**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE 44TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

Mr President,

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

Uzbekistan has demonstrated its commitment to combat crime and foster a safe environment for its citizens including establishing a National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour. **Singapore recommends that Uzbekistan continue to implement measures to address trafficking-in-persons in a comprehensive manner.** On drug trafficking, Uzbekistan has cooperated with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to secure its borders. Since 2014, the UNODC-supported Border Liaison Office has operated at the Oybek crossing. **Singapore recommends that Uzbekistan continue to cooperate with the UNODC and other international organisations to strengthen its capacity to combat drug trafficking.**

Uzbekistan has improved access to education for groups including students living in rural areas, women and girls, as well as students with special needs. Its measures include increased government grants, greater availability of teaching staff, interest-free educational loans, and inclusive classrooms with an adapted curriculum. **Singapore recommends that Uzbekistan maintain its efforts to ensure access to education for the relevant sectors of its population.**

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

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