The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific –CPPS- met on the Island of Santa Cruz, Galápagos, on August 17th, 2012, on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Santiago Declaration of the Maritime Zone and the establishment of the Organization. This occasion allowed the opportunity to reaffirm the Organization’s commitment to regional cooperation and its projection in view of the new common challenges it will face in the XXI century.

Encouraged by the Decision of the IX Ordinary Assembly of the CPPS (Quito, November 2010) and the Resolution 01/2012 adopted by the II Extraordinary Assembly (Guayaquil, February 2012) to give the Organization a new orientation that would allow it to face the long term challenges, the Ministers, agreed to the following commitment, which will be known as “Commitment of Galapagos for the XXI Century”:

I. STRENGTHENING OF THE CPPS

1° They express their commitment with the new strategic orientation of the Organization, according to which the CPPS, in view of the challenges of the XXI Century, will support Member Countries to achieve in an integral perspective, their sustainable development. This as defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Agenda 21, taking into account, among others, the Ecosystems Approach, the Precautionary Principle and the international instruments aimed at the protection of seas and oceans, respecting national policies and mechanisms in effect in each country. This orientation applied in the areas of sovereignty and jurisdiction of Member States of the CPPS, will also guides its projection beyond that zone, including the Pacific basin.

2° They support the integration of the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, to the organizational structure of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, its strategic objectives and activities, this in coordination with the Government of Panama.

3° They support the efforts of the General Secretariat in obtaining funds and cooperation from organizations and countries interested in the issues of CPPS which assists the Member Countries in the execution of projects and activities to achieve the objectives of the Commission.

4° They support the invitation made to Panama to become a full member of CPPS in view of the long history of joint work with that country within the framework of the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific.

II. PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION

5° They reiterate that the ocean and their coastal areas are a privileged space for the development of peace, solidarity, cooperation and integration policies among them and state their decision to strengthen their common action oriented towards the sustainable
development of the sea and its resources. They also reiterate their rejection to nuclear tests, ratifying their commitment with the resolutions of the Nuclear Tests Ban Treaty (NTBT).

**III. COORDINATED PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES**

6° They reaffirm the status of CPPS as the “Appropriate Maritime Regional Organization” in its relations with other international maritime organizations.

7° They reiterate the need for a joint and dynamic regional action in international negotiations for the development of the Law of the Sea, the International Environmental Law and other multilateral initiatives within the maritime framework. For this purpose they state their will to continue coordinating common positions within CPPS that will strengthen their negotiating skills in the region with third parties. In this regard, among other aspects, they will continue to coordinate their participation in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, as well as in multilateral initiatives against the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU). This especially within the framework of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, with special emphasis on marine genetic resources.

8° They state their will to continue cooperating with the work of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) whose Convention will become effective on August 24, 2012, bearing in mind the relationship of every Member Country of CPPS with the Organization. Also, Members of CPPS who are not yet part of this Convention state their commitment to start internal procedures for this purpose in accordance with their respective national legislation.

**IV SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

9° They commit themselves to coordinate their efforts to face pending challenges in order to achieve sustainable development, challenges that have been identified in the final document of the Rio+20 Conference which took place in June 2012, especially those stated in the Chapter regarding “Oceans and Seas.” They also note that some countries recognize the rights of nature within the context of sustainable development.

10° They ratify their willingness and commitment to strengthen skills which contribute to the formulation of national and regