



1 I would like to express my appreciation to you for taking this timely initiative to organise a debate on the Avian Flu crisis.

2 Singapore supports this initiative and others which would allow us to increase the level of regional and international cooperation and attention towards combating avian flu, by building on the work already being undertaken by groupings and organisations such as ASEAN, APEC, WHO, FAO and the OIE.

3 Experts and the WHO agree that the risk of an influenza pandemic

inflection. There is still time to prevent a pandemic and if it occurs, to try

report infections in poultry. A rapid and robust response system is also required to quickly cull infected birds and isolate human cases and quarantine contacts immediately. The contacts should also be given anti-viral drugs, preferably within 2 days of exposure.

8 International assistance to affected and at-risk countries such as Indonesia and Vietnam can be seen as forward defence for the entire world against an influenza pandemic. The FAO and OIE have estimated in their Global Strategy document that it would take some US\$100 million to implement the strategy in the next 3 years. This pales in comparison with the millions of lives and billions of dollars that could be lost in a pandemic. This is a worthwhile investment for the world to make together.

Call to Action II - Reforming farming and wet market practices

9 Secondly, for long-term prevention and control of HPAI, we must tackle the challenges upstream, head-on at the source, through reforming high-risk farming and wet market practices. Farmers must learn to "bio-secure" their farms as soon as possible: simple sanitation measures and

... different species. In cities

which posed the highest risk of a major cluster occurring city

Call to Action IV - Risk Communications and Assessment

12 Fourth, trust is the foundation of outbreak communication. Singapore's experience with the SARS outbreak in 2003 had shown that effective public communications is key to building trust with its citizens