

Annex A: Transcript of the General Statement by Dr Khor at the 33rd Plenary Session of the IMO Assembly

Mr President,
Distinguished delegates,

1. This year is a remarkable year for the IMO. Despite the prevailing crises, the IMO has done good work in the development and implementation of international standards to support safe, efficient, and sustainable shipping. We also join the IMO and its member States to celebrate the golden jubilee of the IMO's adoption of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

2. This July, we also welcomed the adoption of the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 80th Session. This is a landmark in our journey to decarbonise international shipping, testament to the strength of global efforts to safeguard the marine environment. Singapore is honoured to contribute to this effort, including as vice-chair of the MEPC, working closely with IMO member States and stakeholders.

3. As we celebrate these milestones, we are reminded of the importance of IMO's leadership in balancing the various needs of safety, security, environmental protection, and economic contribution of the shipping industry. The sector will continue to face challenges in, for example, ensuring that the international maritime community works towards decarbonisation in an inclusive and equitable manner, and at the same time, see opportunities in emerging areas such as Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships to be harnessed. With IMO at the helm, we can and will rise to the occasion.

Singapore's contributions to the IMO

4. As a maritime nation, Singapore is committed to working with fellow Member States to advance the IMO's objectives. As a major flag State, port State, and coastal State of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, this allows us to offer pragmatic and constructive perspectives on issues at the IMO, while advocating and advancing an inclusive approach that considers the diverse needs of IMO Member States.

5. To accelerate the transition of the maritime sector towards a sustainable and digitalised future, Singapore continues to develop and

pilot innovative solutions in strong partnership with the IMO and all stakeholders. For example, Singapore and the IMO jointly initiated 'NextGEN' to facilitate information sharing and spur collaboration in reducing greenhouse gas (or GHG) emissions from international shipping. As a next step, we are working with the IMO and stakeholders to develop route-based action plans that reduce GHG emissions along a shipping route in the Asia-Pacific. With initiatives such as our national maritime single window system, digitalPORT@SGTM, and digitalOCEANSTM, which allows for the harmonisation of data standards for the efficient exchange of data between ships and ports globally, Singapore aims to actively contribute to strong climate action and futureproofing maritime transport.

6. A sustainable and digitalised future for the maritime industry cannot be complete without developing human capital. On this note, Singapore continues to work closely with the IMO through the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) to provide training for fellow IMO Member States, which has benefitted over 2,100 participants from over 90 countries. Our Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Academy (MPAA) also provides flagship leadership programmes to help mould the future generation of maritime leaders. This year, we launched a further enhanced technical cooperation and training package amounting to USD 5 million.

Conclusion - IMO Leading the International Maritime Community Ahead

7. Distinguished delegates, the future of shipping will be determined by our working together to tackle the challenges and reap the opportunities of an ever-changing maritime landscape. I am confident that the IMO is well poised to lead the international maritime community on this voyage.

8. Singapore is fully committed to fulfilling our responsibility as an IMO Member State and an IMO Council Member, and will work with the IMO and fellow Member States to find and build solutions and ways forward.

9. On this note, Singapore would also like to thank Mr Kitack Lim for his exemplary leadership as IMO's Secretary-General over the last eight years. We also look forward to working with incoming Secretary-General Mr Arsenio Dominguez to further IMO's goals.

10. Thank you very much.