**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF JAPAN AT THE 42ND UPR WORKING GROUP, 31 JANUARY 2023**

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes Japan’s delegation and congratulates it for the progress made since Japan’s last UPR.

 We applaud the advances Japan has made on gender issues. We welcome Japan’s formulation of a fifth basic plan for Gender Equality in 2020 and its efforts to increase the participation of women in all areas, including politics, the economy, and public administration. Singapore supports Japan’s initiatives on these fronts. For example, we participated in Japan’s World Assembly for Women in December 2022. We also welcome efforts to institute additional safeguards to protect women against violence, and to provide necessary institutional support to victims. **Singapore recommends that Japan continue strengthening its policies to further enhance and promote gender equality.**

 Singapore also commends Japan for its efforts to eliminate discrimination due to disability. We welcome measures taken to raise awareness of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, including the Cabinet Office’s decision to designate a “persons with disabilities” week in December each year. **Singapore recommends that Japan continue strengthening its policies on disability issues.**

 Thank you.

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(152 words, ~1 minute)