

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

Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Paraguay to the 24th UPR Working Group.

Singapore welcomes Paraguay's commitment to improve the lives of its citizens by prioritising poverty eradication. We commend Paraguay for successfully bringing down poverty levels for eight consecutive years and for putting in place concrete socio-economic programmes to address the needs of vulnerable groups and the less well-off. We **recommend** that Paraguay continue to take steps to ensure the full and effective implementation of its National Development Plan to 2030 to combat poverty, particularly in rural areas.

We welcome Paraguay's efforts to strengthen standard setting and coordination of government policy to promote equal rights and opportunities for men and women. Singapore **recommends** that Paraguay continue to design and implement policies that incorporate gender perspectives into public policies and promote the empowerment and advancement of women living in rural areas.

We join the many friends of Paraguay in wishing it every success in achieving its development goals and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you Mr President.

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