

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON JAMAICA ON 13 MAY 2015**

[Speaking time: 1 minute 50 seconds]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes Senator the Honourable Mark Golding, Minister of Justice, and his delegation to the 22nd session of the UPR Working Group.

We commend the positive steps taken by Jamaica to promote and protect human rights since its last UPR review in 2010. In particular, Jamaica has made significant strides in enhancing gender equality and empowering women and girls through its 2011 *National Policy for Gender Equality*. Jamaica's *National Strategic Plan of Action to Eliminate Gender-based Violence* is also currently being finalised. But any policy is only as good as its implementation. We **recommend** that Jamaica invests the necessary resources to ensure the effective socialisation and implementation of the National Policy for Gender Equality, as well as the Strategic Plan of Action in its 5 priority areas.

Singapore acknowledges that Jamaica has introduced new programmes and legislation to reform and strengthen its judicial sector, including the establishment of the Justice Reform Implementation Unit in 2012 and the passage of new legislation such as the The Evidence (Special Measures) Act in 2012 to ensure fair and speedy trials. We **recommend** that the Justice Reform Implementation Unit be adequately resourced so that it can be effective in supporting the timely delivery of all justice sector reform initiatives and the implementation of Jamaica's Justice Reform Agenda.

As a fellow small island state, Singapore fully appreciates the development challenges and constraints faced by Jamaica. We commend Jamaica for staying the course in the implementation of its Vision 2030 National Development Plan and the development of its first comprehensive social protection strategy. We **recommend** that Jamaica spare no effort and resources to promote the full development of its children and youths, in particular those from the most vulnerable families to break the inter-generational vicious cycle of poverty.

Let me conclude by wishing your delegation a most successful review.

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