



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR. LUKE TANG, COUNSELLOR (LEGAL), PERMANENT  
MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM  
86, ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
LEVELS, SIXTH COMMITTEE, 8 OCTOBER 2018**

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*[Please check against delivery]*

Mr. Chair,

1. Singapore has consistently subscribed to the view that the rule of law is a universal value. At the national level, it is one of the fundamental tenets on which our nation was founded, and continues to provide the framework for its proper functioning. At the international level, it provides the basis for international relations among States, and is a key component to maintaining international peace and security, and achieving sustainable development.

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during the past 12 months. We wish to commend, in particular, the support provided to Members States to strengthen oversight mechanisms and combat corruption. We fully agree that corruption is a destructive practice, which is a scourge that needs to be eradicated. We also commend the efforts to improve the coordination and cohesion within the United Nations on rule of law assistance, and we encourage the Rule of Law Unit to continue its efforts to engage Member States in that regard.

5. However, we do not agree with the comments in the report pertaining to the death penalty.

Mr. Chair,

6. Let us be clear. There is no international consensus against the death penalty. International law does not prohibit the use of the death penalty. The use of the death penalty is first and foremost a criminal justice issue. It is not a human rights issue. The use of the death penalty must therefore be viewed from a much broader perspective and weighed against the rights of the victims and the right of the community to live in peace and security.