

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

Mr President,

Since the last review in 2009, Vietnam has attained the status of middle-income country, following its good progress in socio-economic development and impressive achievements in poverty reduction. Vietnam has implemented several national programmes to improve access to education, housing and healthcare services in the past five years. In particular, we note the high enrolment rates for both primary and secondary school levels. Various policies and programmes are also in place to ensure adequate housing for citizens, including those in rural areas and from low-income households. We also note the significant progress of Vietnam in reducing infant mortality. As of 2012, nearly 70% of the population is covered under health insurance programmes. Singapore **recommends** that Vietnam continue its efforts to improve the access to education, housing and healthcare services.

Singapore also notes Vietnam's progress in promoting religious harmony. We note the issue of Decree 92 in 2012 to provide guidance for the implementation of the Ordinance on Religion and Belief. The Decree is aimed at preserving harmony among different religions in the country and is enhanced through efforts in promoting inter-faith dialogue and interaction. Singapore **recommends** that Vietnam continue its policies and programmes to promote religious tolerance and harmony in its society.

As a fellow ASEAN country, Singapore wishes Vietnam success in promoting human rights and will continue to work with it to achieve the goals of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.