**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AT THE 28TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 9 NOVEMBER 2017**

Mr President,

 We commend the commitment of President Moon Jae-in’s administration towards human rights and outlining one hundred specific policy tasks in July to promote and protect human rights.

We welcome in particular the Republic of Korea’s (ROK) revision of the Framework Act on Women’s Development into the Framework Act on Gender Equality to place greater emphasis on attaining gender equality. We **recommend** that the ROK continue to put in place practical measures to implement the new framework at the national and local levels to achieve gender equality and combat discrimination against women, particularly in the labour market.

 The Republic of Korea is expected to become an aged society by 2018. We commend the government for introducing several initiatives to address this reality, such as the elderly employment programme and a friendship programme to help senior citizens living alone to build social networks. We **recommend** that the ROK continue to review and refine the relevant legislations, policies and programmes to accord the elderly with more protection, services and opportunities to allow them to age with dignity and to continue contributing to society where they can.

 Singapore and the ROK enjoy very close and multi-faceted relations, anchored by deep people-to-people ties. We wish the ROK every success in protecting and caring for its people while managing broader challenges.

 Thank you Mr President.

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