

**Arctic Environment Ministers' Meeting, 11-12 October 2018**  
**Written Statement on Singapore's Contribution**

1 Singapore was granted observer status at the Arctic Council (AC) in May 2013. Climate change, which affects the Arctic more rapidly and severely, requires a global response. Singapore is committed to achieving our goals under the Paris Agreement, and is taking steps to mitigate and build resilience against climate change. These includes designating 2018 as the Year of Climate Action in Singapore, efforts to reduce marine litter and pollution, as well as strengthening the network of marine protected areas, and biodiversity conservation efforts. We are a strong supporter of multilateral approaches to climate change, and actively participate in international climate change negotiations. At the AC, we contribute in the relevant Working Groups (WGs) and Task Forces. Some of our efforts are outlined below:

*Marine litter*

2 Singapore attended the Marine Litter Workshop in Akureyri, Iceland in June 2018 to share our national experiences in reducing marine litter. This includes initiatives such as the National Recycling Programme to reduce plastic waste being sent for disposal, and our efforts towards becoming a Zero Waste Nation by reducing consumption, and reusing and recycling materials. We also provided input to the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group's draft Marine Litter Desktop Study.

*Marine pollution*

3 Singapore is committed to the prevention of pollution from ships. We have ratified all six Annexes of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). As a responsible flag State and port State, Singapore conducts inspections on ships in our port to ensure that they comply with the regulations on garbage disposal into the sea and that anti-pollution measures are in place.

4 Internationally, Singapore participated actively in the development of the Polar Code which aims to reduce maritime environmental pollution in Arctic (and Antarctic) waters. To create more awareness of clean and green shipping, Singapore partnered Norway for an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Green Shipping Conference held in Singapore in April 2018. The Conference studied innovation solutions to reduce emissions from maritime transport. At the AC, we

have and will continue sharing our experiences in responding to oil spill incidents and emergency preparedness and response with the relevant Working Groups, such as the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) and will continue participating in the Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (MOSPA) Tabletop exercises.

### *Biodiversity conservation*

5 Singapore works with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group on the conservation and monitoring of Arctic migratory shorebirds. We track Arctic migratory shorebirds stopping over in the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, an important stop-over point along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), and provide data to CAFF's Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI). Singapore hosted an AMBI Workshop in January 2017, bringing together practitioners and policy-makers from the Arctic and Southeast Asia to discuss ways to promote cooperation on the conservation of Arctic migratory birds in Southeast Asia. We are also hosting the EAAF-AMBI Coordinator at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in Singapore.

### *Sustainable energy development*

6 Recognising the synergies between the Arctic and Southeast Asia on sustainable and remote energy access, Singapore hosted an "Energy Transitions and a Globalised Arctic" Workshop in August 2016, and a follow-up "Sustainable Energy Development in the Arctic: Collaboration on the Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas" Workshop in August 2018. Technical experts from the Arctic and Southeast Asia discussed synergies in energy-related and sustainable development issues to explore common solutions. The outcomes of the August 2018 Workshop will be presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Arctic Circle Assembly (ACA) in Iceland in October 2018.