

**UPR WORKING GROUP – ELEVENTH SESSION
(02-13 May 2011)**

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**UPR of SINGAPORE – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
06 May 2011**

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Singapore led by H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Ambassador-at-Large, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and National Report that provide an informative overview of the situation of human rights in the country.

2. Singapore is a relatively young city-state that showcases a remarkable case-study of the transformation of a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society into a sophisticated economy over a short period of time. In the last three decades, it has registered commendable socio-economic development while striving to retain peaceful co-existence of its diverse communities. It is renowned for its achievements in basic economic, social and cultural rights, such as in education, health and housing, as also its emphasis on clean and transparent governance that prioritises meritocracy. We also take positive note of its impressive steps to promote and protect rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children. While the country scores highly on gender empowerment, CRC has acknowledged the development of several sectoral strategies adopted in the area of child rights.

3. We are conscious of the central dialectic around the country's development strategy – about social harmony versus individual rights – and the related concerns that have often been expressed. In this context, we note the country's still evolving parliamentary system that tries to combine the Westminster model with the proportional representation system, and are encouraged to note the recent easing of regulations on political expression, including on political films and internet election advertising. We would urge

the Government to continue to build upon these initiatives, including in the realm of regulations on media.

Mr President,

4. The national report notes the important demographic trend of ageing population in Singaporean society. We would request the delegation to provide more information on how the country is preparing for it, especially in the context of social security benefits. Another important feature of the society is that about a third of its workforce is migrant workers. We would, thus, recommend that Singapore continue to strengthen its efforts to protect the rights of foreign workers.

5. Lastly, we recommend that Singapore consider expediting becoming a party to ICERD, CRPD and OP-CRC-SC.

Thank you, Mr. President.
