

STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE AT THE REVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 22ND SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP, 11 MAY 2015

[Speaking time: 1 minute 5 seconds]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of the United States to the 22nd UPR Working Group.

We acknowledge the positive steps taken by the United States to support in whole or in part a majority of the recommendations from its first UPR in 2010 to uphold its commitment to the promotion of human rights.

As a multi-racial and multi-religious country, Singapore highly values and appreciates the complexity and sensitivity required to preserve racial and religious harmony between different communities. Singapore **recommends** that the United States continues to take strong actions, including appropriate judicial measures, to counter all forms of discrimination and hate crimes, in particular those based on religion and ethnicity.

But combating hate crimes and discrimination requires more than just legal countermeasures. Singapore **recommends** that the US continues to engage and collaborate with the affected communities to provide protection to those who are most vulnerable to hate crimes and discrimination, and to better understand their circumstances. Such efforts must be practical, not ideological; sustained; and directed towards maintaining trust between all stakeholders.

Thank you Mr President.