 

**DECLARATION ON FOREST COOPERATION FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

**ASEAN-ROK High-Level Meeting on Forestry 2019**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**31st October 2019**

On this auspicious occasion of the ASEAN-ROK High-Level Meeting on Forestry held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on 31st October 2019, **WE**, the Ministers and high-level officials in forestry from the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the Republic of Korea (ROK);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the growing role of forestry in the face of global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation;

**REAFFIRMING** our support, as leaders in forestry, for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**WELCOMING** the 3rd ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in Busan, the ROK, in 2019 to mark the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations;

**RECALLING** the joint accomplishments along with the launch of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as “AFoCO”) and the Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Forest Cooperation in accordance with two Ministerial Statements adopted in Seoul, 2012 and in Busan, 2014, respectively;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the engagement and amalgamation between forestry and other fields based on technologies and shared information are already taking root across the globe, with the growing significance of such combined forms;

**AIMING** to reinforce the partnership in forestry to further peace and co-prosperity and to address the regional impacts of global forestry issues including climate change;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. **PROMOTE** the implementation of a variety of cooperative activities in forestry to strengthen sustainable forest management and recognise the necessity for conservation and management of forest resources with active participation of stakeholders including local communities;

1. **ENHANCE** forest management including forest disaster management by sharing learned experiences and keeping abreast of relevant and new technologies;
2. **SUPPORT** the efforts in the Peace Forest Initiative where cooperative projects over forests in border areas which require proper management are identified and thereby forest disasters are tackled more systematically, with the forests in question jointly managed while acknowledging the aforementioned activities could contribute to fostering more peaceful and cooperative moods across the areas concerned;
3. **ENHANCE** quality of life through forest services including recreation and education, and the expansion of urban forests while appreciating the prosperity in the ASEAN region and the ROK;
4. **WELCOME** the proposal to establish the ASEAN-ROK Garden as a symbol of friendship and long-standing relationship between ASEAN and the ROK; and
5. **REQUEST** AFoCO to build commitments to invigorate cooperative forest activities.

**ADOPTED** in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on the Thirty-First Day of October in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen, in the English language.