



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

318 EAST 48TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL: (212) 826 0840 FAX: (212) 826 2964

**STATEMENT BY SAM TAN, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
GENERAL DEBATE (ITEM 5A) OF THE 12TH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,
11 JUNE 2019, UN HEADQUARTERS**

Mr Chair,

Singapore is committed to building an inclusive society, where persons with disabilities are recognised, empowered and given every opportunity to be integral and contributing members of society.

This year's Conference theme, of ensuring inclusion in a changing world through the implementation of the CRPD, resonates strongly with Singapore.

Every five years, Singapore reviews our Enabling Masterplan. This is our national roadmap for disability policies and initiatives, and our implementation of the CRPD. Our regular reviews ensure that our efforts reflect the prevailing context, address the latest needs of our citizens and stakeholders and anticipate challenges ahead.

Together with our community partners, we have made significant progress under the first two Masterplans in the areas of early detection and intervention, education, training and employment, transportation and assistive technology.

In addition, we have undertaken concerted measures to improve Singapore's built environment, with close to 100% of our public transport system barrier free and wheelchair accessible.

We have also seen greater participation of persons with disabilities in the community, in sports and the arts through initiatives such as the Disability Sports

Master Plan and the annual Arts and Disability platform. We are breaking down social barriers to inclusion with public education campaigns¹.

Upon these foundations, we are now pushing forward with our third Masterplan to provide support for persons with disabilities across all stages of their lives, as well as for their caregivers.

The Singapore Government will continue to work closely with community partners to embrace new challenges and develop more coordinated and targeted support. Our current focus is on:

- i. Building a model for inclusive preschools;
- ii. Preparing students with special needs for the future economy; and
- iii. Leveraging technology and design for independent living.

We look forward to sharing more details at the Conference, and to learn from others. We continually strive to better our efforts in building the hardware, software, and heartware of an inclusive Singapore.

Thank you Mr Chair.

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¹ A key example of our public education efforts is the “*See the True Me*” campaign. Driven by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), the campaign encourages the public to celebrate the strengths and abilities of persons with special needs instead of focus on their disabilities. In addition, the campaign also educates the public on communication tips and support strategies for persons with special needs. The third iteration of the campaign was recently launched on 22 Feb 2019, with 10 corporate and community partners (e.g. LiHo, KFC Singapore, OUE Social Kitchen, National Library Board, People’s Association Water Venture) pledging their support to (i) adopt inclusive hiring practices for PwDs; (ii) increase opportunities for interaction; and (iii) encourage social participation of persons with special needs through socio-recreational activities.