

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER (FA) DR VIVIAN
BALAKRISHNAN AT THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE, 23
SEPTEMBER 2024**

Excellencies,

1. This is a pivotal moment. Multilateralism and collective action are essential to resolve threats from hot wars, sharpening major power rivalry, worsening planetary challenges, and disruptive forces of technology.
2. Singapore has participated actively in the lead-up to this Summit. A stronger multilateral system where rules are applied universally is vital. Peace and security depend on adherence to international law and the UN Charter. Otherwise, we cannot address challenges from climate change to the risks of technology. We strongly support the Pact for the Future, and the accompanying Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generation. They are critical building blocks for a stronger, future-ready multilateral system. Allow me to highlight some of Singapore's commitments.

3. First, we reaffirmed our commitment to international law and the UN Charter. This is vital amidst the intensifying conflicts and geopolitical tensions today. We must all recommit ourselves to peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy. A world in which respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law is being eroded will be a very dangerous one for current and future generations.

4. Second, we adopted the groundbreaking Global Digital Compact. As digital technology continues to shape our lives in all-encompassing ways, we need to establish common rules to unlock its transformative potential, while mitigating the risks. According to estimates, more than two-thirds of the UN's targets for sustainable development can benefit directly from digital innovations. Singapore has worked with Rwanda to launch an AI Playbook for Small States. Together with our capacity-building efforts under the Digital Forum of Small States, this AI Playbook will empower us to leverage AI for public good.

5. Third, we are glad that the **Declaration on Future Generations emphasises youth engagement**. We must invest in our youths and enable them to shape national and international policies. They have a stake in the future they will inherit. The emphasis on incorporating anticipatory planning and foresight in our work is timely. We must ensure that the policies we make today are future-ready to build a better world for successive generations.
6. Excellencies, the adoption of the Pact represents the start of a long and essential journey to reinforce and renew the multilateral system. We need to summon collective commitment to stay the course. We need to embrace the spirit of compromise to find common solutions. We must also have the courage to take bold action essential for the long-term well-being of future generations. We must forge a future that is fair, just, equitable and inclusive.
7. Thank you.

(412 words; approx. 3.5 minutes at 120 wpm)