**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE 27TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 10 MAY 2017**

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of South Africa to the UPR Working Group.

We commend South Africa’s forward-looking approach to combat poverty, reduce inequality and achieve the full realisation of human rights through its *National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030.* We welcome the implementation of South Africa’s *Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)*, which covers the first 5 years of the NDP focusing on 14 priority outcomes in areas such as education, economic growth, employment and social cohesion.

We **recommend** that South Africa continue to adequately fund the MTSF*,* and to refine its consolidated planning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to support the MTSF’s effective implementation.

Singapore commends South Africa’s sustained efforts to transform its education sector by increasing access to education – including for persons with disabilities – and increasing the education budget to more than 5% of South Africa’s GDP. This will help uplift children from poor families.

We **recommend** that South Africa continue to adequately resource its Provincial Schools Build Programme (PSBP) so that more children, particularly those from poor rural communities, can have access to schools that are safe and adequately equipped.

We wish South Africa every success in fulfilling its unwavering commitment to provide better lives and the attainment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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