

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE  
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES, 14 - 16 JUNE 2022**

Mr President,

1 Singapore welcomes the convening of this Conference. This year's theme is apt as we build a post-COVID future together. We reaffirm our commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and we look forward to a fruitful exchange of experiences.

2 Singapore is committed to building an inclusive society where persons with disabilities participate as integral members. Our disability initiatives are guided by our national roadmap, the Enabling Masterplan. Collectively developed by the public, private and people sectors, including persons with disabilities, our fourth edition will be launched this year. It will continue our efforts for the advancement of the SDG for and with persons with disabilities.

3 Singapore's experience with COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of inclusion throughout society. Persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic's economic disruptions. To mitigate this, we have been providing financial support to affected individuals and families. We have also been creating new job and training opportunities through additional wage offsets and training grants. We will press on with various efforts post-pandemic.

4 The pandemic has also accelerated the pace of digital adoption. Singapore is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind. Government agencies are required to comply with international web accessibility standards. The Government Technology Agency formed an Accessibility Enabling team this year to design inclusive government digital services based on the perspectives of persons with disabilities.

5 The pandemic has also taught us the importance of enhancing emergency preparedness, not just for future health emergencies, but other crises as well. Public

communications were a crucial element in our fight against COVID-19, and we will continue to provide official information in accessible formats. In emergencies, frontline responders are trained to evacuate persons with disabilities, and there is a nation-wide text message alert system to reach the Deaf and hard of hearing.

Mr President,

6 Singapore is committed to supporting persons with disabilities and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda promise to “leave no one behind”. We will continue to work with our community to build a caring and inclusive society for the future.

7 Thank you.

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