

(51)

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON ECUADOR ON 21 MAY 2012**
[Speaking time: 1 min 36s]

Madam President,

1 Ecuador has experienced continued political and economic stability since its last UPR. Under the new Constitution adopted in 2008, significant changes have been made in the State apparatus, public services and national policies to focus on people-centred development and enabling the better enjoyment of basic human rights. Steady progress has been made in combating poverty, as reflected by the drop of 9 per cent in the national poverty rate since the current Government came into office in 2006. Education is now free up to tertiary level and a total of US\$184 million has been spent annually on the provision of free medicines. The Government's high approval rate of 80 percent in the recent polls underlined the strong confidence and support of the people for the current leadership. Singapore **recommends** that the Government continues its efforts in combating poverty, and in improving the levels of education and health of its people.

2 The eradication of child labour was highlighted as a challenge for Ecuador during its first UPR and we note that significant progress has been made. Child labour has been reduced by more than 50% from 2007 to 2011. In particular, the Government has successfully stopped the use of child labour in waste disposal sites. Singapore **recommends** that Ecuador continues its efforts to eradicate child labour and further enhance the protection of the rights of the child.

3 We join the many friends of Ecuador to wish it success in its development.