

STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF SIERRA LEONE AT THE 24th UPR WORKING GROUP, 27 JANUARY 2016

[Speaking time: 1 min 25 sec]

Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone to the 24th UPR Working Group. We commend Sierra Leone's commitment to the UPR process, even as it confronts the challenges posed by the outbreak of Ebola virus.

Singapore welcomes Sierra Leone's efforts to strengthen its healthcare system. Sierra Leone has implemented the Free Health Care (FHC) initiative to improve healthcare for women, as well as other programmes to combat malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. We **recommend** that Sierra Leone continues to take the necessary steps to further strengthen its public healthcare system.

Singapore commends Sierra Leone's commitment and investments to raise education standards and access to education in recent years. Singapore **recommends** that Sierra Leone ensures that the New Education Sector Plan is well implemented and adequately resourced, in order to raise education standards at all levels in the country.

We join the many friends of Sierra Leone in wishing it every success in its development and in improving the human rights of its citizens.

Thank you Mr President.

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