**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF NEPAL AT THE 37TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 21 JANUARY 2021**

Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes Nepal’s participation in the UPR process and recognises the progress made since its last review.

Nepal’s policies and legislation to enhance the right to health of its citizens have produced concrete results such as the reduction of neonatal and maternal mortality, and increased childhood immunisation. **Taking into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore recommends that Nepal continue to expand efforts towards universal health coverage while minimising disruption in the access to basic healthcare services during the pandemic.**

Nepal’s efforts to promote gender equality and protect the rights of women, in areas such as combating discrimination and gender-based violence, has resulted in an increased number of women in the civil service, as well as enhanced support for victims of gender-based violence and trafficking. **Singapore recommends that Nepal finalises its draft National Gender Equality Policy expeditiously and undertakes awareness-raising activities, in all levels of society, about its key measures.**

Singapore wishes Nepal every success in achieving its human rights objectives and in its efforts to build back better from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you.

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