

Draft

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON STRENGTHENING FORESTRY COOPERATION IN
ASEAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF FOREST 2011**

WE, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), gathered here in Jakarta, Indonesia on _____ October 2011 for the 33rd AMAF Meeting;

RECOGNIZING that forest resources play a vital role to sustain human, animal and plant life;

RECALLING that our Leaders at the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2007, under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), called for, among others, enhancing intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of ASEAN's forestry products/commodities and strengthen efforts to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, forest fire and its resultant effects;

RECALLING that our Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit in **November 2009**, under the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009 – 2015), called for, among others, the promotion of sustainable forest management and addressing forest and climate change;

RECALLING ALSO that the ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocol for Wood-based Products, in line with the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of the Priority Sectors signed by the ASEAN Leaders at the 10th ASEAN Summit on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, called for the development of cooperation programmes among relevant authorities to combat illegal trade in forest products;

FURTHER RECALLING that our Leaders at the 16th Summit in April 2010 reaffirmed that agreement on and effective implementation of Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)-plus mechanisms is critical for contributions by ASEAN Members States to mitigate emissions, and offers major opportunities for enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as supporting the livelihood of local communities in a sustainable manner;

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcomes and agreements at the 14th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 7-8 July 2011, to strengthen cooperation and collaborative mechanism to address forestry issues in the region;

DEEPLY CONCERNED of the adverse impacts of illegal logging and its associated trade to the economic development, biodiversity and environment;

DEEPLY CONCERNED of the adverse impact of climate change to the agriculture and forestry sector;

HAVE AGREED, as follows:

- (1) To strengthen collaboration in promoting sustainable forest management
- (2) To continue efforts in strengthening forest law enforcement and governance, particularly in preventing and combating illegal logging and its associated trade, consistent with prevailing national laws, rules and regulations;
- (3) To enhance collaborative activities and programmes such as regional customs and trade cooperation, forestry sector transparency, joint approaches in

timber certification, country diagnostics and experience sharing;

- (4) To strengthen cooperation in research and development and knowledge sharing, in response to the adverse effects of climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from the sector
- (5) To enhance the joint cooperation on the implementation of Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)-plus mechanisms, amongst other, to explore the role of social forestry in adaptation and mitigation of climate change
- (6) To develop joint strategies/positions on forest and climate change issues of related interest to ASEAN, in particular on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation-plus (REDD+).
- (7) To task the ASOF to prepare and implement a work plan to achieve the above-stated measures;
- (8) To urge the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international and regional organizations and the business community to extend technical assistance and support; and

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, on this day of October in the year 2011.