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**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON UZBEKISTAN ON 24 APRIL 2013**
[Speaking time: 1 min 25s]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan and expresses appreciation for its participation in the UPR. Over the last few years, Uzbekistan has achieved strong economic growth and rapid development which in turn has enhanced the enjoyment of human rights of its people. 98.5 per cent of families today have their own home and 97.5 per cent of rural families own their land. Income disparity has also been reduced significantly. In particular, we note the Government's significant investment in health care which has improved the overall well-being of its people and brought about a huge decline in the national morbidity rate. Singapore **recommends** that Uzbekistan continues to implement programmes to improve public access to quality medical and health care services.

Singapore also takes positive note of the progress that Uzbekistan has made in enhancing the protection of women and reducing discrimination against them. Progress has been made in achieving gender equality in a number of key sectors of the society and in the admission of women to educational institutions of higher learning. Singapore **recommends** that Uzbekistan continues its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, especially those living in the rural areas.

In conclusion, we join the many friends of Uzbekistan in wishing the country continued success in the promotion and protection of human rights.