**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF RWANDA AT THE 37TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 25 JANUARY 2021**

*[Speaking time: 1 min 05 sec]*

Mr/Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation and acknowledges Rwanda’s efforts to promote and protect the rights of its people since its last review.

We commend the Government’s efforts to achieve gender equality, in particular through the review of its National Gender Policy 2010 and implementation of its strategic plan (2018-2022).

**Singapore recommends that given the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, Rwanda factor this aspect into account during its ongoing review of its National Gender Policy and implementation of its strategic plan so that more effective policies can be put in place to build on the gains achieved thus far.**

We also commend Rwanda’s efforts to ensure the right to education for its population. In particular, we commend Rwanda’s commitment to inclusive education through the publication of a Ministerial Order (No. 007/2016) as well as the adoption of an inclusive and Special Needs Education Policy by its Cabinet in January 2019.

**Singapore recommends that that the government raise awareness of the key provisions of these policies amongst all relevant stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, so as to ensure their effective implementation.**

As a fellow small state, Singapore wishes Rwanda every success in its efforts to counter the COVID-19 pandemic, build-back better and advance the human rights of its people.

Thank you, Mr/Mdm President.

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