

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

[Speaking time: 1 min 47 sec]

Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Botswana and congratulates Botswana for its progress in promoting the enjoyment of human rights of its people. In particular, we note the consistent reduction of poverty and increase of its Human Development Index to 0.633 in 2010, which is the second highest in Southern Africa. Efforts have also been made to achieve universal basic education and reduce school dropout through the review of school fees for children from low-income families and programmes to bring the young drop-outs back to schools. Singapore **recommends** that Botswana continues to implement its National Strategy for Poverty Eradication and to ensure access to quality education for all.

The high prevalence rate of HIV and AIDS has left many children orphaned or under the care of sick parents, younger siblings and other relatives. We note Botswana's success in lowering the HIV prevalence from 13.2% in 2009 to 10.0% in 2011. We **recommend** that Botswana continues to implement its HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programmes to further reduce the prevalence.

In conclusion, we thank Botswana for its positive engagement in the UPR process and join its many friends in wishing the country well.