

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE
DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON CONGO ON 30
OCTOBER 2013**

[Speaking time: 1 min 35 sec]

Mr President,

Singapore expresses appreciation for the national report and presentation by the delegation of Congo which has outlined some of challenges that the country faces in its development. However we also note the strong resolve and commitment of the Government in overcoming these challenges. This is reflected in its continued efforts to put in place legislations over the last four years to enhance the domestic legal framework, including the law on the protection of children and the decree to provide free treatment for malaria, tuberculosis and for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

We also note the efforts by the Government in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. This has led to an increase in the number of women holding decision-making positions in the Government in the parliament, as well as in municipal councils. We also note the Government's cooperation with UNICEF to develop programmes to improve the right of children to education and training. Singapore **recommends** that Congo, with support from relevant international organisations, continues its effort to promote gender equality and the well-being of women and girls.

Singapore also notes the efforts by the Government to improve public health. We note the ongoing national vaccination campaigns to broaden immunization coverage for children and the introduction of free caesarean sections and other obstetrical procedures in 2011. As a result, progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development

Check against delivery

Goals in reducing maternal and child mortality. We **recommend** that Congo, with support of the WHO and UNDP, continues its effort to introduce programmes and initiative to improve access to health care by its people.

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