

DRAFT STATEMENT

**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON
STRENGTHENED COOPERATION ON
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

Building on the decision of the 21st Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar to issue the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration from Marine Oil Spill Incidents,

Acknowledging that marine ecosystems and resources are vital to food security, human health, and economic well-being in the Asia-Pacific region,

Recognizing that prompt and effective action at the national, regional, and international level is essential to minimize the impacts resulting from various threats to the marine environment, including marine pollution, ocean acidification, and unsustainable fishing practices,

Consistent with ARF Participants' commitment to cooperation and the preservation of the marine environment for the benefit of their citizens and future generations, *we endeavor* to:

- ~~Reduce~~ by 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. ~~total nutrient pollution from land-based sources to the marine environment by 20 percent by 2025 in order to reduce hypoxic zones and harmful algal blooms.~~
- *Significantly reduce* the input of debris, especially plastics, into the marine environment so as to achieve measurable reductions of marine debris by 2025.
- *Stem the increase* in ocean acidification by taking ambitious action to reduce carbon emissions, including in the context of negotiations for a climate change agreement that will be applicable to all under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- *Achieve* worldwide coverage of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network and significantly increase the number of trained monitors and managers by 2020.
- *Conserve* at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, including through effectively managed protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2020.

Commented ["1"]: Consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Commented ["2"]: Inspired by Our Ocean Action Plan, International Oceans Conference, June 17, 2014, Washington, D.C. (attended by 20 of 27 ARF Participants)

Commented ["3"]: Consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- ~~Conserve~~ at least 20 percent of coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes, sea grass beds, and coral reefs by 2020. These ecosystems provide critical ecosystem services and habitat and nursery grounds for many species of marine life, store carbon, and protect vulnerable coastlines against storm surges. The rate of loss of all natural habitats is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced, by 2020.

- ~~End/Bring~~ overfishing of all marine fish stocks to a sustainable level by 2020, with the goal of restoring overexploited, depleted, and recovering stocks. To achieve this, *we endeavor* to:
 - Set fishing rules based on the best scientific evidence available ~~science~~, even if it means foregoing catch in the near term;
 - *Develop* fair, and transparent procedures for allocating fishing rights;
 - *Enforce* fishing rules using all available technologies and impose meaningful penalties on violators;
 - *Eliminate* by 2020 fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity of fishing fleets and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
 - *Require* fishing fleets to use appropriate gear and fishing techniques that minimize ~~reduce to an absolute minimum~~ the bycatch of ~~other non-target~~ species, waste, and discards of fish.
 - Support the effective implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and its associated International Plans of Action;

- *Prevent* illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. *To achieve this, we endeavor* to:
 - *Stop* illegally harvested fish from entering the stream of commerce, consistent with international law, using all tools available;
 - *Bring* into force promptly and effectively implement the Port State Measures Agreement by encouraging ARF participants to ratify it;
 - ~~Improve~~ tracking of fishing vessels by ~~ensuring~~ encouraging, including through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), that by 2017 all the relevant large fishing vessels (100 gross tons and above) to have obtained an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number – a unique and permanent identifier;
 - *Build* capacity to prevent wildlife trafficking of marine species through the regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks and through INTERPOL; and
 - *Provide* robust, science-based and non-discriminatory information to the public with the goal of informing consumer choice and allowing the selection of consumers with information to allow them ~~to choose~~ seafood that has been harvested legally and sustainably.

Commented ["4]: Consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Commented ["5]: UN Fish Stocks Agreement

Commented ["6]: Inspired by Our Ocean Action Plan, International Oceans Conference, June 17, 2014, Washington, D.C. (attended by 20 of 27 ARF Participants)

Commented ["7]: Inspired by Our Ocean Action Plan, International Oceans Conference, June 17, 2014, Washington, D.C. (attended by 20 of 27 ARF Participants)

- Support the effective implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing;