**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF BELARUS AT THE 36TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 2 NOVEMBER 2020**

Mdm President,

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

We commend Belarus for its concrete measures to promote and protect the rights of the more vulnerable segments of its population, including children and persons with disabilities. These include a National Plan of Action to Improve the Situation of Children and Safeguard their Rights (2017-2021) and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016.

**Singapore recommends that Belarus continues its ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive society, including by developing inclusive education policies for children with disabilities and by undertaking further awareness-raising activities** **at the local-level on the key aspects of its disability policies.**

**Singapore also recommends that, considering the COVID-19 pandemic, Belarus takes additional steps to mitigate the potential economic exclusion and social isolation of persons with disabilities, including children.**

As a fellow small state, Singapore wishes Belarus every success in its efforts to counter the COVID-19 pandemic, build-back better and advance the human rights of its people.

Thank you, Mdm President.

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