

**SINGAPORE'S COMMENTS TO THE DRAFT TEMPLATE ON PLEDGES/COMMITMENTS, CPR
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, 13 APR 2017**

1. The draft template prepared by the Secretariat is useful as a starting point for discussions. Preliminarily, we are not entirely certain whether the current form and structure of the proposed draft template is the best. The draft template appears prescriptive and has specific areas and categories that requires input. It also tries to classify the contribution into fixed categories. This one-size fits-all approach might not fit well and address diverse national circumstances that all Member States face. It might also make it difficult for Member States and stakeholders to fill in.

2. In this regard, we suggest to simplify the form and frame it as a guidance document, rather than a template with specific fields to suggest possible areas for countries or stakeholders to address if they are appropriate [*Note: The guidance document could contain directions similar to information contained in the presentation slides on voluntary commitments presented by the Secretariat at this meeting*]. As such, the work done by the Secretariat is not wasted. We believe that a guidance document would provide countries and stakeholders greater latitude to frame their contributions, for instance in the form of a write-up. We also believe a guidance document will help encourage more Member States and stakeholders to join in the process.

3. Going into specifics, we have two quick comments. The first relates to the issue of semantics. We are of the view that the word “commitments” could suggest legally binding obligations and might be seen as putting hurdles to discourage Member State and stakeholders from participating in the process. Instead of calling it “commitments”, we suggest to frame it as “contributions”. This would also help encourage inclusivity.

4. The second is on the issue of monitoring and reporting. We believe that it is up to each Member State and stakeholders to decide what to report. This goes back to the comment that we have made earlier about being careful not to frame this exercise as an onerous one. We are also of the view that Member States and stakeholders can include monitoring and reporting in their write-up if it is necessary, but it should not be a mandatory item as it is important to give space when is needed. As such, it is useful to consider if there is a need to have this segment as it is in the template.

5. In summary, Singapore thinks that it is good to have a guidance document rather than a prescriptive template that needs to be filled up. This will allow Member States and stakeholders the space to craft their own contributions and encourage more contributions.