

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON TONGA ON 21 JANUARY 2013**
[Speaking time:]

Mr President,

1 Singapore expresses its warm appreciation to Tonga for its national report and participation in the Universal Periodic Review. As a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States, Singapore understands the development challenges faced by Tonga, which in turn have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights by its people. Despite these challenges, Tonga has demonstrated its commitment to achieve progress in the promotion and protection of human rights.

2 Singapore takes note of the efforts by Tonga in eliminating violence against women. These include the National Study on Domestic Violence against Women as well as cooperation with regional and relevant UN organisations to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies in dealing with sexual and gender-based violence. Singapore **recommends** that Tonga, with the support from relevant international organisations, continues to enhance efforts to combat violence against women.

3 Singapore also notes Tonga's efforts and achievement in improving access to education by its people. According to the UNDP, Tonga is on track to meet its MDG goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015. Education programmes have also been launched by the Tonga Government as part of its Education for Sustainable Development initiative. Singapore **recommends** that Tonga, in cooperation with UNESCO and other relevant organisations, continues to step up efforts to improve access to quality education.

4 Singapore joins the other friends of Tonga in wishing it well in its continued efforts to enhance human rights.