

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON VANUATU ON 30 JANUARY 2014**

Mr President,

Singapore extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Vanuatu and thanks them for their detailed presentation. Despite the inherent challenges of a small island developing state, the Government has made notable progress in the protection and promotion of human rights of its people.

In particular, we note the Government's efforts in improving public health. We note the significant decrease in malaria and tuberculosis cases. According to the Government's report, the infant mortality rate has also been kept at a relatively low level of 27 per 1000 live births. The Government has also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Red Cross Society in 2012 to implement community based efforts to improve health standards and access to sanitation. Singapore **recommends** that Vanuatu, in cooperation with the relevant international organisations, continues its programmes to improve the public health standards and well-being of its people.

Singapore also takes positive note of Vanuatu's efforts in crime prevention and combating domestic violence. We note that more than four hundred public awareness programmes on domestic violence and sexual assault have been conducted since its last review in 2009. The general crime rate has also been on a consistent decline in recent years. We **recommend** that Vanuatu continues to implement effective crime prevention measures to ensure safety and social order in its society.

We thank Vanuatu for its positive engagement in the UPR process and join its many friends in wishing the country success.

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