**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF MALAYSIA AT THE 31ST UPR WORKING GROUP, 8 NOVEMBER 2018**

Mr President,

 Singapore welcomes the delegation of Malaysia to the 31st UPR Working Group meeting.

We commend Malaysia’s continuous efforts to achieve sustainable development and to build a more equitable and inclusive society.

 We note that Malaysia has continued to prioritise human capital development in its Mid-Term Review of the 11th Malaysia Plan. **We recommend that Malaysia continue to improve access to quality education by ensuring that its technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions are well-resourced to provide the relevant education and training.**

We also acknowledge Malaysia’s progress in advancing the rights of women and girls during the period under review through measures such as the amendment of the Domestic Violence Act in 2017.

 **We recommend that Malaysia expand its existing economic empowerment programmes** **to cover more vulnerable women, such as single mothers and indigenous women, so as to provide them with opportunities to earn a better living.**

 **We also recommend that Malaysia build on its efforts since its last review to better protect women from domestic and sexual violence by strengthening the relevant legal frameworks and policies.**

 As a close neighbour and fellow ASEAN member, Singapore wishes Malaysia every success in achieving its national development goals and in realising the human rights and aspirations of its people.

 Thank you, Mr President.

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