

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE  
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP  
SESSION ON NICARAGUA ON 7 MAY 2014**  
[Speaking time: 1 min 30s ]



Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua and expresses appreciation for its detailed report and presentation. We note Nicaragua's progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. In the area of health, the Government is broadening the national health coverage for its people. There is a significant increase in the number of health and maternity facilities as well as doctors and health workers to support the expansion of the health care services. Since the last review, notable progress has been made in reducing the infant and maternal mortality rates. Singapore **recommends** that Nicaragua continues to improve the national healthcare system and ensure access to quality health care for all.

Singapore also notes Nicaragua's achievements in providing access to education for its people. The retention rate in primary schools has increased. Enrolment in secondary schools is also increasing and the illiteracy rate has fallen from 16.5 percent in 2007 to 3 per cent in 2013. The Government's efforts in increasing the national budget for education has also enabled enhancements to school facilities and the provision of textbooks, uniforms and shoes to students especially those from lower income families. Singapore **recommends** that Nicaragua continues to improve its education system and ensure access to quality education for all.

We join the many friends of Nicaragua in wishing the country success.