

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON 5 FEBRUARY
2014**

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of the Dominican Republic and its participation in the UPR. We note its achievements in promoting human rights, notwithstanding its challenges as a Small Island Developing State. In particular, we note the Government's efforts in promoting gender equality as reflected in the high number of women in political and public office. Noticeably, significant efforts have been made to strengthen the protection of women against domestic violence which contributed to a 26 per cent reduction in femicide between 2012 and 2013. The Government has also set up a 24-hour helpline service and reception centre for women, children and adolescents who are victims of domestic violence. Singapore **recommends** that the Dominican Republic continues to enhance the protection of women against domestic violence and further promote gender equality in its society.

Singapore also notes the Government's efforts in combating trafficking in persons. We note the creation of the Special Prosecutor's Office to Combat Trafficking and Smuggling in Persons which has helped to strengthen coordination of joint operations among relevant home agencies. The Government has also taken a firm stance to enforce anti-trafficking regulations which has led to the effective prosecution of those guilty of this scourge. Singapore **recommends** that the Dominican Republic continues to strengthen its domestic framework and institutions to combat human trafficking.

In conclusion, we thank the Dominican Republic for its positive engagement in the UPR process and join its many friends in wishing the country success.