

Annex A

Statement by Mr Chan Chun Sing Minister for Education & Minister-in-charge of the Public Service of Singapore United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Corruption

Mr President,

1. Singapore welcomes the General Assembly's timely decision to place special focus on the problem of corruption during this United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Corruption.

2. Corruption continues to be one of the biggest challenges to global security and the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This Special Session, which focuses on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption, is an opportunity for Governments to take stock of anti-corruption developments and consider how best to meet the emerging transnational challenges in a post-COVID-19 world.

3. Singapore's approach towards corruption is a firm commitment to upholding the rule of law with zero tolerance for corruption. The Government, Public Service and our People are constantly vigilant and determined to keep corruption at bay through our four-pronged approach:

- First, strong political will to fight corruption wherever it exists and in whatever form it takes.
- Second, robust anti-corruption laws that effectively deal with and deter corruption.
- Third, an effective and impartial Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau that enforces these anti-corruption laws; and
- Last but not least, a clean and efficient Public Service with a strong ethos of serving our people.

4. Ultimately, these seek to give businesses the confidence that their investments will thrive in Singapore because our rules and processes are fair, coherent and transparent.

Mr President,

5. Although Singapore has had some success in combating corruption, we will never claim to have permanently solved the problem. There is no room for complacency, as the corruption threat is always evolving. A case in point is how the international financial system can be abused to launder corrupt proceeds through technological advances. We must leverage science and technology to prevent and combat sophisticated forms of corruption.

6. Corruption has also become increasingly borderless. As an international financial hub, Singapore believes that international cooperation and partnerships are essential to tackling corruption. Singapore is a founding member of the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre, and we have supported the Centre's operations through intelligence sharing to assist countries that have suffered from grand corruption. In addition, Singapore is committed to fulfilling its obligations on asset recovery as set out in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and has assisted in seizing and returning illicitly acquired assets to States Parties.

Mr President,

7. On the occasion of this Special Session, Singapore reaffirms our full commitment to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The Political Declaration to be adopted at this Special Session rightfully recognises that international cooperation is crucial to tackling corruption and sets out the battle against corruption as a top priority on the global agenda. Singapore stands ready to work with our global partners in our collective fight against corruption.

Thank you.

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