

STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP SESSION ON MALDIVES ON 6 MAY 2015

[Speaking time: 1 minute 10 seconds]

Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Maldives to the UPR. We congratulate Maldives on its golden jubilee of independence this year.

We welcome Maldives' commitment to promote and uphold human rights. Maldives has made health promotion and protection a priority, and has enacted legislation such as the Social Health Insurance Act to improve access to health services. Singapore **recommends** that Maldives continues to implement effective policies to ensure full access to health services for its people.

Singapore acknowledges that Maldives has made effort to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, notwithstanding the challenges that remain in this area. We **recommend** that Maldives continues to prioritise the enactment of a Gender Equality Bill with a view to combating comprehensively all forms of discrimination against women.

As a fellow small island developing state, Singapore joins the many friends of Maldives in wishing the country success in achieving its development goals, including through the promotion and protection of human rights.

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