

## **Annex A**

### **Statement of Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan**

I am pleased to fully support the intention of the Singapore National Group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration to nominate Ambassador for International Law Rena Lee for election as a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2026.

2. This will be the first time a Singaporean is nominated for election as an ICJ Judge since Singapore joined the United Nations in 1965. Ambassador Lee is a distinguished practitioner of international law, who is well-known to the international community. As President of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), Ambassador Lee demonstrated able leadership of the negotiations which led to the consensus adoption of the BBNJ Agreement. This exemplifies Singapore's proud tradition as a thought leader in the law of the sea, and a trusted bridge-builder in the international community.

3. Ambassador Lee has over three decades of public service including as a diplomat in The Hague; a legal advisor to and negotiator for the Singapore Government across the full spectrum of international law, particularly law of the sea, climate change and environmental law, international humanitarian law, human rights law, and disarmament law; and as Chief Executive Officer of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. She has also served as an elected member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority, and is a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

4. Ambassador Lee embodies the spirit of impartiality, integrity, and independence of mind invoked in the solemn declaration that all ICJ Judges make before assuming their duties. If elected, she will also enhance the diversity of representation and perspectives on the bench. I hope we can count on your support.