CHAIR'S CONCLUSION
OF THE 6TH SENIOR OFFICIAL MEETING (SOM-6)
OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC AND ISLAND STATES (AIS) FORUM
BALI, 5TH DECEMBER 2022

1. The Sixth Senior Official Meeting (SOM-6) of the Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum was organized jointly by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Indonesia. The Meeting was attended by representatives of countries from: the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Palau, the Independent States of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Philippines, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of Singapore, Solomon Islands, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Kingdom of Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Vanuatu. The Meeting was also observed by the representatives of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, and the Secretariat of the Archipelagic and Island States.

2. The Meeting was held in preparation of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Archipelagic and Island States Forum, and to observe the progress of activities, progress, and working plan of the Secretariat of the AIS Forum.

3. The Meeting welcomed and appreciated the progress and deliverable made by the Secretariat of the AIS Forum since the Third Ministerial Meeting, particularly in the smart and innovative solutions area such as

the Blue Economy Development Index and the AIS Blue Startup Hub ecosystem.

4. The Meeting also agreed to further develop and support the programs and the working plan of the Secretariat to ensure its inclusive concrete outcomes. Additionally, the Meeting encourage the Secretariat to improve its engagement with various stakeholders.

5. During the discussion, the Meeting agreed there will be two key themes in the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the AIS Forum, namely the Blue Strategic Cooperation and the Preparation of the High-Level Meeting of the AIS Forum as the avenue to elevate AIS Forum collaboration and strengthening its cooperation framework.

6. The Meeting highlighted the importance of further exploring and developing the huge potential of blue economy for archipelagic and island states to accelerate the post pandemic recovery and tackle current global challenges.

7. The Meeting also underlined, in line with one of the four key thematic areas of collaboration of the AIS Forum, the need to consistently allocate our attention and concrete action toward the pressing effects of climate change as well as to enhance the mitigation and adaptation efforts to address climate change.

8. The Meeting agreed to propose that the Fourth Ministerial Meeting arrange Indonesia to host the First High-Level Meeting of the AIS Forum in 2023, inviting the Heads of State/Government of all archipelagic and island states as per mandated by the Second Ministerial Meeting in 2019.

9. Furthermore, the Meeting suggested three main themes for the First High Level Meeting, which are the Blue Economy, Our Ocean Our Future, and Solidarity. The draft and modalities of the High-Level Meeting will be discussed throughout a series of Senior Official Meetings, intersessional working group sessions, and through consultation and correspondence next year.

10. Finally, The Sixth Senior Official Meeting discussed and agreed on the draft outcome document of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the AIS Forum, as attached to be forwarded to the Ministerial Meeting. In this regard, The Sixth Senior Official Meeting invited the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the AIS Forum to adopt the outcome document.

** (As agreed by SOM-6 and to be adapted by the MM-4)*

Archipelagic & Island States Forum

Annex:

OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC AND ISLAND STATES FORUM 6TH DECEMBER 2022

We, Ministers and representatives of the archipelagic and island states, met in Bali, Indonesia, on 6th December 2022 for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum.

Recalling the Manado Joint Declaration establishing the AIS Forum as an open-ended, complementary, integrated, and inclusive development forum with the commitment to engage in collaborative actions that address common challenges affecting archipelagic and island states in the key thematic areas of: (a) climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster management; (b) blue economy; (c) marine plastic debris; and (d) good maritime governance.

Recognizing that each archipelagic and island state is part of the global community that is connected by the ocean. The past, present, and future of the archipelagic and island states are tied to the condition and well-being of the ocean, which have also highlighted its susceptibility to ocean and coastal degradation.

Emphasizing that sustainable use and protection of the ocean and its resources is fundamental for climate change mitigation and adaption, and welfare and prosperity of all humanity for generations to come. The current utilization of marine and coastal resources must take into account

the need for protection and preservation of the coastal and marine environment.

Recognizing the importance of the ocean-climate nexus and the need to strengthen actions on ocean and climate adaptation within the framework of the UNFCCC.

Recalling the commitments, progress and decisions made in the Third Ministerial Meeting of the AIS Forum, including to reschedule the First High-Level Meeting of the AIS Forum due to concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking into account that the transboundary disruption of the global economy and social life caused by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the interconnectedness of the modern economies.

Emphasizing that archipelagic and island states, share common environmental and development challenges that should be resolved through joint efforts and concrete collaboration.

Do hereby declare that:

1. Concrete collaboration between AIS Forum participating countries and international partners in a sustainable and consistent manner is of paramount importance to assist post-pandemic recovery and boost efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 14.

2. To successfully manage and protect the finite resources of the ocean, archipelagic and island states shall engage in a mutually beneficial collaboration built upon the principles of solidarity, fairness, and

reciprocity.

3. A sustainable blue economy and its extensive economic potential should be further explored through collaboration, research and development, and promoting entrepreneurship in the archipelagic and island states, to open new opportunities and improve economic recovery pathways in dealing with the current challenges related to sustainable development, including blue recovery.

4. The objective of the blue recovery will require the strengthening of enabling environments at all levels, including institutional and human capacity building, as well as promoting open and responsive access to science, knowledge, infrastructure, technology, and innovation in the four key thematic areas of the AIS Forum.

5. The collaboration in the AIS Forum is instrumental to address global social, environmental, and development challenges; to implement nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches; and to promote sustainable and smart innovative solutions by creatively utilizing innovative start-ups as champions.

6. The far-reaching effects of climate change, in particular the sea level rise and ocean acidification, compounded with the impacts of the global health, economic, and environmental crises also call for a higher commitment to magnify the voices of archipelagic and island states over these pressing issues and therefore, it is crucial to further concrete actions and effective collaboration within the AIS Forum, other existing mechanisms, and strategic friends. Bearing in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, we reaffirm the importance of efforts to limit the global

temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celcius above pre-industrial levels and to achieve ambitious climate and environmental outcomes under UNFCCC COP and CBD COP.

7. Considering the need to ensure sustainable and stronger institutional support for ongoing and future collaboration programs and projects, in the archipelagic and island states, we share similar understanding on the importance of advancing our effective collaboration, including through the strengthening of the AIS Forum framework.

8. The AIS Forum Secretariat to:
   a. expand its efforts to facilitate closer collaboration amongst archipelagic and island states in the four key thematic areas of cooperation;
   b. improve its efforts to engage partnerships with various stakeholders, to facilitate the actions required in the development of AIS Forum strategic programs for a sustainable future;
   c. continue the deliberation on the further development of innovative financing mechanisms and financial resources to support initiatives/projects that are related to the four key thematic areas of the AIS Forum;
   d. develop sustainable management of ocean resources through the advancement of science and technology, evidence-based policies consistent with the precautionary principle; and
   e. implement its programs and activities in close coordination with relevant points of contact of the AIS Forum participating countries, and report its progress to the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the AIS Forum in 2023;

9. We welcome the intention to convene the First High-Level Meeting in 2023 in Indonesia which will invite participation of all-Heads of State or Government of the AIS Forum participating countries.

As discussed by Ministers and representatives of the participating countries of the AIS Forum on 6 December 2022.