

**SPEECH BY MR DAVID CHUA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL, MISS ATTIYA ASHRAF ALI & MISS
CASSANDRA YIP AT THE MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE DURING
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL YOUTH
COUNCIL YOUTH FORUM ON 26 APRIL 2023**

Mr David Chua, Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Council

1 Singapore adopts three strategies to partner young people for SDG implementation: structure, bridging and equipping.

2 First, we curate structured platforms that involve policymakers, private sectors, civil society, and youths. This gives legitimacy and the mandate to co-create. Second, the government plays a bridging role to build trust and a constructive space for partnership. This is achieved by guided facilitation, reducing echo chambers and contextualisation to Singapore's needs. Third, we equip our youths and support them with seed money. We are developing a plan to mentor youths in policy participation and have a SGD\$100 million National Youth Fund to support policy and ground-up initiatives.

3 The three strategies come together in our Youth Action challenge, which is a platform between the Singapore government, UNDP, and Citibank to partner our youth on projects that support the SDGs. We give our youth data, mentors, financing, and bridge the projects with Singapore's priorities, while UNDP selects some for implementation at the Asia Pacific level. Now two Singaporean youth will share how they help drive SDG implementation.

Miss Attiya Ashraf Ali, Senior Associate (Climate Change and Sustainability Services), EY

4 As a sustainability consultant, my team and I provide advisory training and assurance services that are aligned to Singapore's Green Plan, which aims to bring both the public and private sector closer to net zero targets by 2050. The work we do gives our clients greater clarity on their current state in sustainability efforts and how much further, or what they can potentially do to realise their own visions.

5 Also, as a vice president of a non-profit called Mendaki Club that focuses on minorities, we establish mentorship ecosystems that enable disadvantaged youths to access social capital in the form of mentors, which can provide inspiration and guidance to reduce inequalities in economic opportunity.

Miss Cassandra Yip, Founder and CEO, Earth School Singapore

6 Despite all the challenges of a global pandemic, youth, more than ever, have shown great resilience, optimism and a desire to create sustainable impact. Youth in Singapore have continuously leveraged funding and partnership opportunities provided to us by the state to take on the challenge of being environmental entrepreneurs. Many have since established their own youth-front organisations and initiatives in support of the global goals.

7 It is through this very support mechanisms, that my organisation, Earth School, was built from the ground up, and we now lead the country's environmental education efforts for all children and youth. In fact, much of Singapore's sustainability efforts, especially for Sustainable Development Goals 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, have youth-run organisations at the forefront. Singapore has proved that when we empower and enable youth for sustainability, all of society and nature, benefits.

8 Thank you.