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**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE
DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON DJIBOUTI ON 25
APRIL 2013
[Speaking time: 1 min 20s]**

Mr President,

Djibouti has made progress in its promotion and protection of human rights. In particular, we take positive note of the adoption of a National Gender Policy aimed at creating a more conducive domestic environment to ensure gender equality and equity as well as the various measures taken by the Government to empower women in the areas of health, education, policy-making and participation in economic activities. We also note that with support from UNESCO, the Government has implemented pilot projects to reduce illiteracy among girls and women in the rural areas. Singapore recommends that Djibouti continues its efforts to enhance the protection of women's rights and promote gender equality.

As indicated in its national report, health is a priority policy area of the Government. We note the considerable efforts made to strengthen health care programmes to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and to combat communicable diseases including HIV and AIDS. In particular as a result of an effective programme to encourage voluntary screening in all the regions, Djibouti has succeeded in stabilising the prevalence of HIV at a rate of 2.9 per cent since 2003. Singapore recommends that Djibouti, with support from the WHO and other relevant UN agencies, continues to implement programmes to improve access to quality health care services by its people.

In conclusion, we join the many friends of Djibouti in wishing the country well.

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