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**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE
DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON GABON
ON 23 OCTOBER 2012
(1min 58s)**

Madam President,

Singapore understands the challenges faced by Gabon as a young nation. We note that despite these challenges, Gabon has made progress in several areas such as in raising the primary school enrolment rate and the reduction of infant and maternal mortality.

Education is key for promoting economic and social development, which in turn will enable the better enjoyment of human rights. In this regard, we take positive note of the emphasis the Government has placed in developing its human capital, as reflected by its efforts to enhance teacher training, create special high schools across the country focusing on science, math and physics, and establish a new agency responsible for administering scholarships and practical training. We also note the plan to create specialised universities such as a Doctoral School on tropical infectious diseases as well as a Gas and Oil Institute. Singapore **recommends** that Gabon, in cooperation with UNESCO and relevant UN agencies, continues to enhance its education system and improve access to quality education by all.

Singapore also takes note of Gabon's efforts in promoting gender equality and protecting women against violence. In particular, we note the efforts by the First Lady in creating the Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Foundation which has played an active role in enhancing the protection of women, especially widows in Gabon. Singapore **recommends** that Gabon continues its efforts to enhance the protection and empowerment of women.

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In conclusion, we join the many friends of Gabon in wishing the country well.