

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY MR K SHANMUGAM SC**  
**MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR LAW, SINGAPORE**  
**AT THE SINGAPORE CONVENTION ROUNDTABLE,**  
**7 AUGUST 2019, SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, SINGAPORE**

**“BUILDING TRUST, ENABLING INTERNATIONAL TRADE”**

Your Excellencies

1 Thank you for sharing your perspectives. There is much we can take away from this.

2 As we conclude our discussions, I think we have benefited from the sharing and exchanges.

3 While our circumstances differ by countries and by regions, we all share a common desire: to lead our respective communities to deal with these changes and to continue to bring growth and development.

4 Against that backdrop, many of us shared what our respective countries are doing, ready to build trust, with our people, and with one another, and to enable flow of international trade and commerce. Many of Your Excellencies underscored the need for dialogue and engagement to facilitate mutual understanding and a collaborative mindset to resolve differences so that everybody gets something. On the international stage, many shared on the importance of upholding a multilateral rules-based order.

5 In this context, many of you shared on the significance of the Singapore Convention on Mediation. Being amongst the first signatory states is really a testament

to your commitment to upholding multilateralism and furthering international trade and commerce.

6 For the several other states who are here to witness the signing, attending the signing ceremony and to be here is a tangible expression of your support even as you are considering signing the Convention and we encourage you to sign it as soon as possible.

7 Many of you spoke in appreciation of the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in enhancing certainty in the enforcement of mediated settlement agreements for cross-border disputes. This Singapore Convention is the result of the good work of the United Nations and UNCITRAL officials. I am sure all of Your Excellencies will join me in thanking them. I also would like to personally thank the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for joining us in today's Roundtable and UN and UNCITRAL officials.

8 Many of you spoke about Singapore's contribution to the Convention. I thank you for your kind words. We consider it to be our honour and privilege to host the signing of the Convention and to welcome Your Excellencies in Singapore. We hope that you will visit us again. We look forward to working with all of you to promote the Convention, advance the mechanisms for international dispute resolution and help further trade and commerce.

9 Thank you once again for participating and contributing substantively to this Roundtable, on "Building Trust, Enabling International Trade". There will be a Chairman's Statement that will be issued. We look forward to continuing work.