

Mr President,

As a small nation, Singapore has always championed the rules-based multilateral system. We acceded to the Geneva Conventions in 1973, eight years after our independence, because we understood international humanitarian law (or IHL) protects us all.

But commitment means more than words. Singapore has provided annual contributions to UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] since 2001. We work closely with the Singapore Red Cross to deliver aid regionally and beyond. Our armed forces incorporate IHL training at every level, and we actively participate in regional consultations on emerging challenges—from autonomous weapons to cyber warfare.

Singapore has moved to **de-friction humanitarian funding**—our Parliament approved the 2024 Budget that created a time-limited **100% tax deduction** for overseas humanitarian donations from 2025 to 2028.¹

Regionally, we invest in local responders—through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance², the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Coordination Centre (RHCC), and regular armed forces deployments. Local capacity is the first and last mile of humanitarian action.

We pair relief with long-term investments in the development of fellow-developing countries. The Singapore Cooperation Programme (or SCP), established in 1992³, is Singapore's platform for extending technical assistance and sharing governance and systems know-how. The SCP has hosted close to 150,000 officials from more than 180 countries and territories as well as international and regional organisations.

With such actions in raising local humanitarian funding, investing in local actors, and fostering economic development, we hope to play our role in tackling humanitarian problems as effectively and as structurally as we can.

Thank you.

¹ https://www.mof.gov.sg/docs/librariesprovider3/budget2024/download/pdf/annexg2.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²

<https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Statements-Transcripts-and-Photos/2025/02/Parliamentary-Question-26-February-2025>

³

https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Overseas-Mission/Hanoi/Mission-Updates/2022/12/Media-Release-for-SCP-30th-Anniversary?utm_source=chatgpt.com