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

[Speaking time: 1min 30s]

Mr President,

Singapore thanks the delegation of Colombia for its presentation and takes positive note of the Government's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights. In particular, we note the Government's emphasis in eradicating extreme poverty to broaden the enjoyment of human rights among its people. As a result of its various efforts, the national poverty rate has fallen and the Government has committed itself to reduce the proportion of its population living in extreme poverty to 8.5 per cent by 2015. Programmes have also been implemented to address challenges faced by children from families living in poverty and vulnerable conditions in gaining access to health services and education. Singapore **recommends** that Colombia, in cooperation with relevant UN agencies, continues to implement policies and programmes to reduce poverty and improve the well-being of its people.

Singapore also takes positive note of the significant efforts by Colombia in combating violence and maintaining public order. We note that while combating criminal gangs remains one of the biggest challenges, 2012 has seen the largest decline in violent deaths in the past 40 years. A comprehensive strategy is in place to tackle the armed criminal gangs and bring them to justice in accordance with the law. Singapore recommends that Colombia continues its efforts to strengthen its institutional capacity and legislative framework to combat violent crimes and maintain law and order to ensure the enjoyment of human rights by its people.

In conclusion, we join the many friends of Colombia in wishing the country success.

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