

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

[Speaking time: 2 mins]

Mr President,

Singapore recognises the challenges faced by Cape Verde as a Small Island Developing State. Despite these challenges, Cape Verde has made remarkable progress in ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by its citizens.

Cape Verde has placed emphasis on the protection of children's rights. We note the provision of free primary school education and the adoption of various legislations to enhance the legal protection of children, consistent with Cape Verde's international obligations under the CRC and relevant ILO Conventions. The Government has also cooperated with UNICEF on a joint initiative to establish support centres for child victims of ill-treatment, abuse and sexual exploitation. We **recommend** that Cape Verde continues to implement its efforts to enhance the protection of children and improve their well-being.

Singapore also takes positive note of Cape Verde's emphasis on promoting gender equality and combat gender-based violence. The Gender-based Violence Act of 2011 has enhanced the institutional protection for victims through increasing penalties for perpetrators and raising public awareness of gender-based violence as a crime. We also note the implementation of the National Gender Equity and Equality Plan aimed at eliminating discrimination against women. Singapore **recommends** that Cape Verde continues to strengthen its domestic framework and institutions to protect women against violence and promote gender equality.

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

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