

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE
DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON BARBADOS ON 25
JANUARY 2013**

[Speaking time: 2 mins]

Mr President,

1. Singapore welcomes the delegation of Barbados to the UPR session, and congratulates it for the excellent presentation. Barbados has made significant progress in ensuring the enjoyment of human rights of its people. It enjoys a high Human Development Index and has achieved an almost 100% literacy rate. In terms of governance, Barbados is also recognised for its high level of transparency and robust regime in countering corruption. In 2011, it was ranked second in the Americas on the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index.

2. Singapore also takes positive note of Barbados' efforts in eliminating violence and discrimination against women. It has maintained a firm stance on zero tolerance to all forms of violence against women. Its review of the existing Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act by the reform committee of the Bureau of Gender Affairs shows the Government's commitment to address any legislative gaps and to ensure the protection of all victims. Singapore **recommends** that Barbados continues to enhance its domestic framework to eliminate violence against women and to promote gender equality.

3. Barbados has also stepped up its efforts in combating human trafficking. We note its passage of the Transnational Organised Crime Act to criminalise the offence of trafficking in persons in 2011 and the setting up of an inter-agency National