**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AT THE 36TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 9 NOVEMBER 2020**

Mdm President,

Singapore commends the Marshall Islands for the efforts since its last review to promote and protect the human rights of its people, in particular the extensive suite of legislative measures taken to implement its human rights obligations.

We note the strong focus the Marshall Islands has placed on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons (TIP), including enacting the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act 2017 and establishing a National Taskforce on Human Trafficking. We also acknowledge the Marshall Island’s efforts to assist victims of trafficking. **Singapore recommends that the Marshall Islands, in cooperation with international partners as appropriate, ensures adequate training for its judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement officials on hearing, prosecuting and investigating TIP cases.**

We also note the concrete steps that have been taken to promote and protect the rights of women and girls in the Marshall Islands, such as through the introduction of the Gender Equality Act in 2019 and working with relevant stakeholders to design the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy 2015 – 2019. **Singapore recommends that the Marshall Islands continues to work with all relevant stakeholders to increase societal awareness and buy-in to eliminate discrimination, including violence and negative stereotypes, against women.**

As a fellow small island state, Singapore wishes the Marshall Islands success in its efforts to overcome the challenges it faces from climate change, and achieve its human rights and development goals.

Thank you, Mdm President.

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