**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) AT THE 33RD UPR WORKING GROUP, 9 MAY 2019**

Mr President,

We commend the DPRK Government’s emphasis on providing the best education possible for its people to spur development, spending some 8.6% of its GDP on education during the period under review. We also recognise that the Government has introduced new measures since its last review to improve the quality of education such as raising the quality of vocational education and setting up secondary technical schools specialising in IT in all provinces.

We also acknowledge the DPRK’s commitment to fulfil its obligations under the international human rights treaties to which it is a State party. In particular, the DPRK had enacted a number of human rights-related laws since its last review such as the Law on Welfare service and the Law on Labour Protection.

The DPRK has adopted positive steps since its last review to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular through the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2016 and the establishment of Committees for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities at the national, provincial, city and county-levels.

**We recommend that the DPRK adopts more measures to allow persons with disabilities to participate more widely in society such as eliminating physical barriers in public spaces and increasing awareness-raising campaigns to remove stigma about persons with disabilities**.

We hope the DPRK will continue to engage positively with the international community and wish them every success in achieving their development goals.

Thank you Mr President.

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