

CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE LEADERS' DECLARATION ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Manado, Indonesia, 15 May 2009

We, the Leaders of Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Malaysia:

ACKNOWLEDGING the vast marine, coastal and small island ecosystems and the unique biodiversity of the Coral Triangle region of the Indo Pacific, which provide invaluable livelihood and food security benefits for our people;

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to address the poverty afflicting our people, particularly our coastal communities, and to meet relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

EXPRESSING concern over the increasing level of degradation of marine, coastal, and small island ecosystems within the Coral Triangle region;

REAFFIRMING our common understanding to establish a cooperative arrangement to sustainably manage the marine, coastal, and small island ecosystems in the Coral Triangle region and to ensure that these efforts contribute effectively to strengthening food security, increasing resiliency, and adaptation to climate change,

REAFFIRMING ALSO our commitments to promote the sustainable management of our marine and coastal resources, and acknowledging the need for further action;

RESOLVING to take up the challenges of safeguarding the Coral Triangle's vast marine and coastal resources for present and future generations of our people,

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. **TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH** the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) to address threats to the marine, coastal, and small island ecosystems within the Coral Triangle region, through accelerated and collaborative action, taking into consideration multi-stakeholder participation in all of our six countries,

2. **TO AGREE** that the Coral Triangle Initiative primarily focuses on areas of cooperation in relation to coral reefs, fisheries, food security, and adaptation to climate change;
3. **TO AFFIRM** the Joint Statement of the first Ministerial Meeting of CTI-CFF, held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 10 March 2009;
4. **TO ADOPT** the CTI Regional Plan of Action, a living and non-legally binding document to conserve and sustainably manage coastal and marine resources within the Coral Triangle region, that takes into consideration laws and policies of each country, as endorsed by the first CTI Ministers' Meeting in Port Moresby;
5. **TO RECOGNIZE** that the implementation of the CTI-CFF is a voluntary cooperation and without prejudice to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, sovereign rights of the six countries respectively over their marine resources, and the position of each state on the on-going and future negotiation on delimitation of maritime boundaries between the countries;
6. **TO EMPHASIZE** that cooperation of CTI-CFF shall be subject to the laws; regulations; national policies and priorities of the respective countries; and the application of relevant sustainable development principles to transboundary management, conservation and development within the Coral Triangle region; as well as taking into consideration the relevant multilateral, regional and bilateral environmental agreements;
7. **TO TASK** our relevant Ministers to formulate the implementation modalities of CTI-CFF with a view to enhancing the cooperation;
8. **TO ESTABLISH** a secretariat for CTI-CFF to service the ongoing CTI-CFF implementation process;
9. **TO CALL** for the mobilization and effective allocation of sustainable financial resources needed to implement the CTI Regional and National Plans of Action;
10. **TO EXPRESS** our appreciation to CTI-CFF Partners for their continuing support towards the successful implementation of CTI-CFF programs in the region, and welcome participation by new partners;

11. **TO CONVENE** the next CTI Summit when deemed necessary, on a date mutually agreed by the CTI countries, to help ensure that a high level of political commitment continues to be dedicated in furthering the attainment of the goals of CTI-CFF.

Signed on 15 May 2009 in Manado, Indonesia by:

Government of the
Republic of Indonesia



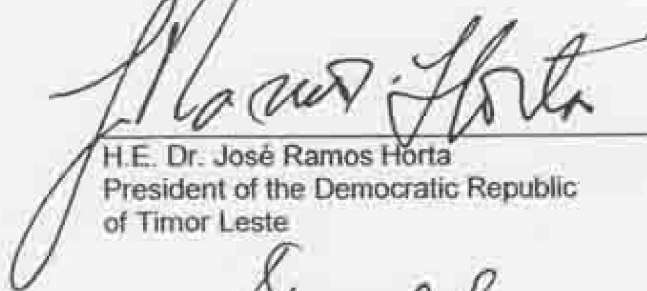
H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia

Government of the
Republic of the Philippines



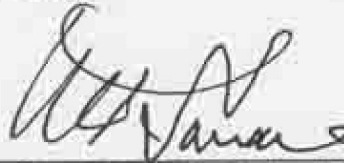
H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Democratic Republic
of Timor Leste



H.E. Dr. José Ramos Horta
President of the Democratic Republic
of Timor Leste

Government of
Papua New Guinea



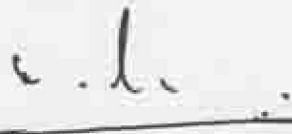
Rt. Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

Government of
Solomon Islands



Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua
Prime Minister of Solomon Islands

Government of Malaysia



H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia