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**SINGAPORE'S INTERVENTION AT THE FIRST WORKING SESSION ON "THE  
CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER,  
POVERTY, AND EQUALITY"**

**Introduction**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

2 I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the President of the Brazil Federal Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco, and the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Lira, and the Parliament of Brazil for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements at this Summit.

**The Global Challenge**

3 As we convene today, we face stark realities: hunger, poverty, and inequality are intersecting challenges that must be addressed together to ensure sustainable food security for all.

4 It is projected that by 2030, over 600 million people worldwide will still face hunger, and 575 million will continue to live in extreme poverty.

5 This crisis demands our immediate attention and action, aligning closely with the G20's focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth.

**International Cooperation**

6 Singapore welcomes the Brazilian Presidency's strong focus on reducing global hunger and poverty, including the initiative of a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, and we look forward to working closely with Brazil and the G20 on these crucial efforts.

## **The Role of Parliaments**

7 Parliaments play a vital role in this fight. We are the voices of our people, and we hold the mandate to create sound policies that shape supply chains, ensure proper allocation of resources to social programmes, and grant equitable access to nutrition for all citizens.

## **Focus on Supply Chains**

8 Today, I'd like to focus on the issue of supply chains.

9 Food security is an existential concern for small countries like Singapore, which imports more than 90% of the food we consume.

10 Global food security has been significantly impacted by geopolitical developments and climate change.

## **Singapore-Brazil Partnership**

11 Against this backdrop, Singapore deeply values our excellent partnership with Brazil in food security.

12 We import significant agriculture and food products from Brazil, and we're also technical assistance partners in promoting food security and knowledge sharing.

13 Two month ago, on 15 September, we conducted the inaugural course under the Singapore-Brazil Third Country Training Programme on Food Safety. It was jointly conducted by the Singapore Food Agency, the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency, and the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for officials from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste.

14 This collaboration exemplifies the potential for international cooperation in addressing food security challenges.

## **Future Collaboration**

15 Looking ahead, there is scope for Singapore and Brazil to work together to strengthen food supply chain resilience in Asia including Southeast Asia.

16 Given Singapore's strong logistics and distribution network in the region, we are well-positioned to serve as a regional hub for transshipment and re-exporting of Brazilian meat, thereby strengthening the overall supply chain resilience.

## **Singapore's Social Compact**

17 At home, Singapore is committed to building an inclusive and caring society where all citizens have equal opportunities to thrive and contribute.

18 Our social compact aims for lower-income families to achieve Stability, Self-reliance, and Social mobility – what we call the 3S framework. This compact is anchored on individual and family responsibility, supported by the community and the government.

## **Multi-Layered Support Framework**

19 Our parliament has played a crucial role in shaping a multi-layered support system that uplifts everyone, especially the vulnerable. Broad-based subsidies benefit all Singaporeans while targeted assistance focuses on lower-income and vulnerable groups. From education to healthcare to social assistance, we have woven a safety net that leaves no one behind.

20 For instance, our KidSTART programme supports lower-income families with children up to 6 years old laying the foundation for a strong start in life. Meanwhile our Progressive Wage Model uplifts low-income workers through skills upgrading and improved productivity.

21 In childcare, our subsidy system makes high-quality childcare accessible even for lower-income families, with fees as low as S\$3 (about US\$2) per month for full-day childcare.

## **Long-Term Empowerment and Outcomes**

22 Over the years, our approach has shifted beyond episodic assistance to longer-term empowerment. Our efforts have yielded positive results, evident in our economic growth, and has translated into real gains for our people.

23 Singapore's household incomes have steadily increased, with monthly median household income per member among resident employed households rising from about S\$2,200 in 2013 to S\$3,500 in 2023.

24 Our approach to reducing income inequality has shown promising results. The Gini coefficient, a measure of income inequality, fell from 0.482 in 2007 to 0.433 in 2023. After redistribution through taxes and transfers, it further decreased to 0.371 in 2023.

25 We have also seen high levels of intergenerational income mobility. A study by our Ministry of Finance found that among children born from 1985 to 1989 to parents who were at the bottom 20% of income distribution, 14% moved to the top 20% among their peers by around age 30 – higher than comparable figures for other countries such as the UK, US, Canada, and Denmark.

### **The Need for Global Cooperation**

26 But even as we celebrate our progress, we recognise that the challenges of hunger, poverty, and inequality require global cooperation.

27 As representatives of our peoples, we have a duty to enact laws, allocate resources, and hold governments accountable to these shared goals. By working together across borders, we can share best practices and consider complimentary policies to strengthen food security, promote inclusive economic opportunities and social policies that can uplift entire communities.

### **Conclusion**

28 In closing, I am filled with hope for what we can achieve together. Though the road ahead is long, the strides we have made showed that progress is possible.

29 Let us work together to strengthen our global food supply chains, and build more resilient, equitable societies.

30 Thank you for the opportunity to share Singapore's insights and experiences with you today.