

Date Published: 23 Sep 2014

Your Excellencies John Kufour and Marcin Korolec,

On behalf of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, I wish to add Singapore's voice of appreciation for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's tireless efforts to focus the global leadership on climate change. The IPCC's 5th Assessment Report starkly warns of potential mean surface temperature rises of up to 4.8°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100.

2 This is the correct moment to pause and reflect. We should renew our political commitment to the 2°C global climate goal – a goal based on science. Such a commitment requires two decisions: First, to mandate our negotiators to engage constructively in building the new climate agreement at both Lima and Paris. Second, to act domestically to mitigate climate change. Such domestic efforts can start right now, and need not wait for an agreement in December 2015. Allow me to elaborate on both points from Singapore's experience.

### **Singapore's Role at the UNFCCC Negotiations**

3 We participate actively in the UNFCCC negotiations as a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and of the Group of 77 and China. We help build bridges between the many stakeholders in this complex negotiation. We see real potential in a viable, constructive, and comprehensive agreement in 2015. We believe that we can build an inclusive agreement which will serve as a durable base for all nations, big and small, to make a responsible contribution to address climate change.

4 In 2009, we announced a voluntary pledge to reduce emissions by 16% from the 2020 business-as-usual (BAU) level, contingent on a legally-binding global agreement under which all countries implement their commitments in good faith. We have proceeded to implement measures to reduce emissions by 7 to 11% from the 2020 BAU level. Given our constraints in alternative energy, and the fact that our actions are all domestically funded, this is a substantial commitment which entails economic and social opportunity costs.

5 As a further sign of our continued commitment to the multilateral system, I am pleased to announce Singapore's ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. I deposited our instrument of acceptance at the UN Treaty Event earlier today. We are also working domestically to prepare our post-2020 contribution. Singapore will submit our nationally-determined contribution (NDC) in a timely manner.

### **Singapore's Climate Action**

6 Singapore has also taken various domestic climate action initiatives. In 2012, we published the National Climate Change Strategy outlining a whole-of-government

strategy to move towards a low carbon pathway.

7 In the interest of time, full details of these efforts are in my circulated statement. I can summarise that our efforts include: (i) a significant expansion in public transport; (ii) major restraints on the vehicle population and usage; (iii) a Carbon Emissions-Based Vehicle Scheme (CEVS); (iv) an Energy Conservation Act to mandate energy management practices for large users of energy; and (v) energy efficiency standards for household appliances. We also (vi) made an early switch to natural gas - the cleanest form of fossil fuel - for over 90% of our electricity generation. (vii) We price energy at market cost without subsidy, so that prices incentivise energy conservation. Looking ahead, we will: (viii) target a 75-25% modal split for public-private transport by 2030; and (ix) target 80% green buildings by 2030. Given our limited options for alternative energy, we will nevertheless (x) intensify solar panel deployment. We also fund a (xi) National Innovation Challenge on “Energy Resilience for Sustainable Growth” to catalyse research, development and demonstration to increase our energy options, improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

8 Singapore’s emissions grew at an average annual rate of 2.0% in the last decade, compared to 2.2% globally. Similarly, our GDP grew by 76%, compared to a 22% increase in emissions and a 34% increase in energy use. This demonstrates our improved energy and carbon efficiency. Over the same period, our carbon intensity decreased by 3.6% per annum, which compares favourably with the global average decrease of 0.01% per annum. These are Singapore’s voluntary contributions, done without waiting for a global agreement to be reached. They are taken in the belief that every small nation can help with a meaningful contribution towards combatting climate change.

### **Working with the International Community**

9 Singapore also contributes by sharing our experience in city planning, transport, waste and water management at international events such as the World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week, Singapore International Energy Week, Singapore Green Building Week/International Green Building Conference and World Engineers Summit. With the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), we established the BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings – the first in Asia to help others develop green building policies and actions. We have been actively contributing to the efforts of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to address the impact of international transport on climate change. We share our adaptation and mitigation experience through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), and the more customised Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme which has already benefited nearly 7,000 officials from fellow developing countries.

