**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF ECUADOR AT THE 27TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 1 MAY 2017**

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes the delegation of Ecuador to the 27th UPR Working Group meeting.

 We commend the efforts of the Ecuadorian government and the resilience of the people of Ecuador in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Ecuador last April. We also commend Ecuador’s commitment to the UPR process and the protection of human rights, including through the use of innovative electronic platforms like SIDERECHOS, while concurrently managing the immense challenges of reconstruction from the earthquake.

Since its last UPR, Ecuador has strived to increase access to education and raise education standards at all levels. This includes investments in the improvement of educational infrastructure and the establishment of the National University of Education to train its teachers. We **recommend** that Ecuador continues to ensure access to quality education for all Ecuadorians through continuous improvements in the training of educators.

 Ecuador has also demonstrated its commitment to eradicate poverty and raise the standard of living of its people through programmes such as My First Employment, which provides employment opportunities for university graduates. We **recommend** that Ecuador continues to implement such policies that increase access to employment, in particular for youths and in the rural areas.

 We join Ecuador’s friends in wishing it every success in its reconstruction efforts and development journey.

 Thank you Mr President.

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