

**STATEMENT BY MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI,
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE,
AT THE 2nd WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
DOHA, QATAR, 4 NOVEMBER 2025**

Thank you, Chair.

1 Singapore is committed to advancing social development and to ensuring that growth remains inclusive and people-centred. We reaffirm our support for the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action, and will continue to contribute towards the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2 Since its independence in 1965, Singapore has made steady progress in strengthening social resilience and uplifting the lives of its citizens. Guided by our mission to nurture resilient individuals, strong families and a caring society, we have developed an integrated approach to enable everyone to share in Singapore's progress and opportunities.

Singapore's Social Compact

3 Singapore's social compact is built on mutual trust and shared responsibility between the Government and our people

and is the foundation that enables us to tackle challenges together. The **Government creates opportunities** and provides an enabling environment through education, housing and healthcare. In turn, **individuals and families take responsibility** for their own progress, while **communities and businesses play active roles in supporting one another**. This partnership model ensures that growth remains inclusive and that every Singaporean has a stake in our shared future.

4 As society evolves, so too must our social compact. Through the **Forward Singapore** exercise in 2022, we engaged more than 200,000 citizens to refresh this understanding and co-create a collective vision for the years ahead. Singaporeans have shared that success should not be measured only by economic progress, but also by purpose, fulfilment and belonging. These aspirations now guide our social policies to empower individuals, strengthen families, and build a more caring and cohesive society.

Support for Families

5 Singapore strongly believes that families form the bedrock of society. Families nurture resilient individuals and cohesive communities. Our **Singapore Made for Families** programme aims to support families at each life stage.

6 The Government has doubled Government-Paid Paternity Leave to normalise shared parenting, and continues to expand access to quality, affordable preschools, ensuring that by 2025, eight in ten preschoolers will have a place in a government-supported preschool.

7 To support work-life harmony, we have introduced Workplace Fairness Legislation and entrenched flexible work arrangements as a workplace norm to enable both women and men to better balance their work and caregiving responsibilities.

Empowering Lower-Income Families

8 Singapore takes an upstream, family-centred and empowerment-based approach to uplift lower-income households. Our flagship programme, ComLink+, helps families with children achieve **Stability, Self-Reliance and Social Mobility**.

9 Each family is supported by a dedicated Family Coach who journeys with the family to co-create customised action plans, coordinate services and provide ComLink+ Progress Packages (Fiscal Transfers) to recognise the family's efforts in employment, education and savings.

10 Complementary programmes such as **KidSTART** provide early and sustained support for parents and children from the antenatal stage, narrowing gaps in the early years and enabling parents, especially mothers, to return to work confidently.

Whole-of-Society Partnerships

11 Singapore's experience demonstrates that social progress is sustained through **Cooperation, Co-creation and Collaboration**. We work together across government, community and business to strengthen families and uplift lives. By **Cooperating** across sectors, **Co-creating** with communities

and **Collaborating** to deliver comprehensive and coordinated support, we build trust, strengthen our social compact and amplify the impact of every helping hand.

Conclusion

12 Chair, Singapore's experience has shown that when trust is strong and every segment of society plays its part, we can overcome challenges together. We remain committed to working with international partners to share experiences so we can learn from one another as we build inclusive, caring and resilient societies where every person can live with dignity and purpose.