

**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.

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.

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.

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.