



EAS XIAMEN, CHINA
6-8 NOVEMBER
CONGRESS2024

**Blue Synergy for a Shared Future:
One Sustainable and Resilient Ocean**

6-8 NOVEMBER 2024 • XIAMEN CITY, CHINA

**8TH EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS)
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
MEETING (SGOM)**

P R O C E E D I N G S

**11 OCTOBER 2024
VIA ZOOM**



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH (8TH) EAST ASIAN SEAS (EAS)
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING(SGOM)
Preparatory Meeting for the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum**

**11 October 2024, 9:00 - 12:00 UTC+8
Zoom**

INTRODUCTION

- i. The 8th East Asian Seas Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM) was held on 11 October 2024 via Zoom. Senior Government Officials from PEMSEA Country Partners participated in the meeting, namely: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) served as the Secretariat for the Meeting.
- ii. Mr. Le Dai Thang, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair of the EAS Partnership Council, chaired the meeting on behalf of Ms. CHEN Danhong, the Intergovernmental Session Chair.
- iii. Supporting documents may be found in the following Annexes:
 - a. Annex 1: Agenda of the meeting
 - b. Annex 2: Links to the meeting documents, presentation and photos
 - c. Annex 3: List of participants

1.0 OPENING OF THE EAS SGOM

- 1.1 Mr. Le Dai Thang, Intergovernmental Session Co-chair of the EAS Partnership Council, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He informed the meeting that the Chair of the Intergovernmental Session, Ms. Chen Danhong, was unable to join due to unforeseen circumstances. In her absence, Mr. Le expressed his commitment to lead the proceedings effectively, ensuring that the meeting would still achieve its objectives with the same dedication and thoroughness.
- 1.2 He welcomed the Senior Government Officials from PEMSEA Country Partners to the meeting.. Representing the Executive Committee, he expressed appreciation for their active participation and invaluable contributions in shaping the 8th East Asian Seas Ministerial Declaration 2024 (Xiamen Ministerial Declaration) thus far. , noting the t the urgent need for synergistic actions in implementing robust strategies to safeguard, protect, and promote the effective management of the coasts and seas for sustainable development.
- 1.3 He emphasized that the SGOM serves as a critical platform for the final review and endorsement of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, as well as the program and

arrangements for the upcoming 8th EAS Ministerial Forum and stressed the necessity of reaching a consensus on the Declaration during the meeting. The primary objective was to endorse the final draft for approval and signature by Heads of Delegation at the upcoming forum. He called upon the country partners' expertise and collaborative spirit as essential to achieving this objective, thus paving the way for a successful Ministerial Forum.

- 1.4 He also highlighted that the upcoming East Asian Seas Congress in Xiamen, China, alongside World Ocean Week, represented a significant opportunity to showcase progress, reaffirm commitment to a healthy ocean and thriving coastal communities, and advance the shared vision for sustainable ocean management in the East Asian Seas region. He concluded by thanking the country partners' for their continued support and looked forward to active engagement in the meeting..

2.0 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA (SGOM/24/DOC/02A)

- 2.1 Ms. Abigail Cruzada, Secretariat Coordinator of PRF, presented the agenda of the meeting.
- 2.2 Director Al Orolfo, representative of the Philippines, and Ms. Chindavanh Souriyaphack of Lao PDR, moved and seconded the approval of the agenda.
- 2.3 The agenda (Annex 3) was adopted .

3.0 PRESENTATION OF THE EAS YOUTH CALL TO ACTION (SGOM/24/DOC/03)

- 3.1 Ms. Shinji Kim, Head of Partnerships and Planning of PRF provided a brief overview of the development of the EAS Youth Call to Action, which served as the main output of the EAS Youth Forum, held in Ulsan RO Korea on 16-18 April 2024.
- 3.2 The forum was a Pre-Congress Event. It brought together 19 young ocean leaders from 10 PEMSEA Country Partners for a learning exchange and capacity building workshop co-hosted by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of RO Korea, Korea National Ocean Science Museum, and PEMSEA.
- 3.3 The EAS Youth Call to Action was developed by the youth delegates through a series of discussions during the Forum, and highlights the crucial role of youth in securing a sustainable and resilient future for the ocean and coasts. It outlines five main commitments related to marine education, conservation engagement, policy advocacy,

stakeholder collaboration, and scientific innovation, which serve as a foundation for future youth involvement.

- 3.4 Through a short video outlining the key points of the Youth Call to Action, eight key actions were proposed, including: (1) inclusive policies ensuring increased youth representation, (2) universal access to marine education and capacity building, (3) support of youth-led local initiatives and solutions to ocean conservation, (4) ocean-based career development for the youth, (5) cross-sectoral dialogues incorporating youth participation and perspectives, (6) increased investments in sustainable ocean economies and initiatives, (7) strengthened regional cooperation and partnerships, and (8) leveraging the network for ocean and marine science and technology.
- 3.5 Ms. Kim expounded that the action points outlined in the Call to Action have already been reflected in Provision 3.1 of the draft Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, which emphasizes youth involvement, alongside other key stakeholders, in implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The Youth Call to Action specifically calls for greater youth engagement in ocean governance, and the provision exemplifies the promotion of a 'whole-of-society' approach.
- 3.6 Ms. Kim requested the body to ensure the inclusion of the youth agenda in the final draft of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration during the final review of the document.

4.0 REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE XIAMEN MINISTERIAL DECLARATION (SGOM/24/DOC/04a and DOC/04b)

- 4.1 Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of PRF, provided an overview of the consensus-building process undertaken in support of the development of the Ministerial Declaration, highlighting that it underwent five rounds of review and country consultations.
- 4.2 Ms. Gonzales emphasized that since its inception, PEMSEA has made decisions on strategic directions for the Partnership through consensus by seeking a unanimous agreement as a way of resolving conflicting issues and interests of PEMSEA country partners. In the past, PEMSEA has provided a platform where all country partners will have the opportunity to express their views and to exercise prudence in balancing multiple interests to arrive at consensus on a fair and acceptable basis.
- 4.3 Building on Draft 4.0 of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, which was circulated to the Country Partners from September 4 - October 8, 2024, the Secretariat presented the comments and inputs generated from the last review process, as well as the proposed 3-step process to better facilitate the SGOM review. In particular, the first step will focus on reviewing eight provisions with proposed modifications. The second step will cover 4 provisions with minor edits. Lastly, to secure consensus on the full draft, the SGOM will undertake a comprehensive line-by-line review.

