Archipelagic & Island States Forum

Manado Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the Archipelagic and Island States Forum

We, the participating countries (Annex I), gathered in Manado, 1st November 2018 for the 1st Ministerial Meeting of Archipelagic and Island States Forum.

Noting that archipelagic and island states, irrespective of our location, size, and level of development, share common but differentiated development challenges, and environmental challenges,

Acknowledging the crucial roles and responsibilities of multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to youth, civil society, academics, startups, philanthropists, industry, private sector, and multilateral organisations in addressing sustainable development and climate change issues including disasters mitigation,

Emphasizing that archipelagic and island states are amongst the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

Stressing that archipelagic and island states are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including combating climate change impacts and conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, coastal, and marine resources with collaborative and integrated approach,

Affirming our commitments to the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development, including Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Paris Agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Sendai Framework, and the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the SDG 14,

Recognizing that archipelagic and island states are facing existential threats from climate change that are affecting our survivability,

Do hereby declare to:

1. Strengthen our commitment to be part of a collaborative action to address our common challenges in the areas of: (a) climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster management; (b) economic challenges and opportunities which consist of blue economy, responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, economic growth and creation of decent working opportunities; (c) marine plastic debris; and (d) good maritime governance;

2. Identify and work towards actionable, concrete collaboration and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, youth, civil society, academics, startups, philanthropists, industry, private sector, and international and multilateral organisations to strengthen our joint efforts through smart and innovative solutions, including project implementation supported by blended finance mechanism, to achieving sustainable development, improving livelihoods of coastal communities, and restoring ocean health;

3. Encourage the development of an integrated approach to maritime and ocean governance, recognizing that the challenges facing our oceans are closely interconnected;

4. Establish Archipelagic and Islands State Forum (hereinafter referred to as "AIS Forum") as an open-ended, complementary, integrated, and inclusive developmental forum, with regular meetings that is in synergy with other initiatives and serving as an avenue for collaboration and sharing of expertise to generate smart and innovative solutions among archipelagic and islands states and its collaborative partners.

Agreed in Manado, Indonesia, on First day of November in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen, in a single original copy, in the English language.

ANNEX I : Participating countries:

1. Republic of Cabo Verde,
2. Republic of Cuba,
3. Republic of Cyprus,
4. Republic of Fiji,
5. Republic of Guinea Bissau,
6. Republic of Indonesia,
7. Jamaica,
8. State of Japan,
9. Republic of Malta,
10. Democratic Republic of Madagascar,
11. Independent State of Papua New Guinea,
12. Republic of the Philippines,
13. Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis,
14. Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe,
15. Republic of Seychelles,
16. Republic of Singapore,
17. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
18. Republic of Suriname,
19. Democratic Republic of Timor Leste,
20. Kingdom of Tonga,
21. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland