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

Mr President,

We commend Switzerland’s forward-looking approach in promoting and protecting the human rights of its people.

In this regard, we acknowledge Switzerland’s ongoing efforts to study and promote the human rights enjoyed by older persons.

We **recommend** that Switzerland continue to expand support services for older persons to enhance their participation in society, including through continuous education and integration into the labour market.

We also acknowledge Switzerland’s efforts at the Federal, Cantonal and municipal levels to promote religious tolerance and counter discrimination based on race and religion given the general rise of intolerance.

We **recommend** that Switzerland continue to implement initiatives that combat hate speech and foster mutual respect between different communities.

Mr President,

Singapore commends Switzerland for its active role in strengthening the UN human rights mechanisms and international rule-of-law.

We hope that Switzerland will act sensitively in this regard, taking into account specific national circumstances and social contexts of its partners.

This year Singapore and Switzerland celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Our bilateral relations are multi-faceted and our people-to-people ties deep.

We wish Switzerland every success in advancing the human rights of its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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