



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY FIRST SECRETARY, SAW YONG KAI,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
AT THE SECOND INFORMAL MEETING ON THE DECLARATION  
FOR THE 2022 UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14,  
NEW YORK, 24 AND 25 MARCH 2022**

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1 I thank the co-facilitators, Grenada and Denmark, for convening this second informal meeting. We appreciate the active engagement throughout these consultations.

2 I take the floor to convey brief comments.

3 First, on paragraph 7, we echo the proposal from Pakistan on behalf of G77. What the phrase “building back better, greener and bluer from the COVID-19 pandemic” is meant to convey is unclear. We support replacing the phrase with agreed language, such as “sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”, which is from UNGA Resolution 76/198, titled “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”.

4 Second, on paragraph 8, we agree with the current formulation. There has been a proposal to insert a “safeguard clause” based on language from UNGA resolution 72/249. We would highlight that UNGA resolution 72/249 was a resolution on the convening of an intergovernmental conference to elaborate a legally binding instrument under UNCLOS—this being the BBNJ IGC. We are, however, presently negotiating a political declaration. In our view, the inclusion of the proposed safeguard language would neither be necessary nor appropriate, particularly in the context of what we are presently negotiating.

5 Third, on paragraph 11(e), we are of the view that the “best available science”, as well as the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach, should be reflected as considerations in the assessment of the value of area-based management tools or “ABMTs” for short. We therefore propose amending paragraph 11(e) to read: “inter alia, assessing their ecological, social and cultural

value, on the basis of the best available science, and the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach, in accordance with national legislation and international law”.

5           My delegation assures you of our full support and will continue to engage constructively in the consultations.

6           Thank you.

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