



Workshop on “Equitable Access to  
Sustainable Development”,  
in accordance with  
Decision 2CP/17

Presentation by Singapore

# Introduction

- Equity is one of the key principles of the Convention, together with CBDR/Respective Capabilities and National Circumstances

Article 3.1 of the Convention :

*Parties should protect the climate system ... **on the basis of equity** and in accordance with their CBDR and respective capabilities. Accordingly, developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof*

- Singapore's approach is to support the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# Challenge of Equity

- Challenge is to operationalise Equity in a way that would lead to a fair result for all countries
- Given the very different national circumstances, “Equity” cannot be given one single definition
- Singapore does not support a formulaic approach based on criteria such as per capita indicators. This will penalise small countries with small populations who contribute very little to global emissions
- We need a holistic approach that looks at the unique circumstances of every country

# Durban Decision on EASD

- Called for continued work, in the context of the provisions of para 6 of decision 1/CP.16
- Agreed that continued work on EASD will focus on the timeframe for global peaking
- Also agreed that continued work cannot be undertaken in the abstract and has to address the “context”



# Key Considerations for EASD Discussion

- **Historical Responsibility**

- The starting point for Equity is historical responsibility
- Developed countries responsible for the largest share of absolute global GHG emissions since pre-industrial times should fulfill their historical responsibility
- Equity requires that these countries take the lead in combating climate change. This principle is enshrined in the Convention (Art 3.1)

# Key Considerations for EASD Discussion

- **National Circumstances**

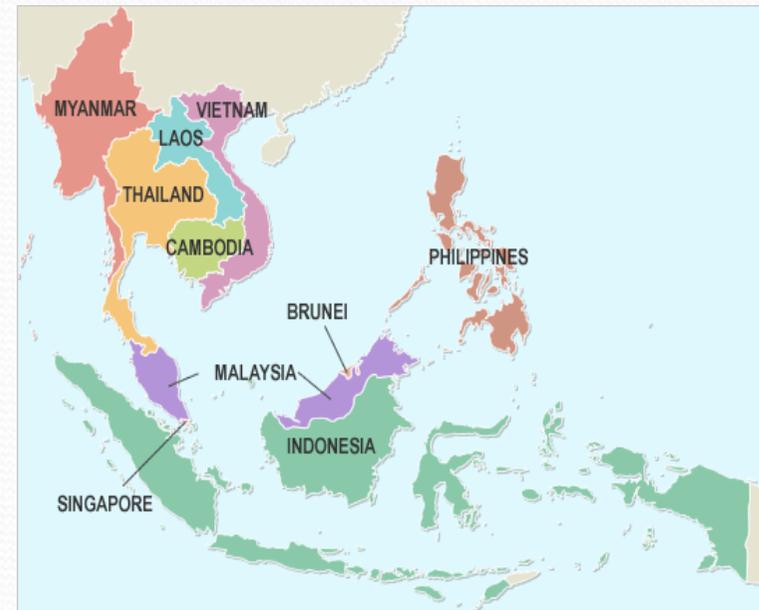
Article 4.1 of the Convention :

*States that commitments should “take into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances”*

- National Circumstances of each country will determine what is “equitable” for that country
- “Equity” means taking into account unique national circumstances and addressing them meaningfully and **fairly** in any agreed outcome

# Singapore's National Circumstances

- Small low-lying island state of about 700 km<sup>2</sup>
- Highly urbanised and densely populated city-state
- Lack of natural resources and hinterland
- Small size limits scope for Alternative and Renewable Energies



# Singapore's National Circumstances

- Alternative-Energy Disadvantaged (AED)

