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**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON AZERBAIJAN ON 30 APRIL 2013**

[Speaking time: 1 min 28s]

Mr President,

Singapore congratulates Azerbaijan for its progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights. In particular, we note the efforts made by the Government in the protection of women against domestic violence and in the promotion of gender equality. Since the last review, the legislative framework has been enhanced with the passage of new laws to protect women against domestic violence and on setting standards for non-governmental centres to support victims of such heinous act. Amendments have also been made to the "Civil Service Act" and "Employment Act" to ensure greater gender equality in employment opportunities. Singapore **recommends** that Azerbaijan continues its efforts to enhance its domestic framework on the protection of the rights of women and to further encourage women to participate actively in the economy and public life.

We also note that Azerbaijan has stepped up efforts to combat human trafficking. Cabinet decisions were adopted to set the rules of the National Directive Mechanism regarding victims of human trafficking as well as emplacement and provision of accommodation for child victims of trafficking in shelters. An Inter-Agency Council was established to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach in providing assistance to the victims of trafficking. Singapore **recommends** that Azerbaijan continues its efforts to combat human trafficking and provide assistance to victims, especially women and children.

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

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