

**Strengthening the Rules-Based Multilateral System to Combat  
Climate Change**  
**Submission from Singapore**

Since 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has provided the foundation and framework for a rules-based multilateral system to combat climate change. The Kyoto Protocol established in 1997 re-affirmed the existing rules-based multilateral system and provided an important foundation to guide our effort. In Singapore's national statement delivered at the high-level segment in Durban, we called on Parties to send a clear and strong signal to strengthen the multilateral system to deal with climate change.

Unilateral measures weaken the rules-based multilateral framework. Therefore we have consistently opposed such measures. In sectors like trade, international aviation and shipping, which are governed by distinct multilateral rules, it is important to respect the mandate and longstanding competence of the relevant international organisations. Unilateral measures taken outside the multilateral framework could create serious distortive effects and lead to retaliatory actions that weaken it. A strong rules-based multilateral system, on the other hand, reduces the risk of harmful unilateral protectionist measures.

The Cancun and Durban outcomes reaffirmed Parties' collective commitment to a rules-based multilateral system to deal with climate change. As we head towards Doha, Parties should ensure that:

- Any outcome on climate change reinforces a supportive and open international economic system. A supportive and open international economic system will lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing countries and enable them to better address the climate problem.
  - Policies and measures adopted to address climate change and which involve sectors with distinct multilateral rules should respect the mandate and longstanding competency of the relevant international organisations dealing with such sectors, and be consistent with relevant and applicable international law.
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