet Nam);
- 166.115. Continue taking effective policy and other measures to build a fair and inclusive society (Bhutan);
- 166.116. Aim at enhancing social cohesion through laws and policies to meet the changing political, economic and social demands of the people to safeguard social harmony (China);
- 166.117. Continue preserving social harmony, as a diverse cultural and linguistic nation, to build a fair and inclusive society (Ethiopia);
- 166.118. Continue its efforts in the area of education, knowledge and public health, and achieve religious tolerance and social cohesion as it represents an important basis to strengthen the principles of human rights (Iraq);
- 166.119. Continue with efforts related to the enhancement of harmony between various religious and ethnical sects (Libya);
- 166.120. Continue efforts to maintain harmony among ethnic and religious groups in society (Morocco);
- 166.121. Raise the level of human rights awareness in society (Bahrain);

- 166.122. Continue its engagement with governments and civil society organizations on initiatives that help promote and protect human rights (Philippines);
- 166.123. Carry out general awareness-raising campaigns aimed at combating discrimination in all its forms (Chile);
- 166.124. Continue with the actions of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights, which provides follow-up to human rights recommendations (Paraguay);
- 166.125. Continue its engagement with the Human Rights Council by bringing into domestic law the recommendations accepted in its first UPR process (Barbados);
- 166.126. Extend a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures (Poland); Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures (Honduras); Extend a standing invitation to all special mandate holders (Latvia);
- 166.127. Consider issuing a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Slovenia);
- 166.128. Reinforce the effective protection of the elderly people (Tajikistan);
- 166.129. Continue to take measures to protect the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities (Uzbekistan);
- 166.130. Deepen the legal initiatives and their enforcement aimed at ensuring a legal and de facto situation that guarantees the human rights of migrants (Peru);
- 166.131. Continue providing migrants and their families access to education, healthcare, and housing at par with its citizens (Philippines);
- 166.132. Continue its on-going efforts to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights of migrant workers in Singapore, including efforts to enhance reach out to migrant workers on their employment rights, responsibilities, and their avenues of recourse (Sri Lanka);
- 166.133. Take the necessary steps to prohibit employers from withholding their foreign workers' passports, travel documents, and work permits as well as to improve access to comprehensive and affordable health services (Thailand);
- 166.134. Improve the situation of work migrants by enabling them to easily switch employers and to have access to decent housing. The provisions of the Employment Act should also apply to foreign domestic workers (Germany);
- 166.135. Protect the legitimate rights of foreign workers in Singapore and help them get the necessary vocational training (China);
- 166.136. Continue safeguarding the well-being and rights of migrant workers in Singapore and reach out to migrant workers to ensure that they understand their employment rights and responsibilities (Cuba);
- 166.137. Strengthen measures to protect the human rights of non-citizens and migrant workers in order to prevent their exploitation and discrimination (Mexico);
- 166.138. Continue efforts at protecting migrant workers and members of their families from exploitation (Myanmar);

- 166.139. Adopt measures to protect the human rights of migrants, in particular foreign domestic workers through the revision of the legislation that establishes deportation in case of pregnancy or diagnostic of sexually-transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Colombia);
- 166.140. Continue to promote and protect migrants and their rights, in particular while countering terrorism (Bangladesh);
- 166.141. Continue ensuring the rights of women and girls through their empowerment and participation in society (Nicaragua);
- 166.142. Support the social integration of women in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);
- 166.143. Take further steps to improve equality between women and men (Timor-Leste);
- 166.144. Strengthen its awareness-raising programmes to more effectively address gender disparities and discrimination against women (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 166.145. Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women (Uzbekistan);
- 166.146. Continue its commitment to the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination and maintain the dialogue with CEDAW (Barbados);
- 166.147. Intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, among other measures, to promote their empowerment and participation in public life (Mexico);
- 166.148. Enhance efforts to promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Italy);
- 166.149. Pursue its efforts to providing women and children with all their rights (Kuwait);
- 166.150. Allow single mothers to enjoy the same benefits as married mothers (Haiti);
- 166.151. Assess benefits and social support for single, unwed mothers, to ensure that the current system does not foster multi-generational social exclusion (Jamaica);
- 166.152. Continue to take measures to combat racial discrimination (Russian Federation);
- 166.153. Promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants and other people working in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 166.154. Remove discriminatory media guidelines in order to provide a more balanced representation of LGBTI persons (Canada);
- 166.155. Continue to promote awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS, and enhance cooperation with civil society to address the stigma faced by persons with HIV/AIDS (Malaysia);
- 166.156. Re-establish the moratorium on executions with a view to its abolition (Spain); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty (Netherlands); Re-establish a moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sierra Leone); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view of abolishing the death penalty (Slovenia); Re-

