STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP SESSION ON BANGLADESH ON 29 APRIL 2013

[Speaking time: 1 min 11s]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the high-level delegation of Bangladesh led by Her Excellency Foreign Minister Dipu Moni which reflects the serious commitment of Bangladash in engaging the UPR process and in promoting and protecting human rights of its people.

We take positive note of the many achievements that Bangladesh has made since its last review. In particular, we note that consistent with its "zero tolerance" policy towards violation of human rights by law enforcing agencies, the Government has put in place a code of conduct and rules of engagement for law enforcing agencies and the armed forces to prevent impunity and human righs violations. Any incident of use of force or exchange of fire by officers of law enforcing agencies is investigated by competent authorities. Singapore **recommends** that Bangladesh continues its efforts to strengthen the rule of law by preventing human rights violations and impunity by law enforcing agencies.

Singapore also notes the Government's emphasis on eliminating human trafficking and other related transnational crimes. The anti-trafficking legislation and National Plan of Action to combat human trafficking reflect Bangladesh's commitment to fight against this scourge. At the operational level, an inter-ministerial committee has been formed to coordinate ongoing efforts across different agencies to prevent human trafficking. The Government has also set up a Taskforce for rescue, recovery, repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking, especially women and children. Singapore

1

recommends that Bangladesh, with support from the UNODC and other relevant international organisations, continues to strengthen its capacity to combat human trafficking and provide support for the victims of trafficking.

In conclusion, we join the other friends of Bangladesh in wishing it success.

. . . . .