

**OPENING STATEMENT BY MR K SHANMUGAM SC  
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR LAW, SINGAPORE  
AT THE SINGAPORE CONVENTION ROUNDTABLE  
7 AUGUST 2019, SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, SINGAPORE**

**“BUILDING TRUST, ENABLING INTERNATIONAL TRADE”**

Your Excellencies,

Good afternoon

1 Welcome to Singapore, and to today’s Singapore Convention Roundtable. We have had a good morning and it is meaningful to continue discussions this afternoon in this multilateral setting.

- a. Happy to host representatives from 70 countries in Singapore for the historic signing of the Singapore Convention.
- b. Unique opportunity for us to exchange views on shared concerns.

2 We have convened this Roundtable for Heads of Delegation and Ministerial-level representatives.

- a. Thank you for your support and attendance.
- b. None of these would have been possible without the good work of the United Nations and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

3 The topic today is: “Building Trust, Enabling International Trade”.

- 4 We live in a world where there are:
  - a. Shifts in the global order, strategic balances, trade flow issues. They present unique challenges for international trade, but they also present opportunities.
  - b. Also, the ability of countries to respond is constrained by eroding trust in public institutions and declining support for globalisation.
- 5 I believe our shared interest is to navigate this new terrain together, so that we can sustain growth and development, for all.
- 6 I invite Your Excellencies to share your perspectives on:
  - a. Our operating environment: challenges as well as opportunities
  - b. What your Governments are doing in response and your suggestions on what we can do together
  - c. The multilateral rule-based order and the significance of the Convention and how we can promote its adoption and use by more countries.
- 7 I hope that our exchange can forge
  - a. Better understanding of our respective perspectives
  - b. Shared appreciation of our environment
  - c. And what we can do together.
- 8 Thank you.