

**STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MR JOSEPH TEO**  
**AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL ON CLIMATE ACTION**

Thank you, Canada, China, and the EU for your timely initiative of convening the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial on Climate Action. As we continue with our efforts to contain COVID-19 and recover economically, we must not lose sight of the urgent need to combat climate change. It is imperative that we build back better from this crisis in a sustainable and inclusive manner, and in line with the Paris goals.

2 We have three suggestions on how we can all work together to put in place the necessary enablers for the transition to a low-carbon, climate- and pandemic-resilient future:

- First, we need commitment. Notwithstanding the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in currently, we all need to come forward with enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS). This will serve to demonstrate that governments will stay the course and remain committed in our fight against climate change, which is a key enabler or signal for others, notably private sector and investors, to act. This will also demonstrate our commitment to the multilateral process and support for global climate action at a time when the multilateral system is under strain. More practically, these plans will guide our long-term policy making, including our post-COVID-19 recovery plans. This was why Singapore submitted our enhanced NDC and LEDS early, even as we were concurrently managing the COVID-19 crisis.
- Second, we need to adapt and strengthen our structures and systems to be more resilient, particularly to future supply shocks. COVID-19 has highlighted the risks of supply disruptions. These risks will not fade after COVID-19 and may even be compounded by the challenges of climate change. We need to ensure that global supply lines and trade routes remain open and diversified, particularly during crises. This was why Singapore initiated a Joint Statement on Open Markets, Flow of Essential Goods and Supply Chain Connectivity in New York, which received the support of 175 UN Member States.

Nationally, we need to enhance our resilience by managing our supply chain risks and to do so in a manner consistent with our climate commitments. Taking food security for example, even before COVID-19, Singapore announced last year an ambitious “30 by 30” goal to produce 30 per cent of Singapore’s nutritional needs locally by 2030. But COVID-19 has shown that we need to do more. We are currently working to expedite the implementation of our “30 by 30” plan and considering ways of achieving our goal in a carbon-efficient manner.

- Third, we need to invest in low-emissions technology and innovative solutions to transition to a low-carbon economy. At the international level, we need greater collaboration between governments, the private sector, and research institutions to develop innovative solutions. We also need to catalyse and reorient private investment flows into growth areas that are sustainable and green. Recently, we joined the EU-led International Platform on Sustainable Finance to support efforts to scale up private capital to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. On the domestic front, we are investing, in collaboration with industry leaders, in emerging technologies currently still in the developmental phase, e.g. carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) and low-carbon hydrogen, as part of our ongoing efforts to decarbonise our electricity grid and industrial processes. An industry-led alliance has also been formed to seize new opportunities in environmental sustainability in the post-COVID-19 era. We will set aside over S\$20 billion over the next five years to support research in high impact areas such as climate change and health and biomedical sciences, to study their interlinkages and pioneer solutions.

3 Like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change will bring about unprecedented changes to the world. With stronger commitment, strengthened resilience, and greater investment in low-emissions solutions, we can emerge stronger from the crisis. Together, we can build back better.