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**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT THE 14TH CONFERENCE
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES, 15 - 17 JUNE 2021**

Mr President,

1 Singapore welcomes the convening of this Conference. This year's theme is timely as we build towards a post-COVID future together. Our fruitful exchange of experiences will also help us collectively advance Sustainable Development Goal 10 of reducing inequality within societies.

Commented [D01]: For info, liner inserted by MFA. The "2030 Agenda" refers to the Sustainable Development Goals set up by the UNGA and intended to be achieved by the year 2030. Singapore supports the 2030 Agenda, and MFA tries to include SDGs as part of 'UN speak' in statements where possible to show that our efforts are part of a bigger picture.

2 Singapore is committed to building an inclusive society, where persons with disabilities are empowered to participate as integral members. Our disability initiatives are guided by our national roadmap, known as the Enabling Masterplan. This is a five-year plan, and we are into our third edition. Collectively developed by the public, private and people sectors, including persons with disabilities, we have made good progress under these masterplans. This has laid a good foundation for ensuring a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commented [D02]: Aligned with the UN Sec-Gen's policy brief on 'a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19' released in May 2020, which we've referenced to at various platforms (including the response to the JC by the UN Special Rapporteurs)

3 This pandemic has had a profound impact on all segments of society, but Singapore remains committed to supporting persons with disabilities. We have strived to ensure that access to essential services are not impeded despite various restrictions during this difficult time. For example, the Government worked with disability service providers to ensure that services, such as speech therapy, could be provided online. We also ensured that students with sensory impairments had access to assistive technology during home-based learning, so that their education was not disrupted.

4 To mitigate the pandemic's economic impact, we provided financial support to vulnerable families, and created new job and training opportunities for persons with disabilities. Additional wage offsets and training grants were also provided to employers of persons with disabilities.

Commented [D03]: For info, this is referring to the measures taken during circuit breaker and the extended period of restrictions/safe management measures in 2020. These had been shared in more detail at the last COSP statement (no word limit) and at other platforms.

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5 Even through the pandemic, we have continued to make progress on our Enabling Masterplan, in areas such as access to education, employment, healthcare, public transport, and information and services for persons with disabilities.

Mr President,

6 Singapore recognises that maximising the potential and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities are essential to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda promise to “leave no one behind”. Only then can we build a strong, inclusive and sustainable society for the future.

7 Thank you.

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Word count: 332 words

Total est. duration: approx. 2 min 40 sec (at 125wpm, to allow for clearer recitation for recording purposes) / 2 min 33 sec (at 130wpm)

MSF Parliamentary Secretary Eric Chua’s reading speed: 130 wpm

Commented [D04]: For info, liner inserted by MFA. The “2030 Agenda” refers to the Sustainable Development Goals set up by the UNGA and intended to be achieved by the year 2030. Singapore supports the 2030 Agenda, and MFA tries to include SDGs as part of ‘UN speak’ in statements where possible to show that our efforts are part of a bigger picture.