**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF LATVIA AT THE 38TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 11 MAY 2021**

Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation and commends Latvia’s progress in promoting and protecting the human rights of its people. As an active delegation in the UPR process, and fellow small state, we hope Latvia will act sensitively and consider the specific national circumstances and contexts of its partners.

We commend the practical measures taken by Latvia to address hate speech, including guidelines for the identification and investigation of hate crimes and the training of law enforcement and judicial officers on this issue. But more can be done, **we recommend: (i) additional legislative and policy measures to tackle hate speech, particularly online, in a systematic and comprehensive manner; and (ii) concrete steps to promote inter-cultural dialogue.**

We note the increase in the number of children with disabilities studying in mainstream schools since 2016/17 and commend the Regulations establishing the requirements for general schools to be able to admit students with special needs. **We recommend that the government provide adequate training and resources to public schools and teachers to ensure that the Regulations can be fully implemented to enable inclusive education for children with disabilities**.

Thank you.

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