### **Conclusion**

10 It is our firm belief that we have a unique opportunity now to build an agreement which will serve as a durable and universal base, for all countries to undertake climate

action. We hope that the common resolve in New York today will inject renewed impetus and political momentum to the negotiations as we head to Lima and then to Paris.

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### **Summary of Singapore's Domestically Driven Climate Actions**

Singapore has taken domestic measures to move towards a low carbon pathway. The National Climate Change Strategy published in 2012 outlines our whole-of-government strategy to address climate change. These efforts are aimed at preparing Singapore for the uncertainties and impact of climate change, seizing opportunities and supporting Singapore's transition to a lower emission economy. We will also be publishing an updated Sustainable Singapore Blueprint later this year.

Given Singapore's limited alternative energy options, energy efficiency is one of our key strategies for carbon emissions reduction. Our geographical constraints prevent access to options such as nuclear, wind, wave or geothermal energy. We therefore encourage building owners and companies to adopt energy efficient building designs, equipment and processes by offering incentives and grants. Presently, more than 20% of Singapore's buildings have attained Green Mark certification by our Building and Construction Authority. Earlier this month, we unveiled our 3rd Green Building Master Plan which maps a holistic strategy to accelerate the 'greening' of existing buildings and to bring us closer to our target of 80% green buildings by 2030.

We have also invested heavily in public transport infrastructure and restrained our vehicular growth and usage since 1990. We also introduced a Carbon Emissions-Based Vehicle Scheme (CEVS) which imposes a surcharge or rebate for registration fees depending on the emissions levels of the car being purchased and have set a target for a 70-30% modal split for public-private transport by 2020.

The Energy Conservation Act was passed in April 2013 to mandate large users of energy to monitor and report their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and submit plans for energy efficiency improvement. For the household sector, we have schemes to keep consumers informed of the energy efficiency of appliances, and ensure that all models of refrigerators, air-conditioners and clothes dryers sold in Singapore meet a basic level of energy efficiency.

We use natural gas - the cleanest form of fossil fuel – for over 90% of our electricity generation, among the highest in the world. We price energy at market cost without any subsidy so that households and businesses use energy judiciously.

Looking ahead, we plan to increase our solar deployment from around 15 megawatt-peak (MWp) today to 350MWp by 2020, which will meet 5% of our projected peak electricity demand. Solar panels will be installed on the rooftops of public housing, government buildings, military camps and schools. Given the amount of cloud cover and limited surface area on which solar panels can be installed, this is still a challenge. We thus also

fund a National Innovation Challenge on “Energy Resilience for Sustainable Growth” to catalyse research, development and demonstration to increase our energy options, improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

We are also studying how our economic strategies and industrial structure can best respond to, and take advantage of, a low-carbon future and to stabilise our emissions over the long term. This includes research, development and deployment of low-carbon technology and urban systems. Given our constraints, and the fact that all our actions are voluntary and domestically funded, it should be recognised that these efforts are made at considerable economic and social opportunity costs.

Through these efforts, Singapore generates relatively low levels of carbon emissions per GDP dollar in the world, ranking 96th out of 142 countries. Singapore’s emissions grew at an average annual rate of 2.0% in the last decade, compared to 2.2% globally. During this period, Singapore’s GDP grew by 76%, compared to a 22% increase in emissions and a 34% increase in energy use. This reflects our improved energy and carbon efficiency. Over the same period, our carbon intensity decreased by 3.6% per annum, which compares favourably with the global average decrease of 0.01% per annum.

As a low-lying island, Singapore is vulnerable to climate change, such as rising sea levels, intense rainfall, dry spells and other extreme weather events. As such, adapting to the effects of climate change is a national priority. For example, since 2011, we have increased the minimum platform level by 1.0m for newly reclaimed land, to 2.25m above the highest ever recorded tide level. We are enhancing drainage infrastructure and flood management systems. We are investing in new capabilities in climate science to achieve a deeper understanding of our vulnerabilities and develop appropriate adaptation solutions against the risks posed by climate change. Last year, we set up the Centre for Climate Research – Singapore (CCRS), the world’s first research centre dedicated to tropical climate and weather of Singapore and the wider Southeast Asia region.

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