



STATEMENT

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**The United Nations Ocean Conference to Support
the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14**

United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States
6 JUNE 2017

Mr. Co-President
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
And Friends,

Please allow me to congratulate you Mr. Co-President for your remarkable efforts to convene this first of its kind ocean conference come to live. Allow me also to congratulate the President General Assembly of the United Nations, H.E Peter Thomson for his remarkable efforts and hard work to make this highly important event possible.

As I addressed this august Conference, let me share with you my understanding on ocean development from the perspective of the largest archipelagic state in the world with 6.3 million square km of waters and more than 17,000 islands as well as the second longest coastline in the world: 99.000 km and the distance between its eastern most part to western most part is equal to 8 hours direct flying time.

Our oceans and seas face critical challenges from just one source: **ourselves.**: The adverse impact of climate change comes from human activities; The oil pollution at

sea, such as oil spill from fixed platform and vessels collisions, comes from human activities; Marine plastic debris floating like giant islands and eaten by fish and ocean mammals comes from human activities; Plundering of oceans wealth such as IUU fishing; Crimes and transnational organized crimes in fisheries sectors come from human activities; Even destruction of pristine coral reef in the global epicenter of coral reef biodiversity of Raja Ampat by touristic cruise vessel comes from none other than human activities.

Indonesia is doing its parts in contributing to the management of its oceans and seas. The President of the Republic of Indonesia has just launched the **Indonesian Ocean Policy** through a presidential decree. In this regard, I would also like take this opportunity this morning to announce **the Indonesian Ocean Policy** to this United Nations Ocean Conference. There are seven pillars of **Indonesian Ocean Policy**, namely (1) Management of Marine and Human Resources; (2) Defense, Security, Law Enforcement and Safety at Sea; (3) Ocean Governance; (4) Prosperity, Economy and Infrastructure of Marine Sector; (5) Management of the Ocean Space and Protection of Marine Environment; (6) Maritime Culture; and (7) Maritime Diplomacy. This **Ocean Policy** is adopted in time when Indonesian economy is humming at comfortable 5.3 percent annually, its GDP is over US\$1 trillion, foreign exchanges reserve is the highest since our independence over 70 years ago, and income inequality has been reduced.

There have been numerous domestic policies coming from the recent **Indonesian Ocean Policy** that we believe will also contribute to regional and global initiatives. They are in the areas that are relevant to our meeting today, namely marine litter and fisheries.

We are all aware how negative the marine plastic debris have effected our environment and even our health.

Indonesia has finalized its national plan of action to fight marine plastic debris. The national plan of action will emphasize on development of bio-plastic from cassava and seaweed, on waste to energy development and other recycling projects such as plastic tar road, empowering new grass root initiative **such as waste bank, a real Indonesian innovation**, strengthening local governments and also reaching out to international cooperation. Indonesia has also pledged to reduce marine plastic debris by 70% within 8 years and also finance a \$USD 1 billion program of solid waste management. The World Bank has worked closely with Indonesia on the development of this national plan of action.

Under the chairmanship of Indonesia, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) has also discussed in comprehensive manner marine plastic debris floating in Indian Ocean during the Blue Economy Conference of IORA held in Jakarta, last May. Marine Plastic Debris was also discussed intensively within the framework of G 20 in Bremen last week, and the countries of East Asia Summit are also planning to have a regional conference on marine plastic debris in Indonesia this year. And 21 member economies of APEC have adopted plan of action on marine plastic debris last year.

On fisheries, we are also all aware that IUU fishing, crimes and transnational organized crimes in fisheries sectors have decimated countless species and impoverished coastal communities from Africa to the Pacific. Indonesia has launched tough measures against IUU Fishing and also adopted a regulation barring slavery or forced labor in fisheries industries.

I appeal for market countries not to purchase illegally caught fish or fish managed by slaves or forced labors. Indonesia is also working with neighboring

countries and also market countries, such as EU, US, China, Japan and Korea to establish regional cooperation instrument against crimes in fisheries sector.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pondered upon our own challenges as archipelagic state with other archipelagic and island states, big and small. I have come to one conclusion, namely we are all the same regardless of our level of development or size of our geography. Indonesia has lost households and coasts due to rising of sea level, as well as natural disasters such as tsunami. In this regard, I would like to invite islands countries and archipelagic states, big and small islands, developing or developed, large population or few thousands, to get together on regular basis to exchange views and experiences as well as conduct mutual trainings and exercises in managing our oceans together. Such gathering maybe coined as **Archipelagic and Island States Forum**, where government officials, scientists, private sectors and civil societies are part of the conversation and solution to our common problem.

Finally, the urgency of the achievement of the targets of SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda is clearly reflected in the deadlines. Five of those deadlines are in 2020, just three years away; and several others in 2025. In other words, they are all due within just next eight years. In this regard, in view of the complexity, scope of works and gravity of the problem we are encountering, it is our view that the establishment of an office headed by a dedicated Under-Secretary General will enhance coordination and coherence in the implementation of oceans policy under the UN System, and will certainly increase the impact on the ground.

I thank you.