



**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY STATEMENT
AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
ON THE OCCASSION OF RI-NORWAY MoU SIGNING
Jakarta 12 September 2022**

1. The Working Visit of the Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, H.E. Espen Barth Eide to Indonesia on 10-13 September 2022 is aimed to build new cooperation in environmental development and climate actions. This was conveyed in a letter dated 5 August 2022, regarding the intention of the Government of Norway to build a new partnership with the Government of Indonesia in the field of climate change and forestry, through supporting the implementation of FOLU Net Sink 2030.
2. The Government of Norway has expressed their appreciation for Indonesia's consistent and significant and continuous efforts in reducing deforestation that contribute to achieving the global goals of climate change and biodiversity conservation in the current developments and intends to establish new collaborations.
3. Indonesia is continuing to work on environmental restoration while continuing to build on the principles of environmental sustainability and continuing to apply green principles, among others:
 - Indonesia has maintained a downward trend in deforestation, especially marked in the last two periods, despite the ongoing global pandemic. The deforestation rates have reached the lowest level in 20 years. This continuous decline in deforestation reflects Indonesia's efforts towards FOLU (Forestry and Other Land Use) NET SINK 2030;
 - The decline in forest and land fires by more than 80% compared to 2015;
 - Peatland rehabilitation measures;
 - Permanent moratorium of new permits on primary forest and peatlands;
 - Replanting of trees through forest and land rehabilitation scheme;
 - The gradual steps for replanting and rehabilitating mangroves;
 - Social forestry;
 - Official acknowledgment of *adat* forests since the end of 2016, by the President, H.E. Joko Widodo;
 - The stipulation of Omnibus Law on Job Creation that also affirms support to *adat* communities.
 - Improving forest areas with thick vegetation and high environmental value or high conservation value forest in various forest concessions and oil palm areas;
 - Arrangement of animal corridors through the construction of fly-overs and underpasses;
 - Arrangement of fragmented wildlife habitats due to past concession permits; as well as
 - More systematic and intensified law enforcement.

4. Various partnerships have also been taken, including efforts to build large-scale nurseries involving the cooperation of the government, the private sector and the community. Producing and distributing seeds with the mechanism of government, private and community partnerships will be very useful in building mutual awareness to properly manage the environment. Indonesia plans to build 30 large-scale nursery units with a capacity of 10-12 million tree seedlings per year. Currently, seed productions are underway in Rumpin, Bogor and six other units are being under construction finishing, such as in Toba, Likupang, Labuan Bajo, Mentawir, Mandalika and Bali. Other than that, five more units are still in the development process, and there has been cooperation and preparation for cooperation, namely in South Kalimantan, South Sumatra, Southeast Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi and Central Kalimantan.

5. In order to further strengthen Indonesia's continuous efforts, during the Working Visit of the Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, H.E. Espen Barth Eide, to Indonesia, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Partnerships in Support Indonesia's Efforts in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Forestry and Other Land Use sector has been signed between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (c.q. the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway (c.q. the Ministry of Climate and Environment). The scope of cooperation includes:
 - Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by protecting and managing forests with community participation, including *adat* communities;
 - Capacity building for strengthening natural forest carbon sequestration through sustainable forest management, forest rehabilitation and social forestry, including efforts for mangrove;
 - Biodiversity conservation;
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from peatland fires and damage;
 - Strengthening law enforcement;
 - Communication, consultation and exchange of international knowledge on climate, forestry and land use policies and agendas;
 - Technical information and knowledge exchanges.

6. The MoU represents more than just a partnership. It is not just about a results-based contribution agreement. It encompasses a broader engagement on climate and forest issues in Indonesia. The MoU is also to emphasize the importance of deliverable, tangible, direct benefits for the community and for the progress of Indonesia and pursuant to the prevailing governance. Mindful of this, governance in various activities is indeed essential with the principles of being transparent, accountable, inclusive, as well as participatory. As it has been also reflected in Indonesia's continuous efforts to strengthen *adat* communities' participation within the country's forest management, among others through the stipulation of the Omnibus Law on Job Creation that provides principal legal basis.

8. During the working visit of the Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, H.E. Espen Barth Eide, a field visit had also been made to on-site mangrove planting, as well as observing the area of *Ibu Kota Nusantara* (IKN), the new capital city, which is aimed to gradually restoring the tropical natural forests of Kalimantan from ex-monoculture plantation forest through its environmentally sound development plan.