



PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

231 EAST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022  
TEL: (212) 826 0840 FAX: (212) 826 2964

STATEMENT BY MR. MARCUS SONG,  
DELEGATE TO THE 67TH SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON AGENDA ITEM 79,  
ON CHAPTERS VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XI OF THE REPORT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS  
SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION,  
SIXTH COMMITTEE,  
5 NOVEMBER 2012

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Mr Chairman,

Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction

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Provisional application of treaties

2. We note the decision of the Commission to include the topic “Provisional application of treaties” in its long-term programme of work and welcome Mr Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo’s appointment as Special Rapporteur for the topic. My delegation eagerly anticipates elaboration on this topic by the Commission, especially since the “provisional” application

of treaties is well used in the area of bilateral and multilateral civil aviation treaties. As an aviation hub, these are matters which are not just of academic interest to Singapore, but also practical application. Interestingly, there are even instances where some provisional bilateral aviation treaties which although have never entered into force, are subsequently replaced by updated but nevertheless still "provisional" treaties.

### Formation and evidence of customary international law

3. We further note the decision of the Commission to include the topic "Formation and evidence of customary international law" in its long-term programme of work and welcome Sir Michael Wood's appointment as Special Rapporteur for the topic. We thank Sir Michael for his Note which helpfully sets out the challenges and potential outcomes for this topic. We are supportive of the Special Rapporteur's comment in his note that the outcome of the Commission's work could be a set of "conclusions" or "guidelines" with commentaries and that a convention would "scarcely be

5. In concluding, we would like to touch briefly on the work of the two Study Groups constituted by the Commission to consider the topics “Treaties over time” and “The Most Favoured Nation clause.”

6. We thank the Chair of the Study Group on “Treaties over time” Professor Georg Nolte for his efforts in narrowing the Study Group’s approach to the topic in order to focus on the ultimate outcome of the group. The manner in which interpretation of treaties can be affected by subsequent practice or silence is of vital and practical application. My delegation appreciates the progress made by the Study Group in arriving at six additional preliminary conclusions which will serve to guide our thinking in this area of international law that is presently clouded with uncertainty.

7. We also thank the Co-Chairs of the Study Group on “The Most Favoured Nation clause”, Mr. Donald McRae and Mr. Rohan Perera, for their efforts in this connection. We support the objectives of the Study Group, which are to “safeguard against the fragmentation of international law” and “stress the importance of greater coherence in the approaches taken in the arbitral decisions” on MFN provisions. The product of the Study Group can make a significant contribution towards greater certainty and stability in the field of investment law. As a country with its economy heavily dependent on trade, we have a special interest in urging the Commission to expedite its work on this issue and to provide mission support.