**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF BARBADOS AT THE 29TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 19 JANUARY 2018**

Mr President

Singapore welcomes the delegation of Barbados to the 29th UPR Working Group session.

Singapore notes that Barbados has taken several steps since its last UPR to improve the rights of persons with disabilities, including ratifying the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We commend in particular initiatives such as the technology programme to improve educational outcomes for blind and visually impaired children and retrofitting schools with facilities for disabled students.

We **recommend** that Barbados continues to explore creative and practical application of technology to support persons with disabilities and better integrate them into society.

Singapore welcomes Barbados’ efforts to enhance women’s rights particularly through its draft National Policy on Gender.

We also commend the government’s efforts to change gender stereotypes, such as the Ministry of Transport and Works’ Gender Equality Initiative Workshops which encourage women to consider occupations traditionally deemed to be male-dominated.

We **recommend** that Barbados expands its programmes aimed at eliminating stereotypical portrayal of gender in society and the workplace to reduce gender inequalities.

Singapore commends the efforts and commitment of the Barbados government in promoting and protecting the human rights of its people, as well as safeguarding their economic and social rights, while confronting its economic challenges. We wish Barbados every success in these endeavours.

Thank you Mr President.

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