**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF SRI LANKA AT THE 42ND UPR WORKING GROUP, 1 FEBRUARY 2023**

Mr President,

 Singapore extends a warm welcome to the Sri Lanka delegation and congratulates them on the progress made since their last UPR.

 Singapore recognizes the challenges faced by Sri Lanka amidst global crises, and welcomes its government’s unwavering efforts towards socio-economic stabilization, reconciliation and recovery.

 We welcome Sri Lanka’s efforts to promote sustainable socio-economic development and poverty reduction for its entire population. This includes proposals in its 2023 budget for new relief measures targeting vulnerable segments of its society such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and widows who are household entrepreneurs. **Singapore recommends that Sri Lanka continue strengthening measures that ensure effective access to social protection for its vulnerable groups.**

We also applaud Sri Lanka’s commitment to ensure access to education for its communities. We welcome the inclusion of segments on peace and reconciliation in school curricula. **Singapore recommends that Sri Lanka continue strengthening its policies to ensure access to education for all children, including those with disabilities and in rural areas.**

 Thank you.

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