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## CTI-CFF Joint Communiqué in Light of Typhoon Haiyan

### The countries of the Coral Triangle,

**Having** met at Manila from 26 to 27 November 2013 for the 9<sup>th</sup> Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Senior Officials' Meeting,

**Working** together to secure critical ecosystem services for climate change adaptation, food security, and marine biodiversity for the development of coastal communities and environmental protection,

**Recalling** Climate Change Adaptation as one of the five pillars in the Regional Plan of Action of the CTI-CFF Goals and Commitments,

**Recognizing** that climate change represents a serious and potentially irreversible threat to human society and natural ecosystems and therefore requires to be urgently addressed by all countries,

**Recognizing** further the serious concern that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal and in the past half century, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia, as indicated by the findings contained in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

**Stressing** that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

**Understanding** that safeguarding the environment is a climate change adaptation measure in itself, and that our actions now will decide the future for all our children and our planet,

**Standing** in solidarity with all coastal communities of the world, urban and rural alike, that face a future of intensifying weather and vulnerable to storm surges, and rising sea levels and temperatures, as has been weathered by the Filipino people in the onslaught and the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan,

### **Declare that:**

We shall drive national efforts in the assessment of the vulnerabilities of our coastal areas, the stocktaking of the natural protection provided by our natural resources and the identification of the gaps remaining in our coastal defenses

We shall inform and shape national and regional policies for sustainable planning in coastal developments, with the proper safeguards for climate change adaptation, for the reinforcement of the natural protection provided by the environment, and for building local

capacity of communities to develop appropriate and representative strategies in protecting and sustaining the Coral Triangle.

We shall continue to develop and implement regional and national programs for climate change adaptation suitable to our countries' needs and with an ecosystem-based adaptation approach, as embodied in the Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation, while benchmarking and sharing best practices among the Initiative and other coastal nations, being fully aware that the conservation of the Coral Triangle calls for a collaborative, trans-geopolitical effort bounded not by national borders but by the vibrant ecosystems that our nations collectively share, in recognition of the challenges posed by a climate-defined future.

We shall work towards the completion of a regional network of operational National Centers of Excellence on Climate Change Adaptation for a comprehensive understanding of and country-specific adaptation to the effects of climate change for the conservation of natural resources and the sustainable economic development of coastal communities.

We call on other coastal nations, and all nations of the world, to make similar preparations and implement appropriate measures in addressing climate change to build climate resilient communities.

We urge developed countries to fulfil their commitments in providing finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity building, to allow developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change to adapt to climate change and effectively address, and to lead efforts in developing and implementing robust environmental standards in support of a global green economy, and we urge developing countries to place ecologically sustainable safeguards in attaining economic development.

We enjoin all nations to urgently and immediately work towards the deep reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions required to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels to prevent dangerous runaway climate change that will mean more catastrophic and intense extreme climate events, and pursue with resolve a fair, ambitious, and effective global climate agreement by 2015.