



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Director,**
Forest Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Climate Change Service

FROM : **The OIC-Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REVISED DRAFT OF THE 7TH EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS)
MINISTERIAL FORUM DECLARATION**

DATE : 11 OCT 2021

This is to respectfully circulate the revised draft of the 7th East Asian Seas Ministerial Forum Declaration for the 2021 East Asian Seas Congress, which will be held on 1-2 December 2021 for your further review and/or inputs. We note that some of our initial comments on the said draft Declaration were considered.

However, we observed that other comments were not highlighted in the draft Declaration such as:

- Inclusion of the promotion of establishing Marine Protected Area Networks and transboundary Marine Protected Areas for the protection and conservation of coastal and marine habitat and resources;
- Inclusion in the Roadmap the strengthening of R&D on Microplastics and other Non-Biodegradable waste materials found in coastal and marine ecosystems, followed by IEC for coastal communities

In light of the above, we would like to seek your views on the revised draft Ministerial Forum Declaration.

For your information and appropriate action, please.


MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
ADVANCING OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA:
ROAD TO 2030 FOR HEALTHY OCEANS, PEOPLE AND ECONOMIES**

We, the representatives of eleven countries bordering the Seas of East Asia, have virtually gathered this ___ day of December to review the progress and scale up good practices in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy in the Seas of East Asia, chart our actions in the new decade to achieve our vision of healthy oceans, people and economies; and respond to the global call for a green recovery strategy post COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly created a global crisis that disrupted trade, travel, tourism, and fisheries industries, plunging national economies across the region and affecting the lives and livelihood of the people.

We take note of the need to address the impacts of COVID-19 by implementing a green recovery strategy, driven by a robust Blue Economy that boosts employment and equitable growth, and brings transformation towards responsible consumption, production and investment, while protecting our natural capital, enhancing resource efficiency and resiliency, and reducing carbon footprint.

We reaffirm our commitment to Blue Economy made in the Changwon Declaration in 2012 and Climate action under the Manila Declaration in 2009, and support the global efforts to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, with mitigation and adaptation as crucial underlying principles in our strategies and actions to accelerate Blue Economy and Sustainable Development.

We have taken initiatives to protect our coastal and ocean ecosystems from the impacts of climate change, marine pollution and other unsustainable patterns of resource use, mindful of the ecosystem services that it provides, including hosting nine of the world's busiest container-shipping seaports, producing 80% of the world's aquaculture and 40 million tons of annual fish catch, and supporting a third of the world's coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds..

We have achieved our targets set in the Danang Compact 2015, specifically 1) the completion of a regional State of Oceans and Coasts (SOC) and ten National SOC reports on Blue Economy, 2) scaling up of integrated coastal management (ICM) covering an estimated 40 percent of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas, surpassing the 25 percent target coverage by 2021; and 3) facilitating the formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies, action plans and programs on coastal, rivers, associated watersheds and ocean ecosystems.

We acknowledge the recognition of PEMSEA as a model for regional ocean governance and partnerships, and affirm the SDS-SEA as the regional framework of commitments for collaborative and inclusive actions, thus providing PEMSEA with the essential institutional foundation to take on a greater role in contributing to achieving global and regional commitments in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Climate Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Sendai Framework, which were confirmed through the Danang Compact and the Iloilo Declaration.

We welcome the United Nations proclamation of a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and the UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration and support the global efforts in facilitating

- 3.3. Develop relevant programs on blue economy targeting financial and technical assistance from a diverse mix of funding sources including multilateral and bilateral sources of funds and PEMSEA services; and
 - 3.4. Accelerate investments in blue economy by establishing partnerships with local governments, communities, the private sector, international organizations and development partners, academe, financial institutions, and technology providers.
4. **HEALTHY PEOPLE. Improve the quality of life of the coastal community by providing access to a healthful ecology and livelihood opportunities.**
- 4.1. Provide livelihood training particularly in project identification and development for coastal communities in ICM sites;
 - 4.2. Identify livelihood projects and support coastal communities in accessing grants and other financing opportunities; and
 - 4.3. Enhance capacities of local communities in business planning, operations and management as well as financial management and monitoring.

CALL FOR ACTION

COVID 19 has brought activities to a slow down, giving the environment and people a chance to reset and regenerate. As the world adjusts and works to manage the global pandemic and resulting economic crisis, PEMSEA should take the opportunity to lead in the green recovery to build better and healthier oceans, people and economies.
