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

[Speaking time: 1 min 14s]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the high-level delegation of Russia led by His Excellency Minister of Justice Alexander Kononov. We appreciate Russia's presentation and active engagement in the UPR process.

Trafficking in persons demeans our collective humanity and adversely affects the human rights of primarily women and children. In this regard, we take positive note of Russia's achievements in combating trafficking in persons. In particular, we note its close cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States which has adopted model laws to counter trafficking in persons and provide assistance to the victims of trafficking. Singapore **recommends** that Russia continues its efforts to further improve the situation on trafficking in persons and to enhance protection and support for the victims of trafficking.

Russia is undertaking judicial reforms to enhance the courts' ability to handle cases and to further increase public confidence in the administration of justice. The Government is making efforts to increase public awareness of the law and is mandated to provide free legal assistance to the people under the law on free legal assistance which took effect in January 2012. Singapore **recommends** that Russia continues its efforts in strengthening its judicial system and the rule of law to enhance the protection of human rights of its people.

In conclusion, we wish Russia further success in promoting and protecting human rights.