**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AT THE 31ST UPR WORKING GROUP, 6 NOVEMBER 2018**

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes China’s progress in enhancing the well-being and prosperity of its people since its last UPR through measures such as its Third National Human Rights Action Plan and the effective implementation of its 13th Five-Year Plan. We commend in particular its success in lifting over 68 million people out of poverty since its last review. We also welcome China’s efforts to fully eradicate poverty in rural areas by 2020.

We recommend the following in support of China’s quest to address unbalanced and inadequate development:

1. First, continue to invest in improving the conditions of schools in remote and rural areas, and to ensure disadvantaged students receive adequate assistance.
2. Second, continue to strengthen health services in the rural areas, including community elder-care services for older persons.

Since the launch of China’s reforms and opening up 40 years ago, China has achieved impressive economic growth and social development. Singapore has been an active supporter of China’s reforms and opening up, and will continue to support China’s peaceful development. Singapore wishes China every success in realising its development goals, including the eradication of poverty and the improvement of the well-being of its people in the next phase of its development.

 Thank you Mr President.

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