

**RESUMED MEETING OF THE FIFTH OPEN-ENDED COMMITTEE
OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE**

Mdm Chair

1 We are pleased to join the discussions at the fifth Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, but it is unfortunate that we can only do so virtually. We commend you for your leadership as we make progress on our preparatory work ahead of the resumed Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly, and your steadfastness in performing your role under challenging circumstances.

2 Singapore associates ourselves with the statement made by the G77/China.

3 We have an extensive agenda ahead of us. We note that there are currently more than 15 draft resolutions that Member States will need to consider and finalise this week.

4 Let me go straight to the point. One of the resolutions before us is a draft resolution on mineral resource governance, which makes reference to Resolution 4/19 on Mineral Resource Governance adopted at UNEA-4. Singapore would like to take this opportunity to place on the record our position regarding UNEP's report titled "Sand and Sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources", which was referenced in Resolution 4/19.

5 We emphasise that Singapore does not condone any illegal trade or extraction of sand. Singapore has stringent controls to ensure that suppliers obtain sand in accordance with source countries' laws and regulations. Singapore has also taken steps to reduce our reliance on sand for both reclamation and construction. For example:

- We actively promote alternative construction methods, such as using structural steel and mass-engineered timber, which lower concrete and sand use. We also explore alternative reclamation methods such as development of polders which requires less sand.

- We engage the construction sector to actively recycle construction and demolition waste and reuse concrete aggregates in construction projects. Since 2016, Singapore has achieved a consistent 99% recycling rate for our construction and demolition waste.
- Singapore is exploring the use of a new construction material derived from treated incineration bottom ash, as part of Singapore’s approach to enhance resource use sustainability, towards our goal to be a Zero-Waste Nation.

As a country that has proactively adopted these measures, we find that the Report did not represent Singapore in a fair and balanced manner. We respectfully ask that Singapore’s clarifications be placed on record, given our reservations on the report and the approach that was taken toward its publication. We will be submitting our full written statement to the Secretariat.

6 While we are disappointed, we remained engaged and ready to work with UNEP, and encourage UNEP to continue consulting widely for their reports, including by engaging Member States, in order to ensure that the reports are factually accurate and bear the highest standards of accuracy.

7 As we deliberate on the draft resolutions for UNEA-5.2, Singapore is committed to engage in the discussions actively. We look forward to working with all Member States in an open, transparent, and country-driven process, and urge Member States to streamline and prioritise proposals, so we can ensure effective and successful deliberations during the hybrid meetings of the OECPR-5.2 and the UNEA-5.2.

8 Thank you.

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