establish a moratorium on executions in line with UN General Assembly resolutions and with a view to abolishing the death penalty completely (Finland); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Holy See); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to a complete abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);

166.157. Re-establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, and prohibit the imposition of the death penalty against persons with mental and intellectual disabilities (South Africa); Prohibit the execution of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities (Spain);

166.158. Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Norway); Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to formally abolishing the death penalty (Portugal); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Switzerland); Establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (France); Establish a moratorium of capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy); Establish as soon as possible a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition (Mexico);

166.159. Enhance its efforts to abolish the death penalty (Panama);

166.160. Consider establishing a formal moratorium on executions of those sentenced to death (Argentina);

166.161. Eliminate the mandatory character of the death penalty with a view to abolishing capital punishment altogether. In the meantime, establish a moratorium on executions (Germany);

166.162. Advance towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty, adopting during this process a general moratorium on its application (Chile);

166.163. Take further action so as to completely abolish the death penalty after lifting in 2014 its de facto moratorium imposed in 2011 (Greece);

166.164. Introduce further measures to restrict the use of the death penalty and consider the re-establishment of the moratorium on executions as first steps towards eventual abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);

166.165. Consider taking steps to eliminate all mandatory death penalty sentences, and impose a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with the view of abolishing it (Namibia);

166.166. Modify domestic law with a view to abolishing the mandatory death penalty and, during this process, establish a general moratorium on already existing death sentences (Uruguay);

166.167. Abolish the death penalty (Paraguay);

166.168. Go further and abolish the death penalty in practice and in law (New Zealand);

166.169. Eliminate the mandatory character of caning as a first step with a view to abolishing this practice altogether (Germany);

166.170. Put an end to the practice of corporal punishment (France);

166.171. Cease the use of caning as a form of punishment (New Zealand);

- 166.172. **Abolish the punishment of caning, particularly those who have exceeded the period stated in the Visa or the residency (Lebanon);**
- 166.173. **Ensure that nobody can be detained without trial and revise relevant laws (ISA, CLTPA, MSA, UPA) accordingly (Germany);**
- 166.174. **Continue efforts to protect children against violence (Algeria);**
- 166.175. **Take additional measures to protect child victims of violence (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 166.176. **Raise the minimum age to 18 of young people eager to join the army (Haiti);**
- 166.177. **Harmonize the definition of the child in domestic law and put an end to the voluntary recruitment of minors into the army (Belgium);**
- 166.178. **Continue to exert efforts to combat trafficking in persons through the implementation of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act in accordance with its obligations under the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Qatar);**
- 166.179. **Take adequate measures to prevent trafficking in women and children and to strengthen the protection of victims of human trafficking (Serbia);**
- 166.180. **Consolidate the progress already made in the fight against human trafficking by guaranteeing the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators and the protection and rehabilitation of victims (Spain);**
- 166.181. **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and to protect victims of such crimes especially women and children (Sri Lanka);**
- 166.182. **Ensure proper investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in all cases of human trafficking, including through the training of relevant personnel (Turkey);**
- 166.183. **Continue to develop strategies to promote public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons (Bahamas);**
- 166.184. **Continue enhancing its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and protecting the victims (Cuba);**
- 166.185. **Further strengthen its measures to combat all forms of trafficking in women and children and protecting and rehabilitating its victims (Egypt);**
- 166.186. **Allocate adequate resources to train the relevant authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act (Fiji);**
- 166.187. **Continue its efforts to guarantee the protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially for women and children (Holy See);**
- 166.188. **Take measures in the legislative sphere and policy measure to strengthen mechanisms for combating trafficking (Honduras);**
- 166.189. **Strengthen its efforts for protecting victims of trafficking in persons and organize awareness-raising programmes in favour of public on issues related to combatting human trafficking (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 166.190. **Continue combatting trafficking in persons, and provide protection to its victims (Lebanon);**

