



人权理事会

第二十四届会议

议程项目 3

增进和保护所有人权——公民权利、政治权利、  
经济、社会和文化权利，包括发展权

2013 年 9 月 30 日新加坡常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和其他国际组织代表团致人权理事会秘书处的普通照会

新加坡共和国常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和其他国际组织代表团向人权理事会秘书处致意，并谨此提及所附发言稿\*，这是新加坡在 2013 年 9 月 27 日理事会第二十四届会议结束时由观察员国发表一般性评论的会议期间所作的发言，其中谈及新加坡对通过依良心拒服兵役的第 A/HRC/24/L.23 号决议草案的看法。

新加坡常驻代表团谨请将以此发言作为人权理事会第二十四届会议议程项目 3 下的文件分发。

\* 附件不译，原文照发。

## Annex

*[English only]*

### **Statement by Singapore on the adoption of the resolution on conscientious objection to military service at the end of the 24th Human Rights Council session, 27 September 2013**

Mr President,

My statement refers to the adoption of the resolution A/HRC/24/L.23 on conscientious objection to military service.

Singapore does not recognise the universal applicability of the right to conscientious objection to military service<sup>1</sup>. This so-called right cannot be viewed in isolation from the circumstances of the society in which it is embedded, and must be considered within the broader scope of the right of a sovereign State to defend itself and preserve its sovereignty. In this regard, we note that the resolution has reaffirmed an important fact that the exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, from which the right to conscientious objection can be derived, is subject to limitations prescribed by law and the necessity of ensuring public safety and order, as laid down in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Small countries like Singapore do not have the luxury of a sizeable professional defence force. Compulsory military service is the only credible means to defend our sovereignty. Every male Singapore Citizen and Permanent Resident, regardless of race or religion, is required by law to defend our country. To make exceptions to the law for any individuals or groups will undermine our system of universality and be unfair to those who do their part to defend our country because all have reaped the benefits of peace.

Singapore believes that the Human Rights Council should not be a politicised forum to impose beliefs and values. A constructive dialogue on the issue of conscientious objection to military service has to be achieved through genuine efforts to better appreciate national circumstances and respect for different systems and practices.

Thank you, Mr President.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to Singapore's statements at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> HRC session, as well as at the General Debate on item 3 during the 23<sup>rd</sup> HRC session which is also contained in A/HRC/23/G/6.