

24

UPR Steven Pang
Check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON GAMBIA ON 28 OCTOBER 2014**

[Speaking time: 1 min 50s]

Mr President,

Education is key to national socio-economic development which will enable better enjoyment of human rights. In this regard, we take positive note of Gambia's efforts to improve access to education. We note that the school enrolment rates for different levels have been on a steady increase since its last UPR in 2010. The UNDP has also assessed that Gambia has attained the MDG gender parity target for primary and lower secondary schools and is on track to reach the target at the senior secondary level by 2015. These were possible due to the Government's efforts to improve access to education which included the construction of more schools and public awareness programmes on gender equality in access to education. Singapore **recommends** that Gambia continues to place emphasis on promoting access to education and improving the quality of its education system.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has left many children orphaned or under the care of sick parents, younger siblings and other relatives. We note Gambia's achievement in combating HIV/AIDS. According to the UNAIDS, the adult prevalence rate was at a relatively low 1.2% in 2013. The National AIDS Council chaired by the President and the National AIDS Secretariat played a major role in coordinating the national efforts to combat HIV/AIDS through measures such as the expansion of voluntary counselling and testing services and provision of treatment, care and support for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Singapore **recommends** that Gambia continues to implement its HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programmes to further reduce the prevalence.

In conclusion, we thank Gambia for its positive engagement in the UPR process and join its many friends in wishing the country success in promoting and protecting human rights.