

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE  
21<sup>ST</sup> UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP  
SESSION ON GUINEA-BISSAU ON 23 JANUARY 2015**

[Speaking time: 2 mins]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation from Guinea-Bissau to the 21<sup>st</sup> UPR Working Group Session.

Singapore recognises that Guinea-Bissau has taken steps to educate women of their rights through the organisation of public awareness seminars and sensitisation campaigns on women's access to decision-making positions. In addition, the establishment of women's organisations such as the Women's Economic Activity Organisation and Network of Agricultural Women have played an important role in empowering women through training, credit and developing income-generating activities. We **recommend** that Guinea-Bissau continues to undertake measures to promote and enhance the rights of women.

We note that the education sector in Guinea-Bissau faces a number of challenges. In this regard, Singapore takes positive note of the government's efforts to promote education by extending free primary education to students up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the exemption of registration fees for the academic year 2014/2015. Singapore **recommends** that the government continues to take steps to raise education standards.

We take note that Guinea-Bissau has sought to reform the justice sector to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights, including through the National Policy for the Justice Sector. We **recommend** that Guinea-Bissau continues to take measures to strengthen the justice system.

We join the many friends of Guinea-Bissau in wishing the country success in the promotion and protection of human rights.