**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF COLOMBIA AT THE 30TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 10 MAY 2018**

Mr President,

We commend the Colombian government’s commitment towards achieving lasting peace through the signing and progressive implementation of the *Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace*. We welcome in particular efforts to reintegrate former FARC members into society and measures such as the establishment of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition.

We also commend the Colombian government’s achievements in reducing poverty through comprehensive policies such as the United Act and the More Families in Action programme.

We recommend that the government continues to invest in, and expand the coverage, of such poverty reduction programmes to cover the most vulnerable groups, including older persons.

Women have played critical roles in Colombian society, including in the peace process. We acknowledge Colombia’s progress in promoting and safeguarding women’s rights through policies such as the National Public Policy on Gender Equity for Women, and the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence.

We recommend that the government further strengthen its legal framework to protect women’s rights, in particular to combat sexual violence and domestic violence.

Colombia has been active in the promotion and protection of human rights internationally. We hope that Colombia will act sensitively in this regard, taking into account specific national peculiarities of its partners.

We wish Colombia every success in attaining lasting peace and prosperity for its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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