Mr Chair,

1 Thank you for giving me the floor.

2 Singapore recognises the importance of cooperation between States and assisting actors in facilitating effective relief efforts in response to disasters. The duty to cooperate, subject to the qualifier “as appropriate”, as well as the need to respond promptly to requests for assistance from affected States, are key to the protection of persons in the event of disasters. Such cooperation and assistance should take into account national contexts, capacities and capabilities. We note that the current draft Articles are scoped in a manner that provide flexibility for States to determine the need to offer or accept external assistance during disasters, and for affected States to determine the conditions of their receiving such assistance.

3 Thank you.