**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF MOROCCO AT THE 27TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 2 MAY 2017**

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the 27th UPR Working Group.

We commend Morocco for its strong commitment to combat poverty and reduce inequality. Morocco has implemented the second stage of its National Human Development Initiative with a view to alleviating poverty in rural and urban areas. Morocco has also set up the Social Cohesion Fund to provide assistance to persons with specific needs. We **recommend** that Morocco continue to implement policies and develop infrastructure that increase access to employment, particularly for youths.

 Singapore welcomes Morocco’s efforts to strengthen respect for women’s rights, including through the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Gender-sensitive Budgeting and the adoption of the government plan for gender equality 2012-2016. We **recommend** that Morocco continue to put in place practical measures at local and national levels to ensure gender equality and combat discrimination against women.

 We join the many friends of the Kingdom of Morocco in wishing it well as it seeks to promote and protect the human rights of its people.

 Thank you Mr President.

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