

**SPEECH BY CE (NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL), MR DAVID CHUA,
ACCOMPANIED BY MR SHAE LEE CHEE HEAN AND MS CELINA
FENG YUAN
AT THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) YOUTH
FORUM,
ON 19 APRIL 2022**

Mr David Chua

1 Greetings from Singapore. My name is David and I'm from the National Youth Council. With me are Celina and Shae, two Singaporean students. Singapore has a game plan for building back better and I will highlight two focus areas.

2 The first is investing in our peoples' potential. We do that through education, through lifelong learning, through skilling for new emerging jobs in the green economy, and also by improving social mobility so that no one gets left behind. We also look at gender equality, where we have a White Paper on women's development, which looks into the equal opportunities in the workplace, recognition and support of caregivers and protection against violence and harm of women.

3 So these are support measures to help our women in the workforce. We also look at well-being, where we tackle issues for mental well-being across the nation through an inter-agency task force. The second focus area is in partnerships, where we look at partnering better with young people, and also in strengthening social compact with vulnerable groups of society and foreigners.

4 We want our young people to be heard, to be empowered and to be the change. So, we have a Youth Action Plan 2025 to ensure that youth voices are heard in policies. We also have institutional partnerships with government agencies so that they can shape policy. And we support all the organic and ground up youth action through projects via the National Youth Fund as well as the Singapore ASEAN Youth Fund.

5 I'll now hand over the time to Shae and Celina for their sharing.

Mr Shae Lee Chee Hean

6 Thank you for the time. Hi, my name is Shae and I'm a Singaporean youth. To recalibrate and recover to build back better. The COVID-19 Pandemic has made these goals achievable through multi-national collaboration as well as the involvement of various social groups. Youths in particular can play a major role due to their ability to stay connected to the heartbeat of their communities as well as enable the creation of new social initiatives.

7 In Singapore, youth are becoming increasingly involved in lifelong learning initiatives such as inter-generational learning programs, sharing fulfilling modern skills such as how to create digital art with the elderly. Efforts to combat the mental health implications of the Pandemic are also underway. Aside from an increase in curriculum time dedicated to mental health literacy, peer support groups and helpers have been established in many schools to cultivate safe spaces.

8 Having personally trained under such programmes, I was able to assist the well-being of my peers and other pressured students. I'm excited to contribute to the betterment of the 2030 agenda through my participation in the ECOSOC Youth Forum and hope to engage in productive discussions with other youths around the world. I'll now be handing my time over to Celina.

Ms Celina Feng Yuan

9 Thank you, Shae. Hi, my name is Celina. As Singapore moves towards ensuring better complementarity between its local and foreign workforce, youth can play a pertinent role in cultivating a more inclusive society and combating existing social fault lines that may underpin working environments for foreign workers in Singapore.

10 Pioneering cross cultural music collaboration between migrant construction workers and Singaporean youth, I have been a dedicated advocate for inclusivity and social integration over the past two years. Founded in 2020, the Bright Flipside has influenced over 1400 migrants and Singaporeans and has empowered over 100 youth to engage in advocacy for inclusivity.

11 Youth advocacy has a pertinent role in building back. Through dialogues with government authorities and guidance from established NGOs, youth could jointly craft and complement the national goals. Joining hands with authorities, we are powerful agents in mobilising the society towards a better tomorrow.

12 From all the support and guidance I have received in my journey, I believe that every youth has the responsibility and even more the power to contribute to Singapore's efforts of building back better.

Mr David Chua

13 And on that note, we in Singapore wish everyone the best in building back better. Thank you.