

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

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Mr Chair,

3. It seems apt that the Commission's platinum jubilee should bring the completion on second reading of two important projects on sources doctrine. These are the draft conclusions on subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties (Chapter IV), and the draft conclusions on identification of customary international law (Chapter V). We record our deep

words reflect the delicate balance that the treaty parties strove to achieve. That balance should not be easily unravelled. Practice may be reflective of a shared binding understanding between the treaty parties of how their obligations have been varied subsequent to the conclusion of the treaty. But for the vast majority of States, especially States without the resources to do so, practice is usually not properly recorded. Practice may indeed sometimes be inferred from particular acts, but there are many instances where the exact contours of practice cannot be clearly ascertained.

(b) We remain conscious of the flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances that may sometimes be required to make a treaty work over time. However, Singapore reiterates its position that a treaty should be interpreted in light of its original purpose and the intentions of the parties at the time of its conclusion.



footnote 741 of the commentary states that “Once the General Assembly has taken action in relation to a final draft of the Commission, such as by annexing it to a resolution and commending it to States, the output of the Commission may also fall to be considered under draft conclusion 12...”. In such cases, there needs to be a careful consideration of various factors to determine whether the States concerned intended to acknowledge

