**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF ISRAEL AT THE 29TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 23 JANUARY 2018**

Mr President,

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

We commend Israel’s achievements in promoting the rights and welfare of all persons with disabilities, as well as enabling them to fulfil their potential with dignity.

We commend in particular Israel’s efforts to ensure accessibility to public places and services to persons with disabilities through the drafting, adoption and enforcement of Accessibility Regulations, in close consultation with organisations working on behalf of persons with disabilities.

We **recommend** that Israel increase the budget of its public awareness campaigns aimed at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and the accessibility requirements of public places, so as to better integrate them into society.

We commend Israel’s continued commitment to, and progress in, achieving gender equality since its last review through measures such as the establishment of a Ministerial Committee on Social Equality in 2015, the extension of paid maternity leave in 2017, and the strengthening of legislation to prevent gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination.

We **recommend** that Israel sustain its efforts to protect and promote the rights of minority women through dedicated policies, taking into account their unique cultural and economic conditions.

We wish Israel every success in promoting and protecting the human rights of its people while surmounting its complex security, social and economic challenges.

Thank you Mr President.

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