

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON COSTA RICA ON 5 MAY 2014**

[Speaking time: 1 min 25s]

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Mr President,

Singapore notes Costa Rica's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, as detailed in its report and presentation. In particular, we note the Government's achievements in combating violence against women which have helped to lower the occurrence of femicides in the country. Laws have been passed to enhance the protection of women against violence. An emergency plan was also introduced in 2013 to reduce gender-related murders of women and establish legal advisory service in the capitals of four provinces to address domestic violence. Singapore **recommends** that Costa Rica continues its efforts to combat gender-based violence to provide a safe living environment for women and girls.

Access to health care service is important to the enjoyment of the human right to health. In this regard, we take positive note of Costa Rica's emphasis in improving access to health care services for its people, especially women. We also note the significant efforts made by the Government in combating HIV/AIDS prevalence. Measures are being taken to educate and raise awareness of HIV among its population including the indigenous population in the South. The General HIV/AIDS Act is also currently under review to support the Government's efforts. Singapore **recommends** that Costa Rica continues to implement its various programmes to reduce HIV prevalence and to improve access to quality healthcare by its people.

We join the many friends of Costa Rica in wishing the country success.

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