**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF NIGER AT THE 38TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 3 MAY 2021**

Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation and recognises Niger’s complex security, social and economic challenges.

We recognise the work done since the last review to enhance economic and social rights, including through the implementation of the second Economic and Social Development Plan 2017 – 2021. This has resulted in an improvement in poverty indicators within the country, although the current COVID-19 pandemic has impacted these socio-economic gains. **Singapore recommends that Niger assess the impact of COVID-19 on the goals of the Economic and Social Development Plan and take this into account in the follow-up to the Plan, including any subsequent iterations.**

Niger has also taken legislative and policy steps to promote and protect the rights of children, despite the challenges posed by the security situation on the ground, including investments in education that have resulted in higher completion and literacy rates. **Singapore recommends that Niger continue its efforts to ensure that the rights and well-being of children are protected, including through the introduction of national and cross-cutting policies in key areas such as health and education.**

 Singapore wishes Niger success in its efforts to achieve its human rights and development goals, while also surmounting its various challenges.

Thank you, Mdm President.

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