

STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF BELGIUM AT THE 24th UPR WORKING GROUP, 20 JANUARY 2016

[Speaking time: 1 min 10 secs]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of Belgium to the 24th session of the UPR Working Group and thanks it for its presentation.

Singapore welcomes the efforts that Belgium has taken to combat racism and discrimination since its last review. This includes the release of a joint circular on the policy of identifying and prosecuting discrimination and hate-related violence released in 2013. Singapore **recommends** that Belgium continues to effectively implement the relevant legislation to counter discrimination and hate-crimes based on ethnicity and religion.

Countering racism and discrimination should go hand-in-hand with efforts to strengthen racial and religious harmony within the community. Singapore **recommends** that Belgium continues to strengthen its engagement with community leaders to build community support at all levels for measures to protect those most vulnerable to racism and discrimination.

We join the many friends of Belgium in wishing it every success in improving the human rights of its citizens.

Thank you Mr President.