Article 4.10 of the Convention

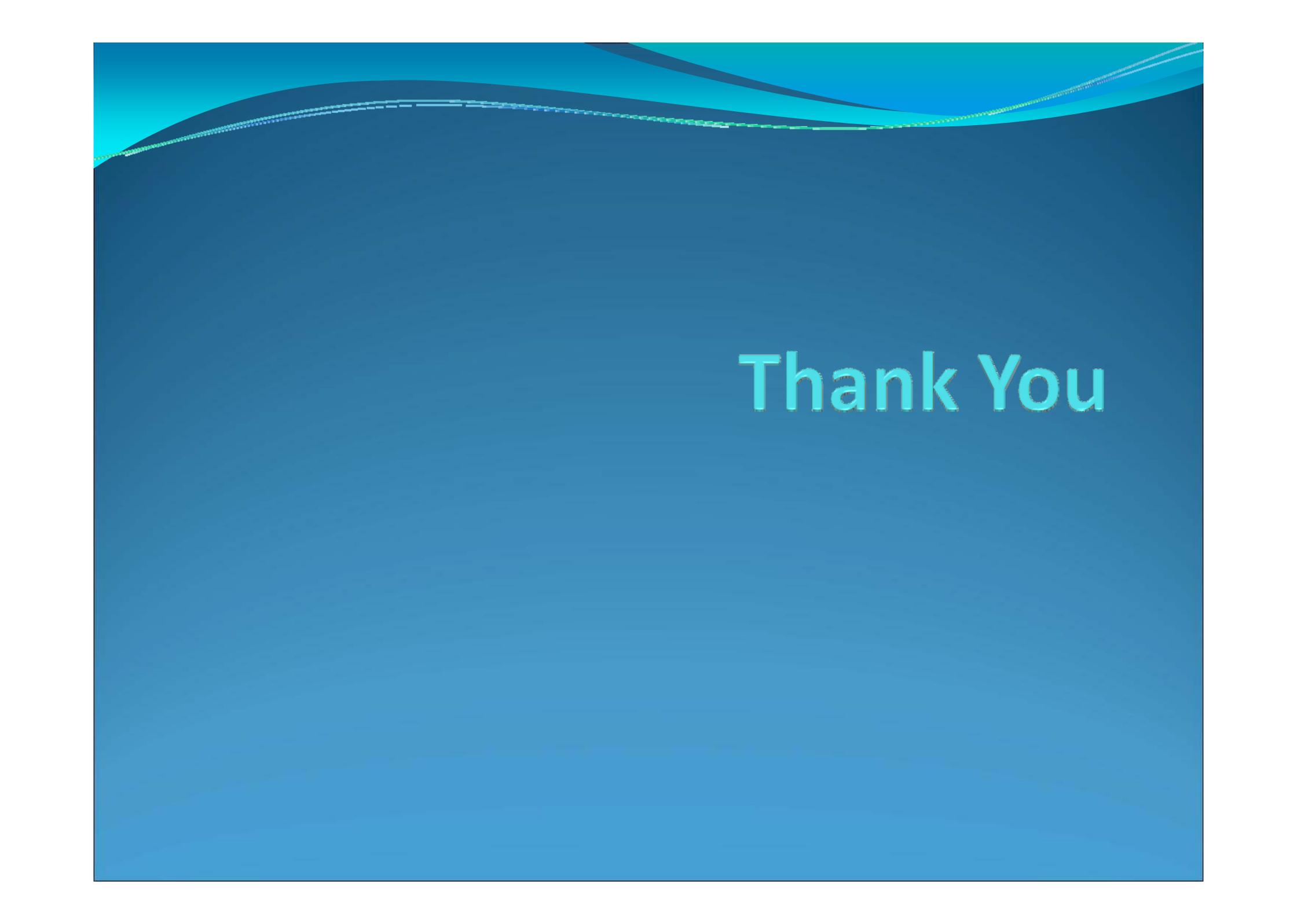
Recognises that certain countries have “*serious difficulties*” in switching from fossil fuels to alternative sources of energy

- Extremely limited access to alternative or clean energy sources
- Limits potential for further mitigation actions



# Singapore's National Circumstances

- Early Actions and Continuing Actions to Promote Green Growth
  - Switch to natural gas for electricity generation in 2001. Now, 80% of electricity from natural gas
  - Singapore is a price taker for energy. We do not subsidise fossil fuels or energy use despite our relatively high energy costs
  - Going forward, Singapore is taking steps towards becoming a climate change resilient global city that is well positioned for green growth
  - Singapore's approach will be outlined in a document called the National Climate Change Strategy 2012 – to be released in June 2012



**Thank You**