**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF PARAGUAY AT THE 38TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 5 MAY 2021**

Mdm President,

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

Singapore commends the efforts taken by the government to expand primary healthcare across the country, including through the implementation of the National Health Policy 2015 – 2030. There are also several national programmes focused on vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents, indigenous persons and pregnant women. Noting the strains that the healthcare system has faced under the COVID-19 pandemic, **Singapore recommends that Paraguay continue its work to ensure widespread accessibility of quality health care, including for indigenous persons and those living in rural areas.**

We note the importance that Paraguay places on the rule of law, which is a cornerstone in the promotion and protection of human rights. We note the work done to promote impartiality and combat corruption within the judiciary, including more stringent regulations for admission to the bench. **Singapore recommends that Paraguay continue with efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary through concrete and transparent measures.**

Singapore wishes Paraguay success in its efforts to achieve its human rights and development goals, as well as to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you, Mdm President.

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