

**INTERVENTION/ CONTRIBUTION BY SPEAKER SEAH KIAN PENG
AT THE SIXTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT
FOR PANEL 4 ON
“WHAT ROLE FOR PARLIAMENTS IN SHAPING OUR DIGITAL FUTURE?”
IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
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A good afternoon to all. I thank the panellists for your insights.

2 I agree that parliaments play a key role in shaping thoughts and galvanising action towards our collective digital future, and its attendant challenges and opportunities. Let me share two aspects of Singapore's own experience.

3 First, our digitalisation journey has been met with the increased sophistication of scams. For example, the awesome potential of generative AI can be hijacked to deceive. Scams today affect everyone. Victims include the digitally literate, some who stubbornly deny being defrauded until it's too late.

4 Combatting scams requires thoughtful legislative responses. This year, our Singapore Parliament debated and passed the “Protection from Scams Bill”. It became law, actually, just this month. This landmark legislation empowers the authorities to issue restriction orders, temporarily freezing bank accounts of would-be victims. Such orders are measures of last resort. Our legislature recognises the need to strike a balance

between protecting victims from sophisticated scams and ensuring that livelihoods are not unduly inconvenienced.

5 Second, while we've encountered scammers and other bad actors in our digitalisation journey, we've also found opportunities to collaborate. Singapore is heartened to have found common cause in our active pursuit of government-to-government Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs). These agreements seek to establish and shape international rules, set benchmarks and establish inter-operability procedures for cross-border digital transactions, such as e-invoicing and digital identities. We've since signed DEAs with France, with Vietnam and with the US, amongst others.

6 Through these agreements, we aim to enhance our common understanding of standards and governance models for emerging technologies such as AI, so that all may prosper. We hope to work with many more countries to come. Thank you.