- 166.191. **Preserve its criminal justice system in order to reinforce rule of law (Bangladesh);**
- 166.192. **Take appropriate measures to establish equal choice of jurisdiction between Sharia courts and family courts (Argentina);**
- 166.193. **Adapt its legislation in order to ensure that all arrested and detained persons can swiftly appear before a judge and in conformity with international law (Switzerland);**
- 166.194. **Replace the Internal Security Act and the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act with laws that mandate that an accused person has a trial in court (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 166.195. **Adopt legislation to ensure that all cases of arrest and detention without warrant, also those under the Internal Security Act, are subject to speedy, independent and regular judicial review (Austria);**
- 166.196. **Harmonize domestic law regarding the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and raise it (Uruguay);**
- 166.197. **Maintain its effective protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);**
- 166.198. **Continue improving all the conditions for worship, and strengthen awareness and dissemination of the values of tolerance and peace (United Arab Emirates);**
- 166.199. **Preserve its social harmony through retaining its existing legal provisions that allow various religious populations to live and practice their religion without stigma (Bangladesh);**
- 166.200. **End the practice of using defamation lawsuits and other legal and administrative actions to censor, fine, and imprison individuals for speaking or writing on political issues, and remove all discriminatory media guidelines (United States of America);**
- 166.201. **Ensure freedom of assembly and association, freedom of opinion and expression, including on the Internet, and protect freedom of the press (France);**
- 166.202. **Ensure that freedom of opinion and expression are encouraged and protected, including for individuals and organizations communicating via online public platforms (New Zealand);**
- 166.203. **Consider alternative, effective interventions for persons who violate national laws or norms regarding religious or cultural sensibilities through publication or posting of offensive material (Jamaica);**
- 166.204. **Take appropriate measures to ease restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the media (Japan);**
- 166.205. **Reform the regime of defamation offences, which has a chilling effect on freedom of expression (France);**
- 166.206. **That relevant laws, including the Public Order Act and the Public Entertainment and Meeting Act not be invoked to curtail the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, including that of civil society (Ireland);**

- 166.207. Establish an independent electoral commission with a mandate to determine constituency boundaries and monitor election fundraising and campaigning (United States of America);
- 166.208. Continue expanding the participation of women in the national public life (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 166.209. Strengthen efforts to promote women's participation in public life, particularly at the higher corporate levels (Bahamas);
- 166.210. Encourage women's political participation and increase representation of women in decision-making (Maldives);
- 166.211. Continue its efforts so as to realize the right to work, including through technical and vocational education and training (Egypt);
- 166.212. Initiate a national dialogue on a universal minimum wage (Haiti);
- 166.213. Include domestic work among the fields covered by the Employment Act, which would significantly improve the situation of many migrant workers (Austria);
- 166.214. Continue increasing the benefits of its social services for the population to obtain a greater efficiency of its excellent social welfare system (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 166.215. Continue its ongoing efforts and commitment to uphold the lives of its people through the provision of best education, housing and medical care (Cambodia);
- 166.216. Continue implementing its social policies and programs with a view to strengthening social harmony, in particular to help the elderly and the low-income citizens (Cambodia);
- 166.217. Allocate sufficient funds and undertake effective measures to provide adequate assistance to the elderly people (Viet Nam);
- 166.218. Accelerate the building of more general and community hospitals and clinics under the Healthcare 2020 Master plan (Zimbabwe);
- 166.219. Explore the expansion of health and safety regulations to cover non-medical practitioners and conduct regular monitoring of the activities (Jamaica);
- 166.220. Improve access to education and health care services of vulnerable people, including women and children from low and middle income families (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 166.221. Continue to provide the subsidies and financial support through its Medishield Life Policy for all its citizens and permanent residents, especially the elderly and needy (Brunei Darussalam);
- 166.222. Continue to develop inclusive education and strengthen life-long education (Belarus);
- 166.223. Take further steps to ensure its people, especially children, will continue to enjoy access to affordable education (Brunei Darussalam);
- 166.224. Continue developing programmes aimed at providing equal access to quality education for vulnerable groups, with a special emphasis on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and children under poverty conditions guaranteeing gender equality (Chile);

