

Singapore Statement at 2nd Intersessional Meeting for UNCSD, New York,

15-16 Dec 2011

Mr Chairman,

Singapore would like to align itself with the statements made by Argentina this morning on behalf of the G77 and China.

It is perhaps timely that Singapore's Ministry of the Environment was established in 1972, the same year as the conference in Stockholm when the concept of sustainable development first arose. Since then, we have been actively pursuing sustainable development, most recently through the formulation of the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint, which sets out our strategies and initiatives to achieve both economic growth and a good living environment for the next two decades. We have also sought to share with, and learn from others, by hosting international platforms such as our annual Singapore International Water Week, the CleanEnviro Summit of Singapore, and the World Cities Summit.

2 In Singapore's context, sustainable development has never been anything less than a necessity. As an alternative-energy disadvantaged (AED) nation with few natural resources, limited land and high population density, resource efficiency has been necessary for us to make the most of what little we have. This requires Singapore to adopt a flexible, long-term, integrated approach to policy planning, and implementation in a pragmatic and cost-effective manner. Some specific measures include pricing energy appropriately, dissemination of information for decision-making, improvement of water efficiency, focusing on land use planning, boosting of energy efficiency industry designs, processes and technologies, and the promotion of resource efficient buildings and public transport.

Mr Chairman

3 Rio + 20 is an unique opportunity to change the way we live, not just in theory but in practice. It is therefore important that we adopt a **10 Year-Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production**, as called for by the Johannesburg Plan of Action and based on the text negotiated at the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The 10YFP on SCP could assist countries in their efforts to increase resource efficiency and reduce waste. It would also help corporations to develop more sustainable development friendly business models, while encouraging consumers to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

4 We also believe that it is timely for Rio + 20 to address the issue of **sustainable cities**, defined by UN-Habitat as being “environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and economically productive”. According to UN-Habitat, 60 percent of the world’s population will be living in urban areas by 2015. This provides tremendous challenges to and opportunities for the sustainable development agenda. There is broad consensus on the growing importance of sustainable cities for both developing and developed countries. Many UN agencies and countries are already doing good work on sustainable cities. It would be useful for Rio + 20 to bring all the elements together within the context of sustainable cities, taking into account the inter-linkages such as energy, water and sanitation, waste management, disaster risk reduction, governance and implementation.

Mr Chairman,

5 This summit only comes by once every 10 years. Let us not lose this opportunity to take concrete steps towards safeguarding the environment for future generations through sustainable development.

Thank you Mr Chairman.