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**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE
DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON THE BAHAMAS ON 23
JANUARY 2013**

[Speaking time: 2 mins]

Mr President,

1 Singapore recognises the challenges faced by the Bahamas as a Small Island Developing State. Despite these challenges, the Bahamas has made remarkable progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which in turn helps it to realise and reinforce the human rights of its citizens.

2 We welcome the Government's commitment to poverty reduction and economic growth, as key ingredients of equitable and sustainable development. In particular we note the focus which the Bahamas places on education by providing free access to education from kindergarten to grade 12. We **recommend** that the Bahamas continues to implement its efforts to promote universal education and develop a knowledge-based society for long-term sustainable development.

3 Singapore also takes positive note of the Bahamas' emphasis on protecting the safety and well-being of women and children. In particular, we note its efforts in enhancing domestic legislation and programmes to combat human trafficking. This included the setting up of the Trafficking in Persons Task Force in March 2012 to strengthen collaboration among enforcement agencies to eradicate this scourge. Singapore **recommends** that the Bahamas continues to strengthen its domestic framework and institutions to combat human trafficking.

4 In conclusion, we thank the Bahamas for its positive engagement in the UPR process and join its many friends in

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wishing the country well.