

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON MADAGASCAR ON 3 NOVEMBER 2014**

[Speaking time: 1 min 45s]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of Madagascar and appreciates its national report and participation in the UPR process. We note the establishment of a national unity government and the steps that Madagascar has taken to move forward with national reconciliation since the political crisis began in 2009.

Education is fundamental to a country's development and Singapore notes the Madagascar government's efforts to encourage children to attend primary school by lightening the financial burden on parents. In addition, we take positive note that 83,000 children who returned to school after the crisis have received remedial training to overcome learning difficulties they face. Singapore **recommends** that Madagascar continue working with UNICEF and other relevant partners to encourage school enrolment for children to maximise the potential of Madagascar's next generation.

Singapore also notes the measures taken by the government to combat gender-based violence, including through the establishment of centres providing counselling and legal advice. Singapore **recommends** that Madagascar continues its efforts to empower women through its work with UNDP which will enable women to become financially independent and improve their managerial skills and productivity.

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

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