4.4 Following the presentation, the Chair facilitated the review process with support from the Secretariat. Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin, PRF Consultant for SGOM and Ministerial Forum, presented the key provisions requiring further review and confirmation, along with proposed actions from the PRF to guide the SGOM deliberations.

4.5 The result of the SGOM review is captured in the following tables:

STEP 1 (Lines #5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24)

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
5	<p>1.3 WE affirm our commitments to relevant and interlinked regional and global [mechanisms], instruments and initiatives, including the Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), UNEA Ministerial Declarations, United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) – which guide our collaborative and</p>	<p>V4 Comment: SG: Add “and that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.”</p> <p>SGOM Discussions: SG: Clarified that the suggestion also notes that EAS countries are already signatories to UNCLOS (8 of the countries have ratified; Cambodia has signed but has not yet ratified; UNCLOS serves as legal framework, though there may be other instruments that work with UNCLOS). Suggested to further consider a modified formulation where UNCLOS can be mentioned</p> <p>VN: Concurred with Singapore’s suggestion to include UNCLOS, with</p>	<p>PRF: propose to delete ‘mechanisms’ and retain global instruments and initiatives</p> <p><u>Possible considerations related to UNCLOS from PRF:</u> <i>Historically, EAS Ministerial Declarations have not explicitly referenced UNCLOS but have expressed support for key commitments under the WSSD, Rio+20, and specific significant international environmental agreements to which EAS countries are signatories. The only declaration mentioning “Law of the Sea</i></p>	<p>SGOM Decision: Further in-country consultation to be undertaken by PEMSEA CPs (Deadline for feedback: 18 Oct 2024)</p> <p>Proposal offered by PRF for consideration:</p> <p>To facilitate consensus, based on the considerations provided by the PRF and noting the varying perspectives at the SGOM, the PRF proposed for PEMSEA CPs to consider a broader reference to ‘international obligations’ instead of explicit reference to UNCLOS.</p> <p>Proposed modification:</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	<p>synergistic actions for sustainable, inclusive and resilient East Asian Seas.</p>	<p>additional suggestion, as follows: “We reaffirm the universal and unified character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (the Convention), and reaffirm that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained.”</p> <p>CHN, IDN, CAM: The three countries believe that it would be more appropriate to use “international obligations” as suggested by PRF</p> <p>CAM: Reiterated that the country has yet to ratify UNCLOS, hence the suggestion to keep a broader phrasing</p>	<p><i>instruments” is the Putrajaya Declaration, with specific focus on synergistic actions for sustainable fisheries management.</i></p> <p><i>Given the reservations expressed by some PEMSEA Country Partners on the explicit mention of UNCLOS in the Declaration, perhaps the SGOM may consider a broader reference to ‘fulfilling the countries’ international obligations,’ particularly in Paragraph 1.3 of the draft Xiamen Declaration. Subject to further discussion at the SGOM.</i></p> <p>Proposed modification:</p> <p>WE affirm our commitments to relevant and interlinked... and</p>	<p>WE affirm our commitments to relevant and interlinked regional and global instruments and initiatives, including the Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), UNEA Ministerial Declarations, United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) - which guide reinforcing our collaborative and synergistic actions to meet our international obligations and to ensure a sustainable, inclusive and resilient East Asian Seas.</p>

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			<p>the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) – which guide reinforcing our collaborative and synergistic actions to meet our international obligations and to ensure a sustainable, inclusive and resilient East Asian Seas.</p>	
6		<p>V4 Comment: SG: Add as 1.4. “WE welcome the adoption on 19 June 2023 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long-term.”</p>	<p><i>Possible considerations related to BBNJ from PRF:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>o Perspective of PRF’s legal consultant: the suggested phrase is not contentious and can be retained if accepted by all countries.</i> <i>o The PRF also recognize that the review, signing, and ratification process for the BBNJ Agreement is ongoing and at different stages of discussion, review, etc. within PEMSEA</i> 	<p>SGOM Decision: Further in-country consultation to be undertaken by PEMSEA CPs (Deadline for feedback: 18 Oct 2024)</p> <p>Proposal offered by PRF for consideration:</p> <p>The PRF noted that the proposed phrase is a general acknowledgment of the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement in 2023. It was also noted that the proposed phrase was directly lifted</p>

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		<p>SGOM Discussions:</p> <p>SIN: The purpose of the suggestion is to highlight the adoption of the BBNJ as one of the major developments in ocean international efforts, while noting that it is pending signature/ratification in some EAS countries. The suggestion or inclusion of reference to BBNJ is taken from UNEP/EA.6/Res.15. The EAS countries were part of the UNEA RESOLUTION adopted in March 2024. Singapore also reiterated the perspective of PEMSEA’s legal consultant that the proposed phrase is not contentious.</p> <p>CHN: BBNJ covers sea area beyond national jurisdiction and has its own working area and platform different from PEMSEA. It has not taken into effect yet. As such, China suggests not to emphasize in the current Ministerial Declaration</p> <p>CAM: As the BBNJ Agreement builds upon UNCLOS which has yet</p>	<p><i>countries, and that the decision to adopt the BBNJ ultimately rests with each country.</i></p>	<p>from UNEP/EA.6/Res.15 adopted at UNEA in March 2024, but using the word “acknowledge”.</p> <p>To facilitate consensus, the PRF proposed for PEMSEA CPs to consider the inclusion of the proposed phrase with additional minor modification from the PRF.</p> <p>Proposed phrasing:</p> <p>[1.4. WE [welcome] / [acknowledge] the adoption on 19 June 2023 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological</p>

