**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF JAMAICA AT THE 36TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 11 NOVEMBER 2020**

Mdm President,

Singapore welcomes the delegation and commends Jamaica on its continued progress towards realising the key goals of its “Vision 2030”.

We acknowledge the extensive efforts made by Jamaica to further advance the rights of women. This includes appointing a Cabinet Minister with a specific focus on Gender Affairs, the establishment of a Gender Advisory Council in 2018 and the launch of a National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence in Jamaica (2017 to 2027). **Singapore recommends that Jamaica continue its efforts to promote gender equality at the substantive and societal levels, including through awareness-raising initiatives aimed at eliminating structural and cultural barriers to achieving meaningful equality.**

We also note that Jamaica has a coordinated, inter-governmental approach to addressing poverty through the National Policy on Poverty and the National Poverty Reduction Programme. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic will, in many societies exacerbate and undo gains made to eradicate poverty, **Singapore recommends that Jamaica continue to maintain a strong focus in its national development plans on poverty reduction, especially in rural areas, accounting in particular for the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living in poverty.**

As a fellow small island state, Singapore wishes Jamaica success in its efforts to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are confident that Jamaica will be able to build back better and achieve its human rights and development objectives.

Thank you, Mdm President.

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