

Statement by delegation of Cambodia on Regional Cooperation for Marine Protection

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for the Kingdom of Cambodia to address this important gathering on the critical issue of regional cooperation in marine conservation and management.

Cambodia recognizes that our marine and coastal environments are integral to our national development, food security, and the livelihoods of our coastal communities. However, we also acknowledge that these ecosystems are increasingly threatened by pollution, habitat degradation, overfishing, and the impacts of climate change-challenges that transcend national boundaries and require coordinated regional responses.

In this regard, Cambodia reaffirms its strong commitment to regional cooperation through the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). As an active member, we believe that COBSEA plays a vital role in fostering dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint action among member states to address marine litter, protect coastal and marine biodiversity, and promote sustainable ocean governance.

We particularly commend COBSEA's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework, which supports the implementation of national strategies while enhancing regional coherence. Cambodia is currently strengthening our national marine pollution monitoring systems and waste management infrastructure in alignment with this plan. We are also working with local communities and NGOs to raise public awareness and reduce single-use plastics along our coastlines.

Moreover, through COBSEA, Cambodia has benefited from capacity building, technical assistance, and the sharing of best practices with our neighbors, underscoring the value of regional solidarity in tackling shared environmental challenges.

In closing, Cambodia urges all partners to continue supporting and investing in COBSEA's mandate and regional mechanisms. Let us work together to ensure healthy, resilient, and productive seas for future generations.

Thank you.