**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF AZERBAIJAN AT THE 44TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes the participation of Azerbaijan in the UPR process and commends Azerbaijan on its progress since its 3rd review.

 Azerbaijan has made commendable strides in the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children and persons with disabilities. Through legislative changes and various state programmes, the government has stimulated the development of women’s entrepreneurship and reduced the difference in the average wage between men and women. **Singapore recommends that Azerbaijan continue its efforts to prevent gender discrimination and improve employment opportunities for women.**

On the economic front, Azerbaijan has adopted a National Action Plan for 2022 to 2026 to strengthen the fight against corruption, as well as a new law on “countering legalization of criminal assets and financing of terrorism”. We welcome the importance that Azerbaijan attaches to international cooperation in countering corruption and **recommend that Azerbaijan continue its efforts in strengthening this fight against corruption.**

We hope that our recommendations will be favourably considered. Thank you.

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(165 words, ~1 minute)