- 166.225. **Adopt further measures to ensure the full enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in education and access to services (Israel);**
- 166.226. **Continue the efforts aimed at providing more opportunities to persons with disabilities and enabling them to become an integral part of the society (Oman);**
- 166.227. **Continue its efforts to improve health care, education and care provided for persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**
- 166.228. **Ensure that the Compulsory Education Act provides for children with disabilities (Uganda);**
- 166.229. **Continue its strive to build an inclusive society where persons with disabilities are given every opportunity to become integral and contributing members (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 166.230. **Continue to ensure care services and equal access of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 166.231. **Continue and strengthen efforts to integrate children with disabilities to mainstream education system (Maldives);**
- 166.232. **Take appropriate measures to ensure that the mandatory basic education includes children with disabilities (Kuwait);**
- 166.233. **Continue to adopt measures to provide for adequate treatment to refugees, in particular through the adoption of procedures or protection mechanisms to refugee claimants, especially non- accompanied boys, girls and adolescents (Colombia);**
- 166.234. **Enact laws covering the right of children to acquire nationality, in particular those born in Singapore who cannot obtain another nationality (Panama);**
- 166.235. **Raise awareness on the impact of climate change (Haiti);**
- 166.236. **Intensify fighting radicalisation and terrorism at its early stage to sustain the enjoyment of human rights and basic freedoms of all Singaporeans (Ethiopia).**
167. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Singapore was headed by Professor CHAN Heng Chee, Ambassador-at-Large.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Mr FOO Kok Jwee, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Ms Vanessa CHAN, Director-General, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms THIAN Yee Sze, Director-General, Legal Group, Ministry of Law;
- Mr Alvin LIM, Divisional Director, Workplace Policy and Strategy Division, Ministry of Manpower;
- Mr LIM Shung Yar, Director, Community Relations and Engagement Division, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
- Ms Janice TAN, Director, International Relations, International Cooperation & Partnerships Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Ms Gwenda FONG, Director, Successful Ageing, Ageing Planning Office, Ministry of Health;
- Ms ANG Bee Lian, Director, Social Welfare, Ministry of Social and Family Development;
- Ms Chetra SINNATHAMBY, Director, Content & Standards (Films, Video Games & Arts), Media Development Authority;
- Ms Diane TAN, Acting Director, International Legal, Ministry of Law;
- Mr Steven PANG, Deputy Director-General, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr Jonathan HAN, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Mr Jason TAN, Counsellor (Legal), Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Mr Melvin YEO Tsin Yaw, Senior Deputy Director-Designate, Community Relations, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
- Ms Sarala SUBRAMANIAM, Deputy Senior State Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers;
- Mr NI De' En, Deputy Director, NS Policy, Ministry of Defence;
- Ms SHARIFAH FARAH Binte Syed Mahamood Aljunied, Deputy Director, Curriculum and Youth Development, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS);
- Mr Gerard VINLUAN, Deputy Director, Communications and International Relations Division, Ministry of Social and Family Development;

- Ms YEO Wen Qing, Deputy Director, International Cooperation, Public Health Group, Ministry of Health;
  - Ms Linda LEE, Senior Assistant Director, Communications and International Relations Division, Ministry of Social and Family Development;
  - Ms Joy BOO Jia Wen, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
  - Ms Delphia LIM, Assistant Director, International Legal, Ministry of Law;
  - Ms Jasmine PANG Xueqin, Senior Manager, Community Relations, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
  - Ms ONG Rui Lin, Senior Manager, Workplace Policy and Strategy Division, Ministry of Manpower;
  - Ms Kristy LIM, Senior Manager, International Cooperation & Partnerships Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
  - Ms Arvinder KAUR, Assistant Manager, Community Relations, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
  - Ms Ann-Margaret MATHEW, Desk Officer, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Ms Grace ZHU Manyun, Desk Officer, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr Bryan LIM, Country Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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