**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF SERBIA AT THE 29TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 24 JANUARY 2018**

Mr President,

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

We commend the Serbian government for the legislative measures and policies it had enacted since its last UPR to implement their accepted recommendations, and to protect and promote the human rights of its people.

We welcome in particular the recent legislative and institutional reforms implemented by the Serbian government to promote equal opportunities for minorities in Serbia, including the adoption of the Action Plan for the Exercise of the Rights of National Minorities in 2016. Such positive steps will help to promote greater participation of minorities in government, and facilitate their integration into society.

We **recommend** that Serbian Government work closely with the relevant stakeholders – such as the Council for National Minorities – to ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan for the Exercise of the Rights of National Minorities.

We commend the Serbian government for taking steps to strengthen the rule of law, including the adoption of the National Strategy for Judicial Reform for the period 2013–2018 and the passage of the Law on the Protection of the Right to a Fair Trial within a Reasonable Timeframe.

We **recommend** that the Serbian government continue to implement all expedient measures in its National Strategy for Judicial Reform 2013-2018 that help strengthen the rule of law until a new strategy is drawn up.

As a fellow member of the Forum of Small States, we wish Serbia every success in attaining its development and political goals.

Thank you Mr President.

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