**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA AT THE 29TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 15 JANUARY 2018**

Mr President

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

We commend Tonga’s significant progress in the promotion and protection of women’s rights since its last UPR, including the adoption of the Family Protection Act 2013 to curb domestic violence, the expansion of women’s participation in social, economic and political life, the steps taken towards the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and launching the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development in May 2014.

Singapore **recommends** that Tonga ensure sufficient resources are allocated for the full and successful implementation of the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development 2014-2018.

We welcome Tonga’s efforts to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities through its National Policy on Disability Inclusive Development 2014-2018. We also look forward to Tonga’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018.

Singapore **recommends** that Tonga continue to review and improve the relevant legislation, policies and programmes to accord those with disabilities more protection, services and opportunities to participate fully in Tongan society.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State and member of the Forum of Small States, Singapore remains committed to supporting Tonga’s development through our technical cooperation package for SIDS, and our Sustainable Development Package under the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

Singapore wishes Tonga success in its efforts to enhance its development and promote the human rights of its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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