**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AT THE 32ND UPR WORKING GROUP, 24 JANUARY 2019**

Mr President,

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

We commend Macedonia’s efforts since its last review to improve the human rights of its citizens, in particular the measures undertaken to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman, the adoption of a Strategy for Reform of the Justice System (2017-2022), and the establishment of a new National Coordination Body on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in May 2018.

We commend the Government’s ongoing efforts to effect reforms in the justice system, including the establishment of a Council headed by the Prime Minister to monitor the implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Justice System.

**We recommend** that Macedonia continue to invest in the training of judges, public prosecutors and those providing professional legal services to strengthen the rule of law and its justice system.

We commend Macedonia’s efforts to protect and care for its most vulnerable and underprivileged citizens, including the Roma and persons with disabilities. In particular, we commend Macedonia for its efforts to promote inclusive education via the Government’s Strategy for Integrated Education, 2014-2020 Roma National Strategy and 2018-2025 Education Strategy which facilitate equal access to education for all, raise the standards of human capital and provide targeted assistance amongst others.

We **recommend** that the Government take further steps to build a more inclusive society by ensuring that sufficient special educators are employed to support the integration of children with disabilities in primary and secondary schools in all municipalities.

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

Thank you Mr President.

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