

SINGAPORE STATEMENT

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**SIXTH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
THE HAGUE, 21 NOV 2000**

Mr President  
Your Excellencies  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Singapore delegation, allow me to first convey our congratulations to His Excellency, Mr Jan Pronk, for being elected as President of the Sixth Conference of Parties (COP-6). I am confident that under His Excellency's able leadership, we will achieve what we had set out to do at COP-5 held in Buenos Aires two years ago.

2 In Buenos Aires, we gave ourselves until COP-6 to conclude negotiations on the implementation of the provisions in the landmark Kyoto Protocol. Although we have made good progress since COP-5, there is still much to be covered at this COP.

3 COP-6 presents us with an opportunity to deliberate and resolve several issues that are still outstanding in the Kyoto Protocol. These issues include the transfer of technology, flexible mechanisms, compliance regime, to name just a few. We need to address the issues in respect of their design and implementation. We must press for a successful resolution of these outstanding issues in order to bring about an early implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

4 Since the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Rio Summit in 1992, many non-Annex I Parties have initiated their own measures to alleviate global warming. Annex I Parties too have shown their will and collective leadership at Kyoto by committing to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We trust that this spirit of global partnership will continue to prevail during our negotiations here.

5 Of late, the world has been bombarded by negative reports on the health of the planet. An example is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report released last month, which warned that global temperature could rise by as much as six degrees Celsius by the end of the century, compared with 1990. Similar reports have also

revealed that some Pacific Island nations have already experienced a rise in average temperatures of one degree Celsius over the past century. Over the next 20 years, it is predicted that rising sea levels and sea temperatures caused by global warming may devastate the economies of several small South Pacific nations over the next 20 years.

6 In the face of these alarming studies, we must not relent on our efforts, but muster our collective will to redouble our efforts towards meeting the challenges before us. Singapore remains committed to playing our part to help mitigate global warming, despite being in a unique situation with respect to the Convention.

7 Singapore is a small island city-state. We are not endowed with any natural resources. Our day-to-day energy need is totally dependent on imported fossil fuels. We also have little potential to develop non-fossil, alternative sources of energy. While not obligated to set emission control targets under the Convention, Singapore has already invested millions of dollars to contain our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

8 In Singapore, power generation accounts for half of our CO<sub>2</sub> emission. We have made conscious effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions due to power generation. Switching from fuel oil to natural gas is an effective measure to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission. As fuel for power generation, natural gas is cleaner than fuel oil. We have four power generating stations and one of them is already using natural gas since 1992. We are also embarking on projects to bring in new natural gas supplies. Singapore has so far been able to secure the supply of more natural gas. Our power generation industry has also adopted the combined cycle technology to further reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per unit of electricity generated.

9 In the transport sector, we have actively discouraged private car ownership and promoted the use of public transportation. Singapore recognises that mass transport, i.e. rail and bus, is far more energy efficient than private transport. Besides curtailing CO<sub>2</sub> emission, other air pollutants such as CO, particulate, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, etc. would also be reduced significantly.

10 Some of the initiatives Singapore has implemented included the construction and expansion of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) System network, and improving our bus services. From the environment standpoint, the MRT network is an ideal alternative to private vehicles. It not only alleviates traffic congestion on the road, but also eliminates emission of air pollutants. The construction of the existing network cost

more than US\$3.5 billion. In the next 5 years, the expansion of the network is estimated to cost close to US\$5 billion.

11 As part of the government's continual effort to help mitigate global warming, we have recently announced the introduction of "green" vehicle tax incentives in 2001 to encourage the import of electric and hybrid vehicles, which generate substantially less pollution than conventional vehicles. These rebates will lower the cost differential between electric and hybrid vehicles, and conventional cars.

12 On the energy demand side, we have formed an Inter-Agency Committee on Energy Efficiency (IACEE) to take a critical look at Singapore's energy consumption. Its terms of reference include reviewing current energy usage; benchmarking our energy consumption efficiency against other cities of the world; establishing the impact of building regulations, energy pricing policies and land resource planning; and recommending policy measures to improve efficiency of energy consumption.

13 Singapore will continue to do its part in limiting our greenhouse gas emissions, taking into consideration our particular circumstance. We recall that the basic principle of the Convention is one of common but differentiated responsibilities. In this respect, Singapore strongly believes that every country has a role to play in this collective global effort to control emission of greenhouse gases.

14 Developed countries must first display true leadership in this global effort by fulfilling their obligations and their commitments to a meaningful reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Singapore would like to urge these countries to lead the developing countries towards achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. Developed countries should, therefore, expedite the transfer of technological and financial assistance to enable developing countries to better play their part in the global effort.

15 The Singapore delegation believes that the concern on the health of the global environment should be equitably shared among all members of the international community. We are therefore optimistic that COP-6 will be able to achieve an outcome that is beneficial to our common long-term interests. In this respect, Singapore stands ever ready to co-operate with colleagues to find solutions to the challenges before us.

Thank you.