

**STATEMENT BY MR JASON TAN, FIRST SECRETARY (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT), PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

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Thank you, Co-Chairs.

Singapore aligns itself with the statement made by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

2 I thank the co-chairs of the preparatory committee, Maldives and New Zealand, for all your efforts in bringing us closer to finalizing the next programme of action for SIDS for the next decade. This document is the most important deliverable for the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference, which we are less than 2 months away from. It needs to be an action-oriented document, filled with commitments from the international community to support SIDS to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow, and achieve our sustainable development aspirations.

3 But that is not what is happening. We are witnessing commitments being watered down, and ambition being weakened. In critical issues such as climate change, water security, and financing, amongst others, we are seeing greater divergence, and not convergence.

4 But as SIDS, we have not wavered. We have continued to engage constructively, with positivity that we can still come to an agreement on an ambitious outcome document. And we will continue to do so. We remain optimistic that we are still able to build an outcome document that adequately accounts for the vulnerabilities, and adequately lays out the means by which SIDS can leapfrog progress in sustainable development in the next ten years.

5 We urge delegations to view this programme of action with the lenses of SIDS, and we encourage you to stand in solidarity with SIDS. This week, we must dedicate ourselves towards a comprehensive outcome document that reaffirms global commitment to support SIDS.

6 Singapore remains committed to an ambitious, action-oriented outcome document for the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference. We will continue to engage constructively with all delegations, and look forward to working closely with the co-chairs as well, to achieve this outcome.

7 Thank you.

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