**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**The 7th CTI-CFF Ministerial Meeting (MM-7)**

**14 December 2018, Makati City – Philippines**

The 7th CTI-CFF Ministerial Meeting (MM-7) was held on 14th December 2018 in Makati City, the Republic of Philippines.

The Meeting was chaired by the outgoing Chair of the Council of Ministers, the Hon. Mr. Roy Cimatu, Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines; co-chaired by the incoming Chair from the Solomon Islands, represented by H.E. Rosalie Masu, Deputy Director of In-shore Fisheries Division, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources;

and attended by representative of the Government of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Suseno Sukoyono, the Minister’s Advisor from Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries for Public and Inter-Agency Relations; the representative of the Government of Malaysia, H.E. Ms Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis, the Deputy Minister for Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC); the representative of the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Hon. Mr. John Pundari the Minister of Environment and Conservation & Climate Change; and the representative of the Government of Timor-Leste, H.E. Cesar Jose da Cruz, the Secretary General of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

***Bearing in mind*** that the Coral Triangle Initiative Leaders' Declaration on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security signed on 15 May 2009 in Manado, Indonesia sets the fundamental foundation to conserve and sustainably manage coastal and marine resources within the Coral Triangle region;

***Recalling*** the commitments of CTI-CFF in pursuits of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) implementation and to transform such goals along with its targets and regional actions into workable action-plans with mutual and coherent coordination at CTI-CFF national levels.

***Recognizing*** that the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) shall expire in 2019 and actions are in place for the development of the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPOA 2.0) to ensure CTI-CFF maintains its relevance as a regional platform to put oceans at the forefront of regional and national policy agenda’s achieving significant progress on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14) – life underwater ; related SDGs, and emerging issues in the Coral Triangle area, and our global oceans, where this matters most.

***Accepting*** the need for comprehensive monitoring, knowledge sharing, communication of timely information between member countries, Development Partners, Collaborators and other key stakeholders based on good science for decision-making for the benefit of human well-being.

***Agreeing*** that the CTI-CFF recognize the importance of oceans for food security and livelihoods; and it is critical to forge and maintain major partnerships while mobilizing resources.

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations, hereby:

1. Appreciate the update that the Agreement on the Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) (with annexes) is already deposited with the UN Secretary General on 1st November 2017;
2. Express our highest gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Philippines for hosting the pre-meetings of 14th Senior Officials’ Meeting (Pre-SOM), the 14th Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM-4) and the 7th Ministerial Meeting (MM-7) in an excellent arrangement;
3. Adopt the Chairman Summaries of the 13th Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM-13); Special SOM 2018; and the 14th Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM-14);
4. Accept the resignation of former Regional Secretariat’s Executive Director, Dr. Widi Agoes Pratikto effective 10th June 2018;
5. Appreciate the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for nominating Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry as the Interim Executive Director (IED) effective 1st October 2018 until a new Executive Director is appointed in 2019;
6. Appreciate the contribution and leadership by the Government of the Republic of Philippines and Government of Solomon Islands as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Ministers (COM) and Chair of the Committee of Senior Officers (CSO) for 2017 and 2018;
7. Appreciate the continued support from CTI-CFF Development Partners and Collaborators, and welcomes further cooperation towards meeting the goals of CTI-CFF;
8. Adopt Lesser Sunda and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion (BSSE) as CTI-CFF Priority Seascapes, and progress discussions with donors, collaborators and partners;
9. Agree to the continued process of the RPOA 2.0 development with involvement from all CT6 Member Parties; Development Partners; Collaborators; and relevant resource organizations;
10. Acknowledge and accept Development Partners’ reflections of CTI-CFF; its achievements, challenges and to move forward in the spirit of collaboration and transparency;
11. Endorse Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) as new CTI-CFF Development Partner;
12. Agree to delegate the responsibility and power of appointment from CTI COM to CTI CSO for the appointments of the new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director (Corporate Services) based on Staff Regulation 7;
13. Agree to the appointment process and timeline for the appointment of the new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services;
14. Endorse the 2019 Regional Secretariat’s Organization Chart;
15. Endorse the Special Audit Reports for 2014 to 2016 and the 2017 Audit Report;
16. ~~Endorse the 2019 Budget and 2020 Forecast;~~
17. Endorse the establishment of an Internal Resource Committee (IRC) and its Terms of Reference (TOR) with its Chair and Vice-Chair to follow the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship for the Committee of Senior Officers (CSO) and the Council of Ministers (COM);
18. Endorse the dissolution of the Coordination Mechanism Working Group (CMWG) in place of the Internal Resource Committee;
19. Appreciate the six (6) governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines for 2018 country contributions, and Papua New Guinea for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017;
20. Congratulate the Regional Secretariat and appreciate the acceptance of the CTI-CFF as a member of International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) at the 33rd ICRI General Meeting in Monaco 5-7 December 2018;
21. Welcome the organization of the 2nd CTI-CFF Leaders’ Summit in 2020;
22. Elect the Government of Solomon Islands and Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Ministers (COM) and Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) for two (2) years; from 2019 to 2020;

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