**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF COSTA RICA AT THE 33RD UPR WORKING GROUP, 13 MAY 2019**

Mr President,

We commend Costa Rica’s efforts since its last review to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to promote and protect the human rights of its people. Costa Rica’s efforts to include civic participation in these endeavours are laudable and will better inform its Government of the needs of its citizens.

We also acknowledge Costa Rica’s moves to strengthen a national culture of equality and respect for human rights of its people, in particular women and girls. These include the National Policy for De Facto Equality between Women and Men 2018-2030, the National Policy for addressing and preventing violence against women 2017-2032, and the adoption of the procedural guidelines for the participatory and intercultural development of public policy for indigenous peoples 2019-2024.

**We recommend that the government continue its practice of incorporating civic participation in the implementation of these national policies. We also recommend that the government provides sustainable financing for the effective implementation of these policies given their long duration over the next decade.**

We commend the government’s continued commitment to build a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. In particular, Costa Rica’s amendment of its Constitution in 2015 to recognize the multi-ethnic and pluricultural character of the State sends a very strong signal of its resolve on this issue.

**We recommend that Costa Rica applies the lessons learnt from the challenges of its 2015-2018 National Policy for a Society Free from Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia to ensure more effective implementation of the next phase of its 2020-2025 Action Plan.**

We wish Costa Rica every success in its efforts to achieve its development goals for its people.

Thank you Mr President.

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