**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF CUBA AT THE 44TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

Mr President,

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

 Cuba has made commendable strides in protecting women and children rights, especially in tackling gender-based and family violence. Women’s participation in decision-making in many aspects of its society has also expanded. We welcome the adoption of a National Programme for the Advancement of Women in 2021, and **recommend that Cuba continue its efforts in promoting and protecting women’s rights.**

 Cuba has demonstrated strong commitment to zero tolerance of drug trafficking and abuse, and implemented its National Programme for Prevention and Control of Addiction with special emphasis on children and young people. **Singapore recommends that Cuba cooperate with the UNODC and other international organisations to strengthen its capacity to combat drug trafficking and abuse-related issues.**

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

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