

Article on Singapore's Constitution

Author: *Dr Michael Fang*

Written as an apolitical piece discussing the aspects of Constitutional addressing the role of Presidency

Sources and Quotes of established sources below

(Purely addressed as a Legal Question; wrt the application of the WEF Question.)

Definition of Constitution in Singapore

What is the Singapore Constitution?

'The Constitution sets out the basic framework for the 3 branches of government in Singapore, which are the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. It also guarantees our fundamental liberties, and provides for other important aspects of governance such as citizenship and the use of public funds.'

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It provides for, among other things, the 3 branches of the Singapore government (namely, the executive, the legislature and the judiciary) and secures

our fundamental liberties. The provisions in the Constitution are applied in our daily lives, both

directly and indirectly, and more often than not without us even noticing'—Ex President Madam Halimah Yacob, September 2016.

Importance of the Singapore Constitution

The Constitution is one of the sources of law in Singapore. It is the supreme law, which means that all other laws passed must not conflict with it. Other sources of law include: Legislation (also known as statutes): These consist of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation passed by the government. (judiciary.sg)

Role in conflict of Interest Positions

As Singapore's Constitution is codified, it poses as a basis for laws to be made in Parliament. Whereas it is a common code of conduct for Members of Parliament (MP) to juggle multiple roles in directorships, provided it does not conflict and the MPs are able to fulfil their duties, the precedent is that it may be allowed by political convention, albeit with revised guidelines.

However, in the case of the key appointment of the Presidency, not only the same principles apply, but should be set to a higher standard as the role accompanied by one man fulfils the entire role of the Presidency and thus defines the code of conduct entirely as upheld by the Constitution. Note that the Presidency requires the resignation of posts from political parties, and thus the question should be viewed, apolitically.

The WEF(World Economic Forum) Question

WEF Agenda as Stated as on their website:

'The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It is independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests. The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance. Moral and intellectual integrity is at the heart of everything it does.

Our activities are shaped by a unique institutional culture founded on the stakeholder theory, which asserts that an organization is accountable to all parts of society. The institution carefully blends and balances the best of many kinds of organizations, from both the public and private sectors, international organizations and academic institutions.

We believe that progress happens by bringing together people from all walks of life who have the drive and the influence to make positive change.'

Searches on depopulation agenda only turned up talk of a 'Great Reset.'

Is Singapore part of the World Economic Forum(WEF)?

Governmental Position(as of previously):

The president *represents the country in official diplomatic functions and possesses certain executive powers over the Government of Singapore, including the control of the national reserves and the ability to revoke and appoint public service appointments.*

MFA recognition of WEF status:

Founded in 1971, WEF aims to improve the state of the world by engaging leaders and shaping global, regional and industrial agendas. Singapore participates regularly at its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, and also in WEF's regional meetings.

By Constitutional Law: Constitution, Articles 19(3)(a) to (d).

Once elected, the president shall:

not hold any other office created or *recognised* by the Constitution;

not actively engage in any commercial enterprise;

not be a member of any political party; and

not serve in Parliament.

WEF position

Image of Issues WEF are concerned with:

Global Risks Report 2023



Top 10 Risks

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period"

2 years

1	Cost of living crisis
2	Natural disasters and extreme weather events
3	Geoeconomic confrontation
4	Failure to mitigate climate change
5	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization
6	Large-scale environmental damage incidents
7	Failure of climate-change adaption
8	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity
9	Natural resource crises
10	Large-scale involuntary migration

10 years

1	Failure to mitigate climate change
2	Failure of climate-change adaption
3	Natural disasters and extreme weather events
4	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
5	Large-scale involuntary migration
6	Natural resource crises
7	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization
8	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity
9	Geoeconomic confrontation
10	Large-scale environmental damage incidents

Risk categories

■ Economic ■ Environmental ■ Geopolitical ■ Societal ■ Technological

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Risks Perception Survey 2022-2023

These are also issues dealt with by our local government, therefore potential perceived conflict of interest issues can arise with our President representing on issues such as these vis-à-vis the President's Oath and the issues therein.

Whether the WEF *aids* the governmental position, or opposes it, it is both a conflict of interest as the persona of president will be perceived/questioned on acting on cause or benefit of which side, indeed.

The President's Oath of Office:

‘...having been elected President of the Republic of Singapore, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge my duties as such to the best of my ability without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, and without regard to any previous affiliation with any political party, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic, and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.’

There is also talk about the great reset as of date. but thus far, could not find evidence of direct talk by WEF of depopulation agenda (counterclaimed by them to be misrepresented by some press vs decrease in population). There is however, written, an UNICEF-WEF agreement to ship vaccines across the world.

WEF on conflict of interest

A conflict of interest arises when your personal interests or those of your spouse, close relatives, personal relationships, friends or **third parties** interfere, or could be perceived as

interfering, with your professional judgment, objectivity, independence or loyalty to the Forum.

Forum Staff must avoid any activity that could lead, or be **perceived** to lead, to a conflict of interest. You are expected to inform the Chief Human Resources Officer (or the Head of

Human Resources from the World Economic Forum LLC) and/ or the Head of the Legal Department as soon as you are aware that a potential conflict of interest may arise.

Please refer to the Forum’s Conflict of Interest policies available on Salesforce.

In any potential conflict of interest situation, ask yourself:

- Could my personal interests or interests of next-of kin, friends or personal relationship interfere with those of the Forum?
- Might it appear that way to others, either inside or outside the Forum?

Conflicts of **interest, real or perceived**, involving:

- (i) a member of the Executive Committee, will be dealt by the Managing Board
- (ii) a member of the Managing Board will be dealt by the Governance Board of the Board of Trustees of the World

Economic Forum

The decision may be taken *without* the participation of the concerned individual.

Can Law be applied retrospectively?

Minister of State for Law Ho Peng Kee said:

In short, the Rule of Law refers to the supremacy of law, as opposed to the arbitrary exercise of power. The other key tenet is that everyone is equal before

the law. The concept also includes the notions of the transparency, openness and prospective application of our laws, observation of the principles of natural justice, independence of the Judiciary and judicial review of administrative action.

However occasional retrospective procedural applications has been allowed under special circumstances in Singapore ;although this runs in contrarian with a the principles of having a Codified(written)Constitution in the first place.(Ref: <https://lawexplores.com/prospective-overruling-in-singapore-a-judicial-framework-for-the-future/>).

Also, according to academia.sg,

‘24 Jun 2020 — A 2/3 super-majority needed for a constitutional amendment can be as high as 70 votes or as low as 63 votes.’

Summary:

If the Codified Constitution of Singapore is to remain the highest source of Law in the Land, then it must follow prospective ruling ,not retrospective action and any retrospective action should be ruled unconstitutional.(Otherwise the alternative will be Britain’s Parliamentary Sovereignty, which would defeat the purpose of safeguarding with a Presidential role in the first place).