**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF AFGHANISTAN AT THE 32ND UPR WORKING GROUP, 21 JANUARY 2019**

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan to the 32nd UPR Working Group.

We acknowledge Afghanistan’s efforts since its last review to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular to provide better healthcare for its citizens. We commend the Government in this regard for implementing its Health Policy for 2015-2020 and developing action plans such as its National Strategy for promotion of Sanitation and its National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescence Strategy 2017-2021.

**We recommend that the government ensures that sufficient healthcare centers are built in the provinces and remote areas outside Kabul to support the effective implementation its health policies.**

We commend Afghanistan’s efforts to ensure that all children, in particular girls, have access to education through the development of a third National Education Strategic Plan (2017-2021), Inclusive Education Policy and Pre-School Education Policy among others. We note that the Afghan Ministry of Education has also drafted a national policy specifically for girl education.

**We recommend that the Ministry of Education intensify its public awareness campaigns to promote the importance of education for girls in accordance with its national policy for girl education, in particular in the provinces.**

We wish Afghanistan every success in its efforts to improve the lives of its people while surmounting its complex security, social and economic challenges.

Thank you Mr President.

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