**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF TUVALU AT THE 30TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 9 MAY 2018**

Mr President,

Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Tuvalu to the 30th UPR Working Group.

We commend the Tuvalu government for the concrete steps taken since its last review to advance the human rights of its people despite the significant geographic, financial and human resource constraints. We commend in particular, Tuvalu’s achievement in becoming the first Pacific Island State to develop and adopt a long-term national human rights strategy. The Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020, which consolidates Tuvalu’s commitments under the international human rights treaties to which it is party, ensures a systematic and coordinated approach to the fulfilment of Tuvalu’s human rights obligations. We also commend the recent establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, making Tuvalu one of the few Small Island Developing States to do so.

We **recommend** that the Tuvalu government ensure an adequate institutional framework and the resources to fully implement the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020.

We commend the Tuvalu government for its successful adoption of the National Gender Policy 2014 and the completion of its Strategic Plan of Action 2014-2016, which has helped to mainstream gender equality in all aspects of its citizens’ lives. We also welcome the passage of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act in 2014 to eradicate the primary cause of violence against women and the endorsement of the establishment of the Family Protection Fund in March 2017 to support the victims of domestic violence.

In addition, we note that the Office of the Attorney General is currently undertaking a Family Protection and Domestic Violence Baseline study to identify and improve existing mechanisms to eliminate violence against women in Tuvalu.

We therefore **recommend** that Tuvalu fully implement the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014, with the necessary technical assistance of the relevant UN agencies such as UN Women and UNDP where appropriate, expeditiously operationalise the Family Protection Fund, and dedicate the necessary resources to ensure that the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Baseline study is comprehensive so as to strengthen the ongoing work to eliminate violence against women in Tuvalu.

As a fellow small island state, Singapore wishes Tuvalu every success in its development efforts and in promoting the human rights of its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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