

National Statement at the 10th Conference of States Parties

United Nations Convention against Corruption

11 December 2023, Atlanta, USA

1. Good Morning President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore (or CPIB in short) would like to express our sincere appreciation towards the United States and the UNODC Secretariat, for your kind hospitality and hard work in the organisation of this conference.

2. Singapore's approach towards corruption is a firm commitment to upholding the rule of law with zero tolerance for corruption. As the sole anti-corruption agency, CPIB is resolute in our mandate to deter, prevent and investigate corruption in Singapore. Singapore adopts a four-pronged approach in keeping corruption firmly under control.

3. Firstly, we have a strong political will to fight corruption. Today, the political will to fight corruption and keep the system clean at all costs remains steadfast and unshaken. CPIB has never been prevented from taking corruptors to task. The recent high profile cases in Singapore that you might have heard of, are a strong affirmation that CPIB is empowered to pursue investigations against even high-level government officials without any interference.

4. Our robust anti-corruption laws have also ensured that corruption remains a 'high-risk, low reward' activity. Under the Prevention of Corruption Act, both offers to give, and agreements to accept gratification are criminalised. This Act also includes specific provisions that have extra-territorial reach over Singapore citizens who commit

corruption offences outside Singapore. The independent prosecutorial arm of Singapore, which is the Attorney-General Chambers, also ensures that the laws are effectively and consistently applied, and that convicted offenders are duly punished.

5. There is also an impartial CPIB that enforces these anti-corruption laws. CPIB has established a reputation of being thorough, scrupulous and fearless in its investigation against corrupt offenders.

6. Finally, and most importantly, we have the support of a vigilant public who eschews corruption and reports them because they trust CPIB to investigate and see through all corruption offences to their conclusion.

7. Although Singapore has had some success in combating corruption, there is no room for complacency. The corruption threat is always evolving. Like every other country, Singapore remains susceptible to the threat of corruption.

8. In fact, corruption has become increasingly borderless. Singapore believes that international cooperation is essential to tackle corruption effectively. Singapore is a founding member of the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre based in London. The Centre, which became operational in 2017, brings together law enforcement officers from various agencies around the world into a single location to enhance information sharing in strengthening global efforts against grand corruption.

9. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Singapore's commitment to the obligations set out under the UNCAC. On Singapore's second-cycle UNCAC review,

Singapore has hosted the country visit by our reviewers from Jordan and Morocco, as well as our UNODC colleagues in May this year. The country visit was a constructive and fruitful session, as we took the opportunity to share our anti-corruption experiences during the review.

10. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, tackling corruption is a never-ending battle. Singapore recognises that international cooperation is crucial to tackling corruption. Singapore stands ready to work with our global partners in our collective fight against corruption.

11. Thank you and we wish all States Parties a very fruitful Conference.