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

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes the participation of Bangladesh in the UPR process and commends it for the progress made since its 3rd review.

We acknowledge the remarkable progress made by Bangladesh over the past decade to expand access to education. With over 98 percent of children of primary school age enrolled in school, it has achieved near universal primary enrollment, and gender parity in access to education. **We encourage Bangladesh to continue improving its education system at all levels, and ensure equal access to education for women and children.**

We also recognize Bangladesh’s efforts to protect its population, especially youth, against the scourge of drugs. We welcome the 2018 Narcotics Control Act which provides a comprehensive and balanced framework of measures, including preventive education and public campaigns, to raise awareness against drug use. **We encourage Bangladesh to continue its cooperation with relevant UN agencies including the** **UNODC to protect its citizens against the grave threat presented by the world drug problem.**

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

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