

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON 5 MAY 2014**
[Speaking time: 1 min 35s]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes Equatorial Guinea's participation in the UPR process and appreciates its detailed national report and presentation. We note the progress the country has made in promoting and protecting human rights.

Education is key for development as it will in turn improve living standards and enable better enjoyment of human rights. In this regard, we congratulate the Government for the progress in realising the right to education of its people. Since the last review, the Government has further reformed its national education system, leading to continued improvement in its primary school enrolment rate. We also take positive note of the Government's focus on reducing dropout rates through the setting up of new vocational training centres in seven provincial capitals and the strengthening of the programmes at existing ones. Singapore **recommends** that Equatorial Guinea, in cooperation with UNESCO, continues to improve its education system and ensure access to quality education for all.

Equatorial Guinea has also implemented measures to enhance gender equality and combat gender-based discrimination and violence. Under the domestic law, discrimination against women is a constitutional offence. The Mediation and Women's Counselling Service has also been set up to provide a channel for women to report on ill-treatment and domestic violence. Singapore **recommends** that Equatorial Guinea continues to implement measures to enhance the protection of women and girls against violence.

We join the many friends of Equatorial Guinea in wishing the country success.

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