

CLOSING STATEMENT BY SUN XUELING

**MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

CEDAW CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE 2024

THURSDAY, 16 MAY 2024, 1700 HRS, UN OFFICE, GENEVA

Madam Chair,
Distinguished members of the CEDAW Committee,

1. On behalf of the delegation, I would like to thank the Committee for the valuable insights that were shared with us today, as well as the opportunity to share on Singapore's progress and efforts in advancing the women's status and their well-being in Singapore since our last Constructive Dialogue in 2017.
2. I'm glad that we had the chance to engage the Committee on issues that the Committee had raised in the concluding observations of our fifth periodic report and the list of issues in response to our sixth CEDAW periodic report. We had talked about strengthening our laws: I talked about family violence, new laws to strengthen workplace fairness, as well as to strengthen protections against workplace discrimination. We have also enhanced our support for older women and vulnerable groups of women, including low-income women.
3. I think I would like to add that we are very heartened and grateful for the collaborative partnership that we have with civil society organisations who are represented in large numbers today because it is with their help and their feedback that women's rights in Singapore have yielded strong outcomes for women in different spheres of life.
4. We are committed to continuing to implement the 25 concrete action plans in the White Paper on Singapore Women's Development, which covers the areas most salient to our women's concerns and aspirations. We will definitely continue to review the effectiveness of our current legislation, policies and programmes to protect, support and empower all women.
5. Lastly, I would like to share that we firmly believe that it takes a whole-of-society mindset shift to make real and sustained progress towards gender equality. Singapore will build on the momentum that we have thus far and will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to build a fairer and more inclusive society.

6. I would like to end off by assuring the Committee that we take your views and comments seriously in our efforts to implement our CEDAW obligations effectively. We look forward to hearing the Committee's recommendations on how Singapore can do better to protect and empower our women. With that, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the CEDAW Secretariat and the translators for working so hard for this session.
7. Thank you once again.