

**INTERVENTION BY
SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SINGAPORE SIM ANN
AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION OF THE SECOND PART OF THE FIFTH UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES
7 MARCH 2023**

Excellencies, Colleagues,

1. Singapore supports the call in the Doha Programme of Action for renewed and strengthened global partnership and South-South cooperation to assist the LDCs, particularly in the following areas.

2. First, investing in youth. The growing youth population in LDCs can be a powerful engine of growth, but education and skills training will play a crucial role.

3. Second, accelerating digital transformation. We must ensure that LDCs are not excluded from the tremendous opportunities and benefits that digitalisation has to offer.

4. Third, strengthening climate resilience. We need to significantly scale up assistance to the LDCs to build long-term resilience against climate change, while achieving sustainable growth.

5. Singapore has not forgotten the valuable technical assistance that we received during our formative years, including from UN specialised agencies and other countries.

6. We therefore support the work of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to advance development cooperation among developing countries and LDCs.

7. The Singapore Cooperation Programme or SCP is Singapore's flagship technical assistance programme for developing countries and a platform for us to "pay forward" the assistance that we received from the international community during our early years.

8. Under the SCP, we have hosted officials from more than 70 LDCs over the past 30 years, and have also partnered more than 50 countries and UN agencies to jointly deliver capacity-building programmes.

9. Singapore has customised and needs-specific technical assistance for the LDCs through various initiatives and packages including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, the Singapore-Africa Partnership Package, and Singapore Partnership for the SAMOA Pathway.

10. We have set up an exhibition booth at this conference to share more about the SCP and our various initiatives with the LDCs. We welcome partners to visit our booth to learn more.