

Delegation from the Republic of Singapore

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly I

The topic before the General Assembly (GA) is Artificial Intelligence and the International System and Cybercrimes and Human Security. The Republic of Singapore looks forward to collaborating closely with fellow member states on these following pressing issues.

I. Artificial Intelligence and the International System

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the International System has a direct impact on Member States globally due to an increase of multiple AI Startups. At the international level the Republic of Singapore is positioning itself as an AI leader among the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In addition to fostering greater user confidence in AI, the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics seeks to enable the member states in the United Nations (UN) regional governments and organizations to ethically design, develop, and implement traditional AI systems. Singapore's Minister of foreign affairs is a part of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). As a result Singapore emphasizes the transformative advantages of AI in fields including food security, health, and the environment, and it inspired more aspiration in applying AI to hasten the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) implementation.

The UN Office for Global AI (UNOGAI) has stated that Singapore in 2016 has invested \$1.98 billion in the AI industry and plans to invest an additional of \$740 million to accelerate its development over the next 5 years. As a result Singapore has undertaken and launched the National AI Strategies (NAIS) and as of 2023 an updated version NAIS 2.0 has been released. Its focus is on 3 systems and working through 10 enablers. Singapore has multiple projects such as Project Pensieve, Selenia+, OneService Chatbox. These investments in these projects and across 11 industries in Singapore is estimated to double the annual economic growth of the country to \$215 billion. In 2019 Singapore introduced its Model AI Governance Framework (also known as the "Model Framework") at the Davos World Economic Forum. The Model Framework is a unique contribution to the worldwide conversation on AI ethics because it converts moral precepts into actionable suggestions that businesses can easily implement to use AI ethically. The Model Framework's second edition was introduced recently in 2023 by Singapore and it includes comments from their participation in important international platforms, like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). An Expert Group on AI and the High-Level Expert Group of the European Commission, as well as the experiences of organizations that have used AI. Singapore at the conference on AI for the Global Good has stated that it is emerging and centrally focused on the development of AI and its benefits. However Singapore's stance acknowledges the concerns and direct Impacts on AI for the working class, and reassures that jobs will not be lost but a transition of jobs roles will occur.

The AI advisory body is publishing a report in part of the Summit of the Future in the summer of 2024. Singapore has shown a keen effort to support the structured development of AI as evidenced by initiatives like the establishment of the AI Verify Foundation (AIVF), which leverages the combined strength and contributions of the international open-source community to develop AI governance testing tools. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with Salesforce opened its first AI research hub outside of the U.S in Singapore. Creating a framework for the ethical development and application of AI was established, complete with rules and regulations, procedures and policies, and morally sound features for the products. Such as an AI Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

II. Cybercrimes and Human Security

The topic of cybercrime and human security is heavily significant in Singapore and the international stage. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted numerous resolutions over the years, notably including General Assembly Resolution 74/174 (2019), Countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online, and General Assembly Resolution 74/247 (2019) Countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, both of which garnered support from Singapore. In 2021 alone, \$632 million were lost, with 24,000 scams reported. Despite efforts to decrease physical crime, Singapore's technological-based crime rate continues to drive the overall crime rate to an all-time high. The Republic of Singapore is committed to aiding this issue and has constructed various strategies to protect fellow member states from cybercrimes and ensure human security.

In addition to prior international support, Singapore has established its own Cybersecurity Agency (CSA) tasked with overseeing international cyber diplomacy initiatives and implementing strategic programs to enhance human security measures. The CSA has made significant contributions through initiatives such as the Cybersecurity Labeling Scheme (CLS), which empowers consumers to discern the security attributes of their network-connected smart devices. Additionally, CLS serves to cultivate a higher incentive for companies to enhance the security standards of their products. Singapore has reached a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with member states Finland and Germany to acknowledge cyber security labels issued by the Federal Office for Information Security of Germany (BSI), the Communications Agency of Finland (TRAFICOM) and the CSA. U.S. President Joseph Biden and Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong have worked in collaboration to establish the US-Singapore Cyber Dialogue (USSCD). The USSCD focuses on sharing information in regard to international AI security, creating technology suited for sustainable economic growth and ensuring ethical and safe procedures when dealing with biotechnology. Singapore has actively engaged in the United Nations Open-ended Working Group (UN OEWG), focusing on developing international security and promoting responsible State conduct in cyberspace. Within the reports submitted, Singapore contributed a range of strategic tactics and recommendations outlining collaborative approaches for member states to establish a secure cyberspace environment. Notably, these recommendations were subsequently endorsed by UNGA.

In order to promote a safe and secure international cyberspace community, the Republic of Singapore encourages other member states to participate in an MRA regarding Singapore's Cybersecurity Labeling Scheme (CLS). Singapore's CLS is the first in the Asia-Pacific region and already has two MRAs with member states: Finland and Germany. The CLS serves as a protective mechanism aimed at safeguarding uninformed consumers from devices lacking cybersecurity credentials, decreasing the vulnerability of civilians to cyber intrusions. Singapore's CLS comprises essential components such as the cybersecurity label, which contains the product's registration identification, and cybersecurity levels facilitating information to consumers regarding the extent to which the product is secure. Level one signifies adherence to foundational security standards, while level two requires rigorous risk assessments and critical design reviews and meeting the level one prerequisite. Moving further, level three necessitates undergoing assessments endorsed by accredited third-party testing laboratories alongside fulfilling level two criteria. Finally, level four entails evaluation through testing conducted by accredited third-party testing laboratories, ensuring resistance against common cyber attacks and satisfying level three requirements. With understandable concerns regarding the right to privacy in Article 12 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), the CLS provides a simple yet effective strategy that focuses on informing the public and creating incentives for technological companies to focus on improving their overall security standards.

