



RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR THE ASEAN REGION TOWARDS 2020

*(Adopted by
the Ministerial Session for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries
for Food Security Towards 2020
“Fish for the People: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”)*

We, the Ministers of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries who are responsible for fisheries, met in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020: Fish for the People 2020 “Adaptation to a Changing Environment” on 17 June 2011,

Recalling the principles of the ASEAN Vision 2020 and relevant ASEAN declarations/initiatives including the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015); the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint; the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint; the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum Work Plan (2010-2012); the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) (2009-2013); and the ASEAN Multi-sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry Towards Food Security (2010 onwards) ; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that need to be considered in achieving sustainable development of fisheries and the socio-economic well-being of all relevant stakeholders;

Guided by the ASEAN Charter, which aims to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the people as the focus of the ASEAN Community building process;

Recognising the importance of the fisheries sector for food security, livelihoods and well-being of the ASEAN people and its contribution to sustainable development and realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015, which encompasses the three pillars - the ASEAN Political Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

In response to the challenges of the changing environment and the emerging issues including climate change and the growing gap between the increased demand for fish and fishery products and ASEAN’s ability to supply these products in a sustainable manner, and taking into account the imperative to minimise the impacts caused by the increasing pressures on fisheries and globalisation of trade that are resulting in increased illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the depletion of coastal fish resources, habitat degradation, negative impacts of aquaculture, and increased conflicts among resource users that further jeopardise the food security and livelihoods of ASEAN people, in particular the poor and disadvantaged;

Recognising the “ASEAN-Japan Partnership for New Growth in Asia”, through supporting the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015;

Recognising the support from the other dialogue partners to ASEAN in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015;

Bearing in mind the provisions of international and regional declarations and instruments relevant to fisheries, food security, ocean governance, trade, rights/safety, social well-being and the aquatic environment, including the continued relevance of provisions provided in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Regional Guidelines on Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia;

Acknowledging the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region that was adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers responsible for fisheries during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium “Fish for the People” on 24 November 2001, and the progress made by the Member Countries in the implementation of the 2001 Resolution and Plan of Action;

Recognising the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) in providing a cooperative platform between ASEAN and SEAFDEC, in achieving long-term common goals towards development and management for sustainable fisheries;

Acknowledging that priority should be given to the issues identified through the national and regional participatory processes in preparation for, and at the **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020: Fish for the People 2020 “Adaptation to a Changing Environment”**;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations, and responsibilities of our countries under relevant international laws and arrangements, to:

1. Sustain the supply of fish and fishery products from the ASEAN region to improve food security, facilitate poverty alleviation, and improve the livelihoods of ASEAN people dependent on the harvesting, farming and marketing of fish and fishery products, by enhancing the necessary national fisheries policy, legal and institutional frameworks that encourages and support small-scale fisheries/farmers, including providing alternative livelihood opportunities;
2. Further develop strategic partnerships and cooperation to maximise the synergies and complementarities among the various stakeholders – government, private sector, civil society and relevant development partners and donor agencies to address regional and global challenges;
3. Strengthen human capacity of relevant stakeholders through mobilisation of resources and the harmonisation of initiatives that support fisheries communities and governments, with a special focus on the women and youth;
4. Strengthen fisheries governance by evaluating current constraints to ensure comparability and compatibility between the required practices and operation of fisheries in the ASEAN Member Countries;
5. Further develop regional initiatives to promote a responsible fisheries management mechanism, taking into account the specific social, economic, cultural, ecological and institutional contexts and diversity of ASEAN and ASEAN fisheries in the spirit of the development of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural

Community;

6. Implement effective management of fisheries through an ecosystem approach to fisheries that integrates habitat and fishery resource management aimed at increasing the social and economic benefits to all stakeholders, especially through delegating selected management functions to the local level and promoting co-management as a partnership between government and relevant stakeholders;
7. Promote better management of fishing capacity and use of responsible fishing technologies and practices, recognising the movement towards replacing the “open access” to fisheries resources with “limited access” through rights-based fisheries, and at the same time, secure the rights and well-being of inland and coastal fisheries communities;
8. Foster cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries and with international and regional organisations in combating IUU fishing;
9. Enhance resilience of fisheries communities to anticipate and adapt to changes in environmental conditions of inland and coastal waters, including those caused by climate change, which could adversely affect fisheries and aquaculture of fisheries communities;
10. Strengthen knowledge/science-based development and management of fisheries through enhancing the national capacity in the collection and sharing of fisheries data and information;
11. Enhance the awareness of the contribution that inland fisheries makes to food security and sustainable livelihoods, and include consideration of fisheries stakeholders when undertaking development projects that may impact inland fisheries;
12. Support ASEAN efforts to promote low carbon development by minimising the contribution of the fisheries sector to green-house gas emissions, with emphasis on promoting energy efficiency and use of alternative energy sources;
13. Improve the working conditions of people engaged in fisheries activities, and strengthen measures for safety of fishing vessels taking into consideration regional specificity;
14. Promote inter-agency coordination of multiple uses of freshwater resources for sustainable development of the resources and conservation of freshwater habitats;
15. Enhance the awareness that aquaculture makes to food security and sustainable livelihoods to deliver a responsible increase in aquaculture production that promotes aquaculture for rural development as means of rational use of land and water resources;
16. Promote cooperation among Member Countries and with international and regional organisations in encouraging responsible aquaculture practices through joint research, technology transfer and human resource development;
17. Mitigate the potential impacts of aquaculture on the environment and biodiversity including the spread of aquatic animal diseases caused by the uncontrolled introduction and transfer of exotic aquatic species and over-development of aquaculture;

18. Promote joint ASEAN approaches and positions in international trade in fish and fishery products indigenous to the region by harmonising the standards, criteria and guidelines and developing mutually-recognised agreements on sustainability and safety management systems;
19. Support the competitiveness of the ASEAN fish trade through the development of procedures and programmes that would certify, validate or otherwise indicate the origin of fish to reflect the need for traceability, sustainable fishing practices and food safety, in accordance with international and national requirements;
20. Optimise the utilisation of catch from water to market by reducing post-harvest losses and waste to increase fish supply and improve economic returns through promotion of appropriate technologies and facilities along the supply chain;
21. Improve technologies and facilities to ensure fish quality assurance and safety management systems, taking into account the importance of traditional fishery products and food security requirements, and promote the development of fishery products as an alternative supplementary livelihood for fisheries communities;
22. Support the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Senior Officials; and
23. Pledge our commitment to fully support this Resolution and task ASEAN Senior Officials to implement necessary actions and report progress in the advancement of sustainable fisheries that contribute to a prosperous, stable and peaceful ASEAN Community.

AND DO HEREBY DECIDE,

That the Resolution be implemented as soon as possible and use the *Plan of Action* adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Senior Officials during the **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020: Fish for the People 2020 “Adaptation to a Changing Environment”**, held June 13-17, 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand, as a guideline for formulating and implementing programs, projects, and activities through appropriate ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanisms.

LIST OF ASEAN-SEAFDEC MINISTERS

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Dr. Fadel Muhammad, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima, Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Dr. Ty Phommasack, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

H.E. Noh Bin Omar, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia

H.E.Mr. Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister of Livestocks and Fisheries, Myanmar

H.E. Ms. Linglingay F. Lacanlale, Ambassador of Republic of Philippines to the Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, Singapore

H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

H.E. Dr. Chu Tien Vinh, Deputy Director General of Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam

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