**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF GUATEMALA AT THE 28TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 8 NOVEMBER 2017**

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of Guatemala to the 28th UPR Working Group meeting.

Guatemala has pursued comprehensive measures to address violence against women including, significantly, through the reactivation of the National Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and the establishment of a department for the investigation of crimes against women within the National Civil Police. Singapore commends these efforts and **recommends** that Guatemala implement more measures to prevent violence against women, such as the training workshops conducted by the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women’s Rights on the protection of indigenous women.

We acknowledge Guatemala’s efforts to improve its social programmes in public health, education, housing and employment since its last review. We commend, in particular, initiatives such as the Economic Support Programme for Older Persons and the “My Golden Years” programme that help improve the quality of life of older persons in Guatemala. We **recommend** that Guatemala continue to invest resources to expand social programmes that promote and protect the human rights of older persons in Guatemala, in particular those living in poverty, to allow them to age with dignity.

Singapore wishes Guatemala every success in its efforts to enhance its development and promote the human rights of its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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