

SINGAPORE

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. Singapore hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

Singapore:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.
4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions.*
5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.
6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector,

skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.
8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Domestic policy implementation commitments

Singapore acknowledges its role in the national-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to sub-national level policies and programmes.

Singapore:

Commits to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance's policy basket in our national context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our country.

In particular, Singapore commits to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of the following policy instruments or programmes, referenced in the Global Alliance's reference basket:

- 1) **Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all:** Singapore provides access to water and sanitation to all of its population through an integrated approach to water management. A diversified water supply strategy ensures access to a robust supply of clean water that is suitable for drinking directly from the tap.
- 2) **Safeguarding food resilience and access to affordable food:** Food security is an existential concern for countries like Singapore that import more than 90% of the food we consume. Singapore adopts a multi-pronged approach to ensure food security and the resilience of our food supplies, including diversifying import sources, and growing local. Hawker centres in Singapore also provide access to affordable food.
- 3) **SkillsFuture:** A national movement to provide citizens with opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their backgrounds. Lifelong learning

is key to preserving our social mobility and strengthening our social compact to prevent Singapore from being stratified across different income groups, skills gaps and knowledge gaps.

4) **Special Education (SPED) Curriculum Framework:** Guided by the SPED Curriculum Framework, which sets a common direction for all SPED schools to deliver quality education, SPED schools provide a customised curriculum for students with moderate to severe special educational needs. The curriculum equips students with essential knowledge and life skills through key learning domains to enable them to live with dignity, learn continuously, and work meaningfully and productively.

5) **Universal Healthcare coverage:** To ensure that no citizen is denied access to basic healthcare because of affordability issues, there are multiple tiers of protection available in Singapore through a mixed financing system. At the first tier, there are heavy **Government subsidies** of up to 80% of the total bill incurred in acute care wards of public hospitals, which all citizens can access. At the second tier, there is **MediSave**, a compulsory individual medical savings account scheme which allows practically all citizens to pay for their share of medical treatment without financial difficulty. Working citizens and their employers contribute a part of the monthly wages into the account to save up for their future medical needs and this is portable across jobs and after retirement. At the third tier, there is **MediShield Life**, a basic health insurance plan which helps to pay for large hospital bills and selected costly outpatient treatments, such as dialysis and chemotherapy. It is basic because it is sized for subsidised treatment in public hospitals. MediShield Life provides protection for all citizens and Permanent Residents for life, including for any serious pre-existing conditions. Individual responsibility for one's healthcare needs is promoted through the co-payment features of MediShield Life. The Government has also committed to keep MediShield Life premiums affordable with a range of Government subsidies.

5a) **ElderShield:** A severe disability insurance, offered to all 40 year old citizens with Central Provident Fund Board accounts, to risk-pool against the financial risks of suffering a severe disability. Similarly, ElderShield Supplements allow policyholders to purchase additional disability benefits coverage beyond the basic ElderShield product.

5b) **Medifund:** A medical endowment fund set up by the Government to act as the ultimate safety net for needy citizens/patients who face financial difficulties with their remaining medical bills after receiving Government subsidies and drawing on other means of payments including MediShield Life, private IPs, Medisave, and cash.

6) **UPLIFT:** An initiative which provides support and strengthens partnerships between schools and community partners to ensure that there is holistic support for disadvantaged students.

7) **Workfare Income Supplement Scheme:** A programme which supplements incomes and retirement savings of lower-wage workers through cash payments and Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributions.

8) **Workfare Skills Support Scheme:** Incentives to encourage lower-wage workers to upgrade their skills, thus enhancing their employability and giving them opportunities to earn more.

9) **Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities:** A programme which enhances the employability of, and increases the employment options for Persons with Disabilities by providing access to career advisory services, training courses, and post-placement job support.

Commits to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

Policy cooperation and support commitments

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Specifically, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities related to lessons-learned and international cooperation in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

The government of Singapore is ready to share experiences and lessons as well as to provide technical cooperation under South-South and trilateral cooperation modalities regarding the following policies and policy instruments:

- 1) Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 2) Safeguarding food resilience and access to affordable food
- 3) SkillsFuture
- 4) Special Education (SPED) Curriculum Framework
- 5) Universal Healthcare coverage
- 6) UPLIFT
- 7) Workfare Income Supplement Scheme
- 8) Workfare Skills Support Scheme
- 9) Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities

Knowledge support commitments

Singapore:

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that

choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Singapore informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

Through our Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), action in support of:

- (a) Assuring food safety and security;
- (b) Building food security;
- (c) Food Innovation and Technology;
- (d) Food Safety and Quality Management System;
- (e) Sustainability of Food Manufacturing; and
- (f) Workshop on Food Safety;

The SCP was established in 1992, having recognized the value to Singapore of the assistance that Singapore had received from the international community in our early years of independence. The SCP supports the efforts of developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. To date, more than 150,000 officials from over 180 countries, territories, and intergovernmental organisations have participated in SCP courses.

As part of Singapore's continued efforts to support the global Sustainability agenda, we launched the Sustainability Action Package (SAP) to support capacity building for developing countries in various sustainability-related topics, including building resilience for water resources and food security.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.