

**6th ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON
MARITIME SECURITY, BALI, 22-23 MAY 2014**

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9 – COOPERATION IN
COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING**

Mr Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving the floor to Malaysia.

2. We have heard presentations and statement among others on the need for close cooperation to combat IUU fishing. Malaysia too believes it is important to pay serious attention to IUU fishing and act decisively against it. If left unchecked, IUU fishing could have serious implications on a country's development, fishery resources as well as marine environment and ecological balance.

3. In terms of current National situation, the fisheries sector is important to Malaysia. According to recent figures, fisheries landings for Malaysia were 1.6 million tonnes with an estimated value of RM 2.8 billion USD. Its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is significant. Fisheries in Malaysia is generally considered to consist of two major components, namely, the marine capture fisheries and the aquaculture industry. The greater bulk of the fish landings have been from capture fisheries, constituting approximately 80 per cent of total production, with the rest coming from aquaculture. The workforce in the fisheries sector in Malaysia consisted of 134,110 fishers working on board 53,002 licensed fishing vessels.

4. Malaysia sees IUU fishing as a threat that warrants a concerted national effort to address. In this regard, Malaysia had already formulated a **National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing**. The National Plan of Action was developed in accordance with the FAO's International Plan of Action on IUU and it complements Malaysia's existing laws that imposed stringent control on fishing in Malaysian waters, namely the Fisheries Act 1985 and the Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1985.

Mr Co-Chair,

5. Although we have in place the necessary legal and policy framework against IUU fishing, Malaysia believes it could not be resolved in isolation. Close cooperation and constant exchange of information at the regional and international level are needed to effectively combat IUU fishing. We would like to share a practical example of how this could be achieved. Between 2012 and 2013, Malaysia

has received and acted on 12 requests from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to deny IUU fishing vessels from using Malaysian ports. These requests by Australia were made under the ambit of the Regional Plan of Action Against IUU (RPOA-IUU).

6. In a more recent example in April this year, two vessels listed as IUU vessels under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources' IUU Vessels List were detained by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency. The two vessels were carrying tonnes of catch on board when they were detained and are being subjected to legal actions under the relevant Malaysian laws.

Mr Co-Chair,

7. The examples from Malaysia's experience highlight how close collaboration and exchange of information between states under the relevant international and regional framework of cooperation could boost enforcement actions against IUU. We believe that the strengthening of cooperation mechanism could over time boost efforts to effectively curb IUU. But Malaysia is facing constraints in terms of acquiring the latest technology for forensic and DNA investigations to determine the species and origins of fish from detained IUU vessels, for example. Capacity building in terms of modern scientific and forensic technology is equally important to efforts against IUU fishing, based on Malaysia's experience.

Thank you.
