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**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON TURKMENISTAN ON 22 APRIL 2013**
[Speaking time: 1 min 30s]

Mr President,

1 Singapore takes note of the progress that Turkmenistan has made in promoting and protecting human rights. With economic growth averaging 11 per cent over the past five years, Turkmenistan has improved the environment for the enjoyment of human rights of its people. In particular, the Government has made significant efforts in reforming the education system. This has led to the building of more schools equipped with better facilities and multimedia technology as well as increased student admission to institutions of higher learning. Singapore **recommends** that Turkmenistan continues to enhance its education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly women and girls.

2 Singapore also takes positive note of Turkmenistan's efforts in strengthening the protection of children. For instance, the Children's Rights Act protects school children from being exploited and forced to work in sectors that could hinder their physical, intellectual or moral development. The Act on Guarantees of Young People's Right to Work is also aimed at preventing child labour and the recruitment of persons who have not reached the age of majority to work in hazardous or dangerous conditions. Singapore **recommends** that Turkmenistan continues to enhance its domestic framework to combat child labour through enforcing the relevant legislation.

3 Singapore joins the other friends of Turkmenistan in wishing it success in further promoting and protecting human rights.