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		<p>to be ratified by Cambodia, Cambodia suggests to retain original wording from V4</p> <p>IDN: supports PRF's suggestion to include the phrase acknowledging BBNJ's recent adoption</p>		<p><u>diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long-term, while respecting the individual timelines and processes of countries in the review, signing, or ratification of the BBNJ Agreement.]</u></p>
17	<p>Action 1. Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration to support effective ocean governance and strengthen policy coherence across sectors with full recognition of the land-sea interface and the connectivity of ecosystems from ridge to reef that require integrated management approaches.</p> <p>The sharing of information and the lessons learned will help strengthen regional</p>	<p>V4 Comment: JPN: From Draft 3.0 to 4.0, the explanatories of "vertical/horizontal integrations" were deleted. "Vertical/horizontal integrations" are conceptual and require supplement explanation. For this reason, Japan would suggest to add relevant text just after the Action 1. The proposed text is mostly copied from the Draft 3.0:</p> <p><i>Action 1. Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration to support effective ocean governance and strengthen policy coherence across sectors with full recognition of the land-sea interface and the connectivity of</i></p>	<p>PRF Proposed modification</p> <p>Action 1. Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration to support effective ocean governance and strengthen policy coherence across sectors with full recognition of the land-sea interface and the connectivity of ecosystems from 'ridge to reef' that require integrated management approaches.</p> <p>PRF: <i>We feel that we need not include para 2.</i></p>	<p>SGOM Decision: PRF proposal accepted by Japan and the SGOM</p> <p>Final wording:</p> <p>Action 1. Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration to support effective ocean governance and strengthen policy coherence across sectors with full recognition of the land-sea interface and the connectivity of ecosystems from 'ridge to reef' that require integrated management approaches.</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	standards and actions.	<p><i>ecosystems from ridge to reef that require integrated management approaches.</i></p> <p><i>In this context, vertical integration means linkage across local, national, and regional levels. Horizontal means require coordinating across sectors and other regional seas programs. The sharing of information and the lessons learned will help strengthen the level of actions throughout the region.</i></p> <p>The meaning of "help strengthen regional standards" is somehow unclear because the word "standard" sounds official rules or legislation, given PEMSEA is not a body deciding or strengthening standard. If the message was to leverage information/lessons learned on activities throughout the region, Japan proposes to change the sentence accordingly.</p>	<p><i>We need not explain vertical and horizontal integration as they are quite well understood terms. We note the comment on 'standards' and therefore propose to delete the entire second paragraph</i></p>	
18	Action 2. Consider science-based data and	<p>V4 Comment: JPN: replace "institutionalize" to</p>	PRF: Accepted but modified to replace	SGOM Decision:

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	<p>information to support planning, policy development, and investment decision-making; measure the effectiveness of integrated coastal management and expand its scope and linkages to marine spatial planning and other area-based management approaches; institutionalize ocean accounting and valuation of marine ecosystem goods and services; promote inclusive digitalization and innovative technology to support ocean monitoring, as well as generate smart data-driven maps to better understand and protect the ocean from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss.</p>	<p>"mainstream" or "systemize" in the phrase "institutionalize ocean accounting and valuation of marine ecosystem goods and services". Given this document is the Ministerial Declaration expressing country commitments, the word "institutionalize" might convey legislative/regulative nuance although at this moment there are few country-led initiatives and wide gaps to an implementation stage. In order to avoid miscommunication to readers, we should not use "institutionalize". Taking into account the comment from Secretariat and internal discussion, "mainstream" or "systemize" are potential alternative wordings.</p>	<p>'institutionalize' with mainstream' only</p> <p>Action 2. Consider science-based data and information to support planning, policy development, and investment decision-making; measure the effectiveness of integrated coastal management and expand its scope and linkages to marine spatial planning and other area-based management approaches; (institutionalize) mainstream ocean accounting and valuation of marine ecosystem goods and services; promote inclusive digitalization and innovative technology to support ocean monitoring, as well as generate smart data-driven maps to better understand and</p>	<p>PRF proposal accepted by Japan and the SGOM</p> <p>Final wording:</p> <p>Action 2. Consider science-based data and information to support planning, policy development, and investment decision-making; measure the effectiveness of integrated coastal management and expand its scope and linkages to marine spatial planning and other area-based management approaches; mainstream ocean accounting and valuation of marine ecosystem goods and services; promote inclusive digitalization and innovative technology to support ocean monitoring, as well as generate smart data-driven maps to better</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
			protect the ocean from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss.	understand and protect the ocean from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss.
19	Action 3. Build synergistic approaches in the application of integrated coastal and/or river basin management, integrated pollution reduction and management, climate change and disaster risk reduction programs, and develop joint research, training and capacity development programs, measuring and monitoring impacts, and sharing knowledge, lessons, and good practices, among others.	V4 Comment: CHN: Add: "marine and coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration," after "integrated pollution reduction and management,"	PRF: Accepted Action 3. Build synergistic approaches in the application of integrated coastal and/or river basin management, integrated pollution reduction and management, marine and coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration , climate change and disaster risk reduction programs, and develop joint research, training and capacity development programs, measuring and monitoring impacts, and sharing knowledge, lessons, and	SGOM Decision: PRF proposal accepted by China and the SGOM Final wording: Action 3. Build synergistic approaches in the application of integrated coastal and/or river basin management, integrated pollution reduction and management, marine and coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration , climate change and disaster risk reduction programs, and develop joint research, training and capacity development programs, measuring and monitoring impacts, and

