**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF IRAQ AT THE 34TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

 Singapore welcomes the delegation and acknowledges Iraq’s efforts since its last review to promote and protect the rights of its people despite the challenges it faces.

We note the government’s concrete measures to reduce poverty. These include the allocation of 1.6 trillion dinar for activities under its first poverty reduction strategy, the implementation of low-cost housing projects, and the development of a second poverty reduction strategy (2018-2022) which aims to decrease poverty by 25 percent. Singapore **recommends** that the government allocate sufficient resources to the 32 activities under this plan, working with relevant UN entities where appropriate, to ensure their implementation and long-term sustainability.

Singapore also commends Iraq’s commitment to enhance the rights of women. In particular, we commend Iraq’s development of a national strategy for the advancement of women (2014-2018), the establishment of the Standing High Commission for the Advancement of Iraqi Women and Directorates and offices to combat violence against women, amendments to its Social Welfare Act as well as ongoing discussions on a bill on domestic violence. Singapore **recommends** that this bill be passed expeditiously, and that the government raise awareness of the legislation’s key provisions among all relevant stakeholders, including women, men, law enforcement officials, religious leaders, and civil society so as to ensure its effective implementation.

Singapore wishes Iraq every success in its efforts to achieve its development goals for its people.

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