**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF CUBA AT THE 30TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 16 MAY 2018**

Mr President,

We commend Cuba’s continuous efforts to strengthen and update its institutional framework and legal system since its last review to better promote and protect the human rights of its citizens.

We also acknowledge Cuba’s efforts to build a more inclusive and just society, despite its significant development challenges. In particular, Cuba’s comprehensive suite of social services and programmes to care for older persons is commendable. These include providing at-home care and targeted direct personalised care.

My delegation would like to **recommend** the following:

(i) First, endeavour to build sufficient nursing homes, day care centres and geriatric hospitals in time to cater to Cuba’s ageing population in future.

(ii) Second, strengthen medical and social services at the community level, including collaborating with relevant community actors, to allow older persons to age-in place.

As a fellow small island state, Singapore wishes Cuba every success in achieving its development goals and meeting the aspirations of its people.

Thank you Mr President.

. . . . .