



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE 2018**

**Indonesia Meets Its Commitment  
of Conserving 20 Million Hectares of Marine Areas**

Nusa Dua (29/10) - Indonesian President Joko Widodo said on Monday the government has met its commitment of conserving 20 million hectares of its sea in two years earlier than the projected 2020. "We must be brave in making commitments and in undertaking concrete actions that start from each of us," the President said in his opening address to the fifth Our Ocean Conference (OOC) held in Nusa Dua, Bali, from October 29 to 30.

The commitments and steps must be able to positively contribute to maritime conservation, he said. President Joko Widodo urged OOC to take concrete actions in enhancing synergies among the stakeholders. In realizing the importance of oceans to the (many) lives and future of the earth, the President noted the challenges including illegal unregulated and undocumented (IUU) fishing, piracy, human trafficking, drug smuggling, pollution and slavery.

Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) showed about 26 million tons of fish worth US\$10-23 billion were captured illegally per year, he continued.

The President further said maritime resources are valued at around US\$ 24 trillions. Millions of people depend on the fisheries sector and its supply chains. Almost half of the world's population live within the radius of 100 km from the sea. Not to mention other natural resources contained under the sea, he said.

Unless overlapping maritime claims are resolved through negotiations and based on international law, they may pose a threat to stability, he said adding that international law must serve as a guide to settling maritime claims.

The President also noted that the ocean's health is very concerning. "Our ocean is threatened by plastic debris, water pollution, destruction of coral reefs, warming of sea temperature, the rise of sea-levels, and so forth," he said.

"Do not be too late to take actions in protecting our ocean. One single country can resolve the challenges alone. All countries must collaborate in tackling the problems and in optimizing the benefits of the oceans for common good," he said.

The world needs cooperation, collaboration, multi-stakeholder at national and global partnerships to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially those related to marine conservation.

Lilly Aprilya Pregiwati  
Media and Publication Team for OOC 2018