**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF MALTA AT THE 31ST UPR WORKING GROUP, 14 NOVEMBER 2018**

Mr President,

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

We commend Malta for the steps it has taken since its last review to implement its accepted recommendations and to realise the human rights of its people.

We welcome in particular Malta’s efforts to promote the rights of women and gender equality through measures such as the establishment of the Council for Women’s Rights in 2017. We also commend Malta for implementing a series of initiatives to encourage women to enter or remain in the workforce, such as the free childcare scheme initiated in 2014 and the extension of paternity leave for public officers.

We recommend that Malta collaborate closely with the private sector to formulate policies that support women re-entering the workforce.

We commend Malta for its efforts to combat human trafficking through initiatives aimed at raising public awareness, training government officials, and enhancing collaboration between different governmental agencies to provide support to victims of trafficking. We also welcome the adoption of Malta’s Fourth National Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2017–2019).

 We recommendthat Malta ensure sufficient resources are allocated for the effective implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan against Human Trafficking, in particular to improve the support provided to child victims of trafficking.

 As a fellow small state, Singapore wishes Malta success in its efforts to promote and protect the human rights of its people.

 Thank you Mr President.

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