**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF TONGA AT THE 43RD UPR WORKING GROUP, 1 MAY 2023**

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the participation of the delegation of Tonga in the UPR process.

 As a fellow small island developing state, Singapore applauds Tonga’s efforts to improve its resilience to the impact of climate change such as sea level rise and tropical weather events. Singapore commends Tonga’s continued implementation of the Tonga Climate Change Policy – A Resilient Tonga, and Tonga’s installation of an early warning system for natural disasters. **Singapore recommends that Tonga continue its efforts to address the effects of climate change and ensure that its coastal communities remain protected.**

 Singapore welcomes Tonga’s initiatives to deliver home-based care to older persons, including persons with disabilities, through the Tonga Social Service Pilot and the Aged Care programs. **Singapore recommends that Tonga continue to adopt policies and implement initiatives to ensure the welfare of older persons, including their access to healthcare.**

 I thank you.

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