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

Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes Oman’s participation in the UPR process and recognises the progress that Oman has made since its last review in the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.

Oman has made advances in the area of women’s rights, seeing increasing involvement of women in both the public and private sector. This has been facilitated by nationally coordinated initiatives, such as the cross-sectoral Social Action Strategy, as well as by the strong signal sent by His Majesty Sayyid Haitham with the appointment of three women in the Council of Ministers and another four to the rank of undersecretary in key leadership positions. The government has also worked with civil society organisations to run programmes focused on the political and economic empowerment of women. **Singapore recommends that Oman continue implementing national strategies with the aim of eliminating discriminatory societal stereotypes towards women, in coordination with international and civil society partners, as appropriate.**

 Oman has demonstrated its commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, including those with disabilities, having rolled out two national strategies focused on safeguarding the rights of children and working with UNICEF on a country programme. **Singapore recommends that Oman implement a holistic strategy to combat child abuse in all settings, including strengthening awareness raising and education efforts on this matter.**

As a fellow small state, Singapore wishes Oman every success in achieving its human rights objectives, as well as in its efforts to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you.

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