**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF ALBANIA AT THE 33RD UPR WORKING GROUP, 6 MAY 2019**

Mr President,

Singapore acknowledges Albania’s efforts since its last review to promote and protect the human rights of its people, in particular vulnerable groups such as children, women, persons with disabilities and minorities.

We commend Albania’s emphasis on placing the best interests of the child as a guiding principle and the practical implementation of its legislation, bylaws and policies related to children. These principles are well reflected in Law 18/2017 “On the Rights and Protection of the Child”, the establishment of a National Agenda for Children’s Rights 2017-2020, and the appointment of a Commissioner for Children’s Rights Protection and Promotion in 2018.

 The National Agenda for Children’s Rights (NACR) depends on donors to provide some 26% of its funding. **We recommend that the Government allocate more resources to increase its share of funding for the NACR to ensure more sustainable programmes to support the development and protection of its children.**

We commend Albania for adopting zero tolerance of violence against women and domestic violence as a motto of its government. We also acknowledge Albania’s efforts to implement this motto, for instance, through the amendment of Law 47/2018 “On Measures against Violence in Family Relations” and the provision of more services to victims of domestic violence such as free counselling and a 24/7 Police hotline.

**We recommend that the government ensures that such services are made available to the most marginalised communities, including women in rural areas, women with disabilities and women from ethnic minority groups.**

We wish Albania every success in its efforts to better care for its people through harmonising its national regulations with international obligations in the field of human rights protection.

Thank you Mr President.

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