

JOINT INTERVENTION OF THE ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO THE RESUMED SECOND PART OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (RESUMED CBD COP 15 PART II)

Nairobi, Kenya | 19-20 October 2023

Indonesia, as the Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is pleased to deliver the following statement on behalf of Member States present here in Nairobi.

The ASEAN Member States reiterate our agreements and actions as expressed in the ASEAN Joint Statement to the First Part of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15, Part I), as reaffirmed in the ASEAN Joint Intervention to the High Level Segment to the Second Part of the CBD COP 15 (CBD COP 15, Part II).

The ASEAN Member States welcomes the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and commit to its rights-based and inclusive implementation by scaling up our concerted efforts to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and promote biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Recognising the necessity of forward-looking plans to enhance cooperation and joint actions among ASEAN Member States (AMS) to address threats to nature and drivers of biodiversity loss, such as invasive alien species, and consistent with Target 5 of the KM GBF, the region has produced an ASEAN Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species Management, which was initiated by Indonesia as the lead AMS on the Programme Area of Invasive Alien Species.

We continue our concerted efforts towards advancing interlinkages between climate action and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through the promotion of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to minimise the devastating consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, prevent loss and damage from climate change impacts, and enhance climate mitigation and adaptation, in line with ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery efforts.

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN emphasises the importance of building upon successful experiences, best practices, and the progress made thus far in One Health initiatives and projects in the region, including the awareness and involvement of stakeholders and communities. Considering our vulnerability to threats including zoonoses, food hazards. antimicrobial resistance, as exacerbated by biodiversity lossand climate change, we call for stronger cross-sectoral collaboration, through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, as well as cooperation with international and development partners to sustainably balance and optimise the health of the human-animal-plant-environment interface.

We abide by our commitment to mainstream biodiversity into various development sectors, including through the sustainable management and utilisation of water and natural resources, renewable energy, and nature-positive and climate-smart agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. Significantly, the Parties to the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Agreement (RCEP) – the world's largest free trade agreement in terms of combined Gross Domestic Product and market size that accounts for almost one-third of the world's population – reaffirm their rights and responsibilities under the CBD.

Attendant to these developments are ongoing initiatives, including the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, which recognises the region's protected areas with important and unique biodiversity and ecosystems, and the ASEAN Green Initiative, our contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, continue to highlight ASEAN's collective endeavours. We continue to strengthen our institutional arrangements, including through transboundary cooperation, to improve governance and the effective operationalisation of multilateral environmental agreements and frameworks, as we engage sub-national, national, sub-regional, regional, and global actors, including the private sector, women, children, youth, and indigenous peoples and local communities, to take collective and transformative actions.

In light of the anticipated conclusion of the CBD COP 15, we reiterate our call to agree on implementation mechanisms, and to foster effective and innovative resource mobilisation strategies that recognise the common but differentiated responsibilities of Parties.

Together and with the technical, scientific, capacity development, and policymaking, and facilitative support of the region's centre for excellence on biodiversity, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN – as the epicentrum of growth – is a significant partner in achieving the goals and targets of the KM GBF, and in realising the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature.
