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STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF AUSTRALIA AT THE 23RD UPR WORKING GROUP, 9 NOVEMBER 2015

[Speaking time: 1 min 5 secs]

Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Australia to the UPR Working Group. We acknowledge Australia's efforts to advance and protect the civil and political rights of its people since the last review, including the appointment of a full-time Human Rights Commissioner in 2013.

In particular, we commend Australia's efforts to promote gender equality and empower women through the work of its Workplace Gender Equality Agency and the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. We **recommend** that Australia ensures the effective implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, in particular to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse women, and women with disabilities

We also recognise that Australia's National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 seeks to adopt an inclusive approach to the policies, programmes and infrastructure to improving the lives of people with disabilities. We **recommend** that Australia continues to promote and support programmes such as the JobsAccess Gateway to equip persons with disabilities with the appropriate skills to secure gainful employment.

Thank you Mr President.

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