



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE
SINGAPORE CONVENTION ROUNDTABLE
SINGAPORE, 7 AUGUST 2019**

“BUILDING TRUST, ENABLING INTERNATIONAL TRADE”

1. The Singapore Convention Roundtable was held in Singapore on 7 August 2019 in conjunction with the signing ceremony of the Singapore Convention on Mediation. The Roundtable was chaired by Singapore Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam SC, and attended by Heads of Delegation from 62 countries, namely Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Brunei, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Eswatini, Fiji, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Palau, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen. The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General of Legal Affairs was also present.

2. The Heads of Delegation noted that States around the world had to respond to fundamental shifts in the global order, strategic balances and trade flows. They discussed how they could work together to further build trust and enable international trade, amidst global uncertainties and disruptions, to sustain growth and development.

3. The Heads of Delegation underscored the importance of dialogue to facilitate mutual understanding, and resolve differences. They also recognised the importance of dialogue to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation and upholding the

multilateral rules-based order, which in turn would help maintain a stable global environment conducive for trade and commerce, benefitting all States, big or small.

4. The Heads of Delegation noted the significance of the Singapore Convention on Mediation for multilateralism and international trade. Through the process of international rule-making, the Singapore Convention demonstrated how States could forge consensus based on common goals. As an instrument of international law, the Singapore Convention was an example of common rules that would provide predictability and certainty of outcomes, increase respect for binding commitments, and enhance the enforceability of commercial bargains.

5. The Heads of Delegation from the first signatory States to the Singapore Convention on Mediation underscored their strong commitment to trade, commerce and investment by being the first signatories.

6. The Heads of Delegation who attended to support the signing ceremony of the Singapore Convention on Mediation acknowledged the value of the Singapore Convention in the facilitation of international trade and the promotion of mediation in the context of cross-border commercial disputes.

7. The Heads of Delegation commended the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in enhancing certainty in the enforcement of mediated settlement agreements for cross-border disputes.

8. The Heads of Delegation expressed their appreciation for Singapore's hosting of the signing of the Singapore Convention on Mediation and convening the Roundtable to facilitate dialogue and mutual understanding.