



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR NATHANIEL KHNG,
COUNSELLOR (LEGAL), PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 80, ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS SEVENTY-SECOND
SESSION,
SIXTH COMMITTEE,
5 NOVEMBER 2020**

1 Thank you Mr Chair. Singapore would like to thank the Chair-designate of the 72nd session of the International Law Commission and the Director of the Codification Division for their oral reports.

2 Singapore, as a small State with a firm belief in the rules-based multilateral system, would like to reiterate its strong support for the Commission's work and its organic and symbiotic relationship with the General Assembly through this Committee.

3 Singapore recognises that the situation created by the the COVID-19 pandemic required extraordinary measures to be taken with respect to the Commission, including the postponement of its 72nd session. However, in times of crisis such as the present, the importance of the international rule of law is not diminished. In fact, it is elevated. In this regard, it is critical that institutions, whose work are central to the continual strengthening and upholding of the international rule of law, are able to find ways to continue their work to the extent that is possible. The Commission, which is the only expert body that is responsible together with this Committee for discharging the General Assembly's mandate to pursue the "progressive development of international law and its codification", in furtherance of no less than the purposes and principles of the United Nations, is undoubtedly one such institution.

4 Therefore, we appreciate the work that has been undertaken during this extended intersessional period by Commission members with respect to topics in the Commission's programme of work. At the same time, we hope that the Commission will continue to explore ways to adapt its working methods to the

circumstances and to show tangible progress in this regard. In particular, we hope that the Commission will identify options to continue to hold its sessions, virtually if necessary, if it is not possible for members to meet in-person in the usual manner.

5 Thank you very much for your attention.

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