

**Contribution by the Republic of Singapore on the theme:
“Sea-level rise and its impacts”**

This contribution is made in response to LOS/SGR/2020/1/ST, which invites Member States to submit a contribution outlining their views on the theme “Sea-level rise and its impacts”.

2 Sea-level rise poses an existential threat to many countries and is an issue of global concern. Singapore therefore welcomes the decision in General Assembly resolution 74/19 to focus the discussions of the Informal Consultative Process at its twenty-first meeting on the theme “Sea-level rise and its impacts”.

3 The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate released in September 2019 indicates that in a worst-case emissions scenario, a sea level rise of between 61 centimetres and 1.1 metres is now likely by 2100. The rise could be substantially higher if the Antarctic ice disappears faster. It is hence important that the global community continue to work closely to implement multilateral efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other relevant international fora such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO). Singapore will continue to play an active role to support and advance global climate action under these fora.

4 As a small, low-lying island State, Singapore is particularly vulnerable to the threat of rising sea levels. At the national level, Singapore has embarked on a nationwide strategy to mitigate the threat of sea-level rise. This includes local measures to protect buildings, developments and critical infrastructure. For instance, since 2011, we have raised minimum platform levels for new development projects to at least four metres above the mean sea level. For new critical infrastructure, such as our Tuas Port and Changi Airport Terminal 5, we are building them on land raised to even higher platform levels. We will also invest in coastal defences such as building sea walls and dykes, and incorporate nature-based solutions such as active restoration of our mangrove areas.

5 Sea-level rise around the world would also have an impact on food security as a result of salinisation of fresh water supplies and agricultural soils. Singapore aims to mitigate some of these impacts by producing a portion of our nutritional needs through high-tech climate-controlled farming systems that utilise alternative growing mediums.

6 There is still significant uncertainty with regard to specific details on long-term sea-level rise, such as the rate and scale, and its potential impacts. More research and analysis is therefore required to fill the knowledge gap. In this regard, it would be particularly useful to learn more about how we can guard against the impacts of long-term sea-level rise, through efficient and sustainable measures.

7 Finally, Singapore reaffirms the view, as reflected in GA resolution 74/19, that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained.

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