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
			good practices, among others.	sharing knowledge, lessons, and good practices, among others.
20		<p>V4 Comment: CHN: Add Action 4. Carry out systematic governance of marine ecological protection, improve marine spatial planning, optimize the functional and industrial layout of the sea area according to local conditions through a comprehensive governance path of land-sea integration, river-sea linkage, regional coordination and common governance of bays, to achieve coordinated advancement of marine ecological protection, economic benefits and people's livelihoods.</p>	PRF: Suggest not to include proposed Action 4, as Action 1 (land-sea use linkages) and 2 (ICM and marine spatial planning linkages to cover 'source to sea'/ 'ridge to reef' concept) already convey the same message.	<p>SGOM Decision: PRF proposal for non-inclusion of the proposed phrase accepted by China (proponent) and the SGOM</p>
		<p>V4 Comment: SG: Add Action 4. Consider signing and ratifying the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas</p>	<p><i>Possible considerations from the PRF:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Non-inclusion of the proposed provision would not affect the Declaration since there is</i> 	<p>SGOM Decision: Further in-country consultation to be undertaken by PEMSEA CPs (Deadline for feedback: 18 Oct 2024)</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
		<p>beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) at the earliest possible date.</p> <p>SGOM Discussions: SIN: The proposed wording is consistent with the adapted UNEA-6 resolution, which was supported and adopted by the EAS countries. In particular, the text for proposed Action 4 is based on UNEP/EA.6/Res.15, which was adopted in March of this year.</p> <p>CAM: As BBNJ Agreement discussions is beyond the capacity of MOE and is mainly under the responsibility of Foreign Affairs, and considering that Cambodia has yet to ratify UNCLOS, which serves as legal framework for BBNJ, Cambodia suggests to not include the proposed paragraph</p> <p>CHN: proposed action is beyond the PEMSEA Focal Ministry's mandate. China also underscored the need to consider that BBNJ is still under different</p>	<p><i>no obligation arising from an instrument that is not yet in force and cannot as yet be used as the basis or framework of activities beyond the national jurisdiction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The decision to sign or ratify rests on the discretion of the countries</i> • <i>The review, signature or ratification of the BBNJ Agreement may also be under the responsibility of other agencies (i.e., Foreign Affairs Ministry) and not PEMSEA Focal Ministries which may require separate and more lengthy consultations.</i> 	<p>Proposal offered by PRF for consideration:</p> <p>In line with the guidance from PRF's legal consultant, the PRF proposes to not include the proposed Action, noting that non-inclusion of the proposed Action would not affect the Declaration since there is no obligation arising from an instrument that is not yet in force and cannot as yet be used as basis or framework of activities beyond the national jurisdiction. Note also, additional language proposed in line 6 which covers potential ratification and signing in line with individual countries' timeline and processes.</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
		<p>stages of evaluation in the EAS countries, and suggested that perhaps this matter can be included as a priority agenda in future discussions, especially in the next MF</p> <p>IDN: Agrees with package proposed by PRF; recognize the urgent need for biodiversity conservation but also recognize that countries are at different stages of review of BBNJ</p>		
23	<p>Action 5. Apply ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) as part of integrated coastal management to contribute to synergistic implementation of the goals and objectives of global instruments and initiatives and national priorities (KMGBF, UN Sendai Framework for DRR, UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and SDGs), taking into</p>	<p>V4 Comment: JPN: In our view, the phrase “taking into account socio-economic imperatives (necessary socioeconomic considerations) including community engagement, community-based monitoring and participatory processes, (and need for improvements in enabling) strengthening policy and technical capacity” is just an explanatory phrase of Eco-DRR's characteristics. To be more concise, Japan proposes the deletion of the phrase if other</p>	<p>PRF: Accepted modification and deleted references to global instruments and initiatives in enclosed parenthesis. but retained the examples of socio-economic imperatives</p> <p>Action 5. Apply ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) as part of integrated coastal management to</p>	<p>SGOM Decision: PRF proposal accepted by Japan and the SGOM</p> <p>Final wording: Action 5. Apply ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) as part of integrated coastal management to contribute to synergistic implementation of the goals and objectives of global instruments and initiatives and national priorities, taking into account</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	<p>account socio-economic imperatives (necessary socioeconomic considerations) including community engagement, community-based monitoring and participatory processes, (and need for improvements in enabling) strengthening policy and technical capacity; and disseminating good practices of Eco-DRR with scientific evidence of co-benefits to coastal communities (areas).</p>	<p>partners deem it unnecessary.</p>	<p>contribute to synergistic implementation of the goals and objectives of global instruments and initiatives and national priorities, taking into account socio-economic imperatives including community engagement, community-based monitoring and participatory processes, strengthening policy and technical capacity; and disseminating good practices of Eco-DRR with scientific evidence of co-benefits to coastal communities.</p>	<p>socio-economic imperatives including community engagement, community-based monitoring and participatory processes, strengthening policy and technical capacity; and disseminating good practices of Eco-DRR with scientific evidence of co-benefits to coastal communities.</p>
24	<p>Action 6. Tap the potential of (voluntary) blue carbon (voluntary)</p>	<p>V4 Comment: JPN: Replace “blue carbon (voluntary) market supported by a regional certification scheme as a funding source” with “blue</p>	<p>PRF: Proposed modification</p> <p>Action 6. Tap the potential of blue carbon market and non-market</p>	<p>SGOM Decision: PRF proposal accepted by Japan and the SGOM</p> <p>Final wording:</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	<p>market supported by a regional certification scheme to fund (as a source of sustainable financing of interventions in) the conservation, management restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>carbon (voluntary) markets, with reference to the progress of the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program Roadmap”</p> <p>Japan is fine to include the blue carbon market but we have two suggestions.</p> <p>[1] The current text is too specific. Given PC 16 approved the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Program Roadmap (PEMSEA's a major milestone), the action should be in line with the Roadmap, highlighting our latest achievement and a future step-by-step approach. From this viewpoint, Japan suggests to change the Action accordingly, especially, not limited to a certification scheme nor funding source (Indeed, those specific aspects are covered by the Roadmap).</p> <p>[2] If its focus was on the aspects of blue carbon "ecosystem", "under the section 2.2" would be fine. But if the focus was on the aspects of "markets" or "monetize", this Action may be</p>	<p>benefits supported by a regional certification scheme based on the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Roadmap</p> <p><i>PEMSEA Blue Carbon Roadmap looks at 4 components: accounting methodology, supply, demand and certification of blue carbon in the EAS region</i></p>	<p>Action 6. Tap the potential of blue carbon market and non-market benefits supported by a regional certification scheme based on the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Roadmap</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
		appropriate under the section 2.3 of blue economy.		

STEP 2 (Lines #16, 21, 29, 37)

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
16	<p>2.1. Effective Governance.</p> <p>The regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA and the necessary national enabling mechanisms will be strengthened by the following new actions:</p>	<p>V4 Comment:</p> <p>SG: Proposed revised statement - The regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA and the necessary national enabling mechanisms will be strengthened by, but not limited to, the following new actions:</p> <p>The proposed minor edits from Singapore intends to help make the list of actions in each section non-exhaustive.</p>	PRF recommends to adopt minor changes	<p>SGOM Decision:</p> <p>Proposal accepted</p> <p>Final wording:</p> <p>2.1. Effective Governance.</p> <p>The regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA and the necessary national enabling mechanisms will be strengthened by, but not limited to, the following new actions:</p>
21	<p>2.2 Healthy and Resilient Ocean.</p> <p>Ocean-Climate Synergy will be strengthened through protecting and</p>	<p>V4 Comment:</p> <p>SG: Proposed revision: Ocean-Climate Synergy will be strengthened</p>	PRF recommends to adopt minor change	<p>SGOM Decision:</p> <p>Proposal accepted</p> <p>Final wording:</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	strengthening climate-resilience of ocean resources in support of countries in achieving their respective Nationally Determined Contributions and climate goals under SDG 13, 14.1 and 14.2. Specific actions include:	through protecting and strengthening climate-resilience of ocean resources in support of countries in achieving their respective Nationally Determined Contributions and climate goals under SDG 13, 14.1 and 14.2. Specific actions could include:		<p>2.2 Healthy and Resilient Ocean.</p> <p>Ocean-Climate Synergy will be strengthened through protecting and strengthening climate-resilience of ocean resources in support of countries in achieving their respective Nationally Determined Contributions and climate goals under SDG 13, 14.1 and 14.2. Specific actions could include:</p>
29	<p>2.4 Healthy People.</p> <p>[Blue foods have yet to play a prominent role in food and health discussions, which remain largely focused on agriculture, terrestrial crops, and livestock. To ensure food security and advance blue food systems, it is crucial to integrate ecosystem-based river basin</p>	<p>V4 Comment:</p> <p>SG: Proposed revision: Healthy People. Blue foods have yet to play a prominent role in food and health discussions, which remain largely focused on agriculture, terrestrial crops,</p>	<p>PRF: Propose deletion of brackets</p> <p>PRF recommends to adopt minor changes</p>	<p>SGOM Decision:</p> <p>Proposal from PRF and Singapore accepted</p> <p>Final wording:</p> <p>2.4 Healthy People.</p> <p>Blue foods have yet to play a</p>

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
	management and promote sustainable fisheries, aquaculture value chains, and marine biotechnology. Specific action include:]	and livestock. To ensure food security and advance blue food systems, it is crucial to integrate ecosystem-based river basin management and promote sustainable fisheries, aquaculture value chains, and marine biotechnology. Specific action could include:		prominent role in food and health discussions, which remain largely focused on agriculture, terrestrial crops, and livestock. To ensure food security and advance blue food systems, it is crucial to integrate ecosystem-based river basin management and promote sustainable fisheries, aquaculture value chains, and marine biotechnology. Specific action could include:
37	3.3 We extend our appreciation to the government of PR China for hosting EAS Congress 2024 and the Ministerial Forum in Xiamen, PR China.	V4 Comment: CHN: Change “hosting EAS Congress 2024 and the Ministerial Forum in Xiamen, PR China.” to “hosting 2024 East Asian Seas Congress and World Ocean Week in Xiamen,	PRF: Accepted the proposed text: 3.3 We extend our appreciation to the government of PR China for hosting EAS Congress 2024 and the World Ocean Week in Xiamen and the 8th EAS	SGOM Decision: China’s proposal and minor edit from Japan accepted Final wording (with additional refinement from PRF):

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
		<p>and the Ministerial Forum in Xiamen, PR China.” This year the EAS Congress and WOW in Xiamen will be held together. Thus, we suggest to mention it.</p> <p>Additional suggestion during SGOM: JPN: editorial comment, replace “and after EAS Congress 2024” with comma</p>	Ministerial Forum in Xiamen, PR China	<p>3.3 We extend our appreciation to the government of PR China for hosting the 2024 East Asian Seas Congress 2024, the World Ocean Week and the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum in Xiamen, PR China.</p>

STEP 3 (full line-by-line review)

During the comprehensive line-by-line review of the draft Declaration, the SGOM accepted majority of the provisions, but left three provisions from Step 1 for further in-country consultations. In addition to the provision addressed in the earlier steps, minor edits or suggestions were also provided in the following:

Line	DRAFT 4.0	COMMENTS ON V4 & FEEDBACK DURING SGOM	PROPOSED REVISION BY PRF	FINAL TEXT/ SUGGESTION FROM SGOM
22	<p>Action 4. Adopt ocean-based climate solutions, including innovative technologies and strategies to harness renewable and clean energy that will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions while addressing ocean pressures from biodiversity loss, eutrophication, hypoxia, and acidification to be achieved through scaled-up ICM programs that leverage innovative technologies for protecting ocean health and ecosystem supported by PEMSEA’s established monitoring and evaluation framework.</p>	<p>SGOM Discussion: CAM: add plastic pollution in the text</p> <p>SG: Requested to revise the term to marine pollution for it to be broader</p> <p>PHL: Concurred with the suggestion from PRF</p>	<p>PRF: Considering the suggestions, the PRF suggests to add “marine plastic pollution”</p> <p>Action 4. Adopt ocean-based climate solutions, including innovative technologies and strategies to harness renewable and clean energy that will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions while addressing ocean pressures from biodiversity loss, eutrophication, [marine plastic pollution], hypoxia, and acidification to be achieved through scaled-up ICM programs that leverage innovative technologies for protecting ocean health</p>	<p>SGOM Decision: Proposal from PRF accepted</p> <p>Final wording: Action 4. Adopt ocean-based climate solutions, including innovative technologies and strategies to harness renewable and clean energy that will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions while addressing ocean pressures from biodiversity loss, eutrophication, marine plastic pollution, hypoxia, and acidification to be achieved through scaled-up ICM programs that leverage innovative technologies for protecting ocean health and ecosystem</p>

			and ecosystem supported by PEMSEA's established monitoring and evaluation framework.	supported by PEMSEA's established monitoring and evaluation framework.
28	Action 9. Strengthen ICM by incorporating in national and local development and investment plans and priorities the ridge-to-reef framework for ecosystem conservation and restoration as well as the climate-smart and inclusive planning approach to support the actions agenda for the blue economy and the SDS-SEA and KMBGF targets.	Additional suggestion during SGOM: SG: Correction from KMBGF to KMGBF		SGOM Decision: Minor correction accepted Final wording: Action 9. Strengthen ICM by incorporating in national and local development and investment plans and priorities the ridge-to-reef framework for ecosystem conservation and restoration as well as the climate-smart and inclusive planning approach to support the actions agenda for the blue economy and the SDS-SEA and KMGBF targets.

4.6 All countries confirmed their concurrence to the final draft of the Ministerial Declaration, with the exception of lines 1.3, 1.4 and proposed Action 4 of Singapore.

Country partners were requested to review and conduct internal consultations on PRF's proposed revisions of the said lines, and provide feedback or confirmation to the Secretariat no later than 18 October 2024.

- 4.7 The full final draft Xiamen Ministerial Declaration with revisions from the SGOM is found in Annex (4).

5.0 REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION OF THE PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MINISTERS, SIGNING PROTOCOL FOR THE XIAMEN MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, AND OTHER MF ARRANGEMENTS (SGOM/24/DOC/05)

- 5.1 Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilin provided a detailed overview of the final program of the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum, scheduled on 6 November 2024, as well as the logistical arrangements for country delegations. In particular, Ms. Aguilin discussed the detailed programs of each activity, including the: Opening Ceremony, EAS Congress Exhibition Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Ministerial Forum Proper, Ministerial Luncheon, and Ministerial Field Visit.

5.2 Guidance on the Opening Ceremony:

- The Opening Ceremony will begin strictly at 8:30 am. Heads of Delegation (HODs) are requested to be at the VIP room beside Xiamen Hall by 8:00 am.
- HODs will then be assisted by their assigned protocol officers from the VIP room to the Xiamen hall.
- MF HODs will be seated in the first row of the VIP seats facing the stage, together with the other speakers of the Opening Ceremony. Name cards will be placed beside the seats for easier reference.
- Other Senior officials of the EAS countries, and other non-EAS Country dignitaries will be seated on the first two rows behind the VIP seats.
- The organizers will provide English and Chinese simultaneous translations to all participants of the Opening Ceremony.
- The Signing of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration will be the culminating event of the Opening Ceremony.

5.3 Guidance on the Signing of Ministerial Declaration:

- The Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) of China, Mr. Sun Shuxian, will present the key elements of the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration.
- EAS HODs will then be requested to come up on stage to conduct a simultaneous signature of the Declaration, with the assistance of their protocol officers.
- HODs will be requested to sign two copies of the signature page of the Xiamen Declaration - one for safekeeping of the PRF Secretariat, and another for the copy of each country partner.
- A group photo will follow the signing.

5.4 Guidance on the EAS Exhibition Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

- The Opening of the EAS Exhibition will take place with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the 1F Foyer Area of XICC. Prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, a brief overview of the exhibit will be provided by Ms. Aimee Gonzales, PRF Executive Director. The ceremony will be led by the MNR Minister, Fujian Leader, Xiamen Leader, and Dr. Vann Monyneth, the EAS PC Chair, while the EAS MF HODs and other dignitaries will serve as witnesses.
- Due to time constraints, the exhibit guided tour for EAS HODs will be focused on the centerpiece area, where they will participate in an interactive activity involving the posting of wooden tags in a mangrove diorama. The tour will also include a visit to the PEMSEA country exhibit panels.

5.5 Guidance on Ministerial Dialogue

- The Ministerial Dialogue is scheduled to take place from 10:45AM to 12:15NN at 1F Egret Hall.
- Building on the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, the Dialogue will carry the theme, "From Declaration to Delivery: Innovations, Opportunities and Prospects for the EAS Region"
- The dialogue will be moderated by the PEMSEA Executive Director. The program will be divided into two key sections: (1) Synergy Discussions, and (2) Country Closing Statements.
- The Synergy Dialogue is organized into three topics, with each MF HOD expected to share their insights/statements. To ensure equal time and exposure, the topic has been pre-assigned to the HODs. The HODs will be given three minutes each to speak:

Synergy Topic 1: Ensuring inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and science-policy interface

Speakers: Cambodia, DPR Korea, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste

Synergy Topic 2: Innovations in Technologies and Approaches

Speakers: China, Japan, RO Korea, Singapore

Synergy Topic 3: Blue Financing and Investments

Speakers: Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam

- Following the Synergy Dialogue, each HOD will be requested to deliver their country's closing statements. The statements are expected to include further strategic guidance for PEMSEA's future direction, as well as to share their future perspectives and aspirations for PEMSEA and the EAS region.
- To assist in the preparation for the Ministerial Dialogue, the Secretariat has developed country-specific talking points based on available information. These can serve as a reference for Country Partners in developing the full statements for their respective HODs.

5.6 Guidance on the MF Social Events

- The MNR of China will host the Ministerial Luncheon and the Welcome Banquet. The Luncheon will be limited to Ministers/HODs with one assistant or senior official per country, while the Welcome Banquet will be open to all the MF, EAS Congress and XWOW delegates.

5.7 Guidance on the Ministerial Field Visit

- The field visit will last 2.5 hours (inclusive of travel time)
- Given the limited capacity in the area, the field visit will be limited to the Ministers/HODs with three assistants/senior officials per country, together with other selected dignitaries
- The initial plan is to cover two sites: Yundang Lake and Wuyuan Bay

5.8 Guidance on other Logistical Arrangements:

- Travel arrangements: The airfares for Ministers/HODs will be covered by MNR, except for countries that have opted to cover their own costs. Travel booking arrangements are being coordinated by the PRF and MNR.
- Hotel booking arrangements: The hotel accommodation for Ministers/HODs will also be covered by MNR. All Ministers/HODs will be booked at the Xiamen International Conference Center Hotel.
- Protocol and security arrangements: Protocol and security officers will be assigned to each Minister/HOD, to provide assistance from arrival to departure, including airport pick up and send off services.

5.9 China, as the local host, provided further updates on the arrangements for the Ministerial Field Trip, informing the body that the site visit will only include Wuyuan Bay, as Yundang Lake is quite similar to the former as an example of good practices in ecological restoration.

5.10 Furthermore, China requested the SGOM representatives to coordinate with their country delegations and encourage them to register for the Congress to ensure a seamless participation in the MF.

5.11 China has also arranged for liaison officers to guide country delegates during the event. They requested the country partners to submit the list of their official delegations as soon as possible.

5.12 Lao PDR sought clarification on the Secretariat's request to Country delegates to submit requirements for travel. The Secretariat responded that the request pertains to providing the preferred travel dates and passport copies of the country HODs and delegates sponsored by PEMSEA.

- 5.13 To ensure smooth arrangements, the National Focal Agencies/ Focal Points were requested to provide the following:
- Requirements for travel and hotel booking arrangements (i.e., preferred arrival and departure schedule and supporting travel documents) by 14 October 2024
 - Final country statements for the Ministerial Dialogue by 18 October 2024
 - List of officials accompanying the Ministers/HODs for Ministerial Luncheon (1 assistant/senior official) and Field Visit (3 assistants/senior officials) per country by 14 October 2024
 - Based on information materials and briefing provided at the SGOM, conduct in-country briefing for the Ministers/HODs in preparation for the MF events, before 1 November 2024.

6.0 CLOSING OF THE SGOM

- 6.1 The SGOM Chair requested for final statements from the country representatives.
- 6.2 Singapore thanked the Secretariat for a productive meeting and reiterated their support for PEMSEA in ensuring that the targets for SDS-SEA implementation will be met in the following years. In relation to the confirmation of the final draft of the Ministerial Declaration, Singapore emphasized that the declaration should be forward looking, and should reflect what countries have already adopted in various international agreements and innovations in ocean governance.
- 6.3 Mr. Le thanked Singapore and the other SGOM representatives for their efforts in reaching a consensus on the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, and expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and the PEMSEA Resource Facility for their work in organizing the EAS Congress 2024 and 8th EAS Ministerial Forum.
- 6.4 He reminded all country partners to maintain close coordination with the Secretariat in finalizing the Ministerial Declaration and logistical arrangements for the participation of the countries and emphasized the need for a timely submission of all pending documents or feedback needed from the country partners.
- 6.5 The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 nn, UTC+8.

Annex 1. Agenda of the meeting

Eighth Senior Government Officials' Meeting (SGOM)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Zoom Meeting

October 11, 2024, 9:00AM-12:00NN (Manila Time)

SGOM Chair: Mr. Le Dai Thang, Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair, EAS PC

DATE & TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY
9:00-9:05 AM	1.0 Opening of the EAS SGOM Opening Remarks Mr. Le Dai Thang Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair East Asian Seas Partnership Council
9:05-9:10 AM	Virtual Group Photo
9:10-9:15 AM	2.0 Review and Adoption of the Meeting Agenda
9:15-9:25 AM	3.0 Presentation of the EAS Youth Call to Action
9:25-10:30 AM	4.0 Review and Endorsement of the Final Draft Xiamen Ministerial Declaration
10:30-11:30 AM	5.0 Review and Confirmation of the Provisional Program for the Ministers, Signing Protocol for the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration, and other MF arrangements
11:30-11:40 AM	6.0 Other Business
11:40-12:00 NN	7.0 Closing Ceremony of the EAS SGOM

Annex 2. Links to the meeting documents, presentation and photos

Meeting Documents: [LINK](#)

Presentation: [LINK](#)

Photos: [LINK](#)

Annex 3: List of Participants

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Le Dai Thang
Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair
East Asian Seas Partnership Council

CAMBODIA

Mr. Roath Sith
Deputy Director-General, General
Directorate of Environmental
Protection, Ministry of Environment

CHINA

Mr. WANG Antao
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Ms. Xu Heyun
Division Director
Department of International Cooperation
MNR

Ms. Yu Xinwei
Deputy Division Director
Department of International Cooperation
MNR

INDONESIA

Mr. Tedi Bagus Prasetyo Mulyo
Lead for Foreign and Institutional
Cooperation
Directorate General of Environmental
Pollution and Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Mr. Dasrul Chaniago
Director
Coastal and Marine Pollution and
Degradation Control

Ministry of Environment and Forestry
(MoEF)

Ms. Heni Augustina
Environmental Impact Controller,
Directorate for Pollution Control and
Environmental Degradation
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
(MoEF)

Ms. Julia Labene
Coastal and Marine Pollution and
Degradation Control
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
(MoEF)

JAPAN

Mr. Masashi Kawabe
Director
International Ocean Affairs, Ocean Policy
Division, Policy Bureau,
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport
and Tourism (MLIT)

LAO PDR

Mr. Oudomsack Philavong
Director General
Department of Water Resources

Ms. Chindavanh Souriyaphack
Deputy Head Division
Department of Water Resources

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Al Orolfo
Director, Foreign Assisted and Special
Projects Service

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Joshua Adrian Sytin
Climate Finance Policy Group (CFPG)

Mr. Miguel Raphael De Joya
Climate Finance Policy Group (CFPG)

Ms. Abegail Rivera
Technical Assistant
DENR- OUPPIA

Anna Mercaldi
Department of Finance

RO KOREA

Ms. Seo Eun Jeong
Director
Marine Climate and Environment Strategy Team
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)

Ms. Hwang Ji-won
Deputy Director
Marine Climate and Environment Strategy Team
MOF

Ms. Jiwon Hwang
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)

Ms. Joowon Lee
Assistant Manager
KOEM

SINGAPORE

Mr. Moh Tiing Liang
Senior Deputy Director
Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

Mr. Chng Yee Siang
Senior Assistant Director
Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

TIMOR-LESTE

Celestino da Cunha Barreto
Director General
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Forestry

Mr. Rafael Pereira Goncalves
PEMSEA Coordinator in Timor-Leste

VIETNAM

Mrs. Nguyen My Hang
Head
Department of Science and Technology and International Cooperation (VASI)

Mrs Nguyen Thi Ngoc Hoan
Officer
Department of Science and Technology and International Cooperation (VASI)

PEMSEA Resource Facility

Ms. Aimee Gonzales
Executive Director

Ms. Shinji Kim
Head of Planning and Partnership

Ms. Abigail Cruzada
Secretariat Coordinator

Ms. Kathrine Rose Aguilung
Consultant for 8th EAS MF

Ms. Diwata Cayaban
Program Assistant

Mr. Arsenio Dacaymat
IT Assistant

Ms. Jeanne Francesca Cortez
Secretariat Intern

Annex 4. Final Draft of the SGOM

Note: Draft based on agreements made during the SGOM. Some clauses are subject to further consultation and confirmation of country partners by October 18, 2024

FINAL DRAFT XIAMEN DECLARATION

STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND RESILIENT EAST ASIAN SEAS

1.0 PREAMBLE

We, the Official Government Representatives of PEMSEA country partners gathered this _____ day of _____ in _____, China to reaffirm our commitments and review the progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), provide policy direction and adopt actions to accelerate the process to secure PEMSEA 2030 roadmap of fostering effective ocean governance and healthy seas, people and economies.

1.1. **WE** launched the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Implementation Plan (IP) 2023-2027 as PEMSEA's medium term plan for the sustainable use and management of the ocean, seas, river and coastal and marine resources, aligned with national priorities and consensus generated in the past Ministerial Declarations and relevant international and global commitments.

1.2. **WE** recognize the progress made in executing the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and strengthening PEMSEA as a competent regional platform towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global goals.

1.3. **WE** affirm our commitments to relevant and interlinked regional and global instruments and initiatives, including the Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), UNEA Ministerial Declarations, United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) - [which guide our collaborative and synergistic actions for sustainable, inclusive and resilient East Asian Seas.] or [reinforcing our collaborative and synergistic actions to meet our international obligations and to ensure a sustainable, inclusive and resilient East Asian Seas.]

1.4. [We [welcome][acknowledge] the adoption on 19 June 2023 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long-term, while respecting the individual timelines and processes of countries in the review, signing, or ratification of the BBNJ Agreement.]

1.5. WE are deeply concerned with the findings of the [World Ocean Assessment II](#), that the state of the oceans has not improved, and many of the ocean benefits are increasingly being undermined by the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, and marine pollution caused by unsustainable human and economic activities, resulting in disproportionate impacts to many countries and communities.

1.6. WE underscore the fact that climate change exacerbates the negative impact of human and economic activities on the coastal and marine ecosystems; and undermines the capacity of these resources to promote nature-based solutions and services.

1.7. WE emphasize the need for improved data, information and knowledge for science-based decision-making, as well as capacity to access and apply best available technology and innovation for good ocean governance at local, national and regional levels.

1.8. WE recognize that blue economy contributes significantly to economic growth, employment and meeting the aspirations of all peoples in the region; and acknowledge that realizing the full potential of the ocean will require responsible and sustainable resource utilization, scaled-up financing and investments to support the conservation and equitable growth of healthy, productive, and resilient East Asian Seas.

1.9. WE are convinced of the urgent need to engage and forge partnerships with international financial institutions, public as well as private sector and other donor organizations to adopt innovative financing mechanisms to shift capital flows towards supporting integrated and nature-positive ocean planning, conservation, and climate adaptation.

1.10. WE recognize that reducing pressures from man-made activities and moving towards sustainable production and consumption patterns and behavior require major improvements in ocean literacy through formal and informal education, awareness raising, citizen empowerment and capacity development

1.11 WE are convinced, with the urgent need to address the above interlocking pressures and fulfill the regional commitments not in silos, but through leveraging synergies anchored on integrative and outcome-based approaches

2. Synergistic Actions

Synergistic implementation of the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 and advancing PEMSEA 2030 roadmap embody outcome-based integrated approaches and priority actions identified below.

2.1. Effective Governance.

The regional coordinating mechanism for SDS-SEA and the necessary national enabling mechanisms will be strengthened by, but not limited to, the following new actions:

Action 1. Promote vertical, horizontal and spatial integration to support effective ocean governance and strengthen policy coherence across sectors with full recognition of the land-sea interface and the connectivity of ecosystems from 'ridge to reef' that require integrated management approaches.

Action 2. Consider science-based data and information to support planning, policy development, and investment decision-making; measure the effectiveness of integrated coastal management and expand its scope and linkages to marine spatial planning and other area-based management approaches; mainstream ocean accounting and valuation of marine ecosystem goods and services; promote inclusive digitalization and innovative technology to support ocean monitoring, as well as generate-smart data-driven maps to better understand and protect the ocean from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Action 3. Build synergistic approaches in the application of integrated coastal and/or river basin management, integrated pollution reduction and management, marine and coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration, climate change and disaster risk reduction programs, and develop joint research, training and capacity development programs, measuring and monitoring impacts, and sharing knowledge, lessons, and good practices, among others.

[Action 4. Consider signing and ratifying the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) at the earliest possible date.]

2.2. Healthy and Resilient Ocean.

Ocean-Climate Synergy will be strengthened through protecting and strengthening climate-resilience of ocean resources in support of countries in achieving their respective Nationally Determined Contributions and climate goals under SDG 13, 14.1 and 14.2. Specific actions could include:

Action 4. Adopt ocean-based climate solutions, including innovative technologies and strategies to harness renewable and clean energy that will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions while addressing ocean pressures from biodiversity loss, eutrophication, marine plastic pollution, hypoxia, and acidification to be achieved through scaled-up ICM programs that leverage innovative technologies for protecting ocean health and ecosystem supported by PEMSEA's established monitoring and evaluation framework.

Action 5. Apply ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) as part of integrated coastal management to contribute to synergistic implementation of the goals and objectives of global instruments and initiatives and national priorities, taking into account socio-economic imperatives including community engagement, community-based monitoring and participatory processes, strengthening policy and technical capacity; and disseminating good practices of Eco-DRR with scientific evidence of co-benefits to coastal communities.

Action 6. Tap the potential of blue carbon market and non-market benefits supported by a regional certification scheme based on the PEMSEA Blue Carbon Roadmap.

2.3. Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Blue Economy.

Building on the call for a Blue Economy in the 2012 Changwon Ministerial Declaration, it is timely to review the pathways, taxonomy and criteria of ocean-based economic activities that contribute to sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy, and create enabling framework and incentives that will facilitate the integration of blue economy in national and local development plans and investment priorities.

Action 7. Engage financial and related non-financial institutions to apply Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Blue Financing frameworks and principles to manage risks and opportunities and as a criterion for unlocking capital so as to promote environmentally and socially responsible ocean industries and advance the sustainable growth of the blue economy.

Action 8. Refine and update the regional and national state of the ocean and coasts reports and/or similar country reports every 5 years to demonstrate the value added of blue economy through monitoring of impacts and progress made towards reducing pollution, GHG emissions, and biodiversity loss while building innovative, climate-smart, socially inclusive, and resource efficient ocean economies.

Action 9. Strengthen ICM by incorporating in national and local development and investment plans and priorities the ridge-to-reef framework for ecosystem conservation and restoration as well as the climate-smart and inclusive planning approach to support the actions agenda for the blue economy and the SDS-SEA and KMGBF targets

2.4. Healthy People.

Blue foods have yet to play a prominent role in food and health discussions, which remain largely focused on agriculture, terrestrial crops, and livestock. To ensure food security and advance blue food systems, it is crucial to integrate ecosystem-based river basin management and promote sustainable fisheries, aquaculture value chains, and marine biotechnology. Specific action could include:

Action 10. Integrate blue food and health in the ICM framework as a pathway to blue economy, and mainstream blue food systems in the regional, national, and local planning agenda as concrete solutions to SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 14 on Life Below Water.

3. Commitments

- 3.1** We call on all Country Partners, Non-Country Partners, PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG), PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers (PNLC), to:
- a.** mobilize resources and forge strategic partnerships for the collective implementation of the priority programs under the SDS-SEA IP 2023-2027 and the identified synergistic actions;
 - b.** contribute to attaining the goals of the SDS-SEA by putting in place enabling policies, where relevant and implementing activities in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities; and
 - c.** strengthen existing and/or establish new blue synergies by adopting a whole-of-society approach, and engaging the public and private sectors, non-government organizations, international development agencies, youth, women, local communities, vulnerable groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the SDS-SEA.
- 3.2** We affirm our commitment to continue to provide voluntary contributions to enable the PEMSEA Resource Facility to deliver the necessary technical, facilitation and services, in coordinating the implementation of the SDS-SEA, and synergistic actions, and reporting the progress to the next East Asian Seas Congress.
- 3.3** We extend our appreciation to the government of PR China for hosting the 2024 East Asian Seas Congress, the Xiamen World Ocean Week, and the 8th EAS Ministerial Forum in Xiamen, PR China.

Adopted in Xiamen, People's Republic of China, this _ of November 2024.

The Kingdom of Cambodia

People's Republic of China

**Democratic People's
Republic of Korea**

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

Republic of Indonesia

Japan

**Lao People's Democratic
Republic**

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

Republic of the Philippines

Republic of Korea

Republic of Singapore

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)

(Name)

(Designation)
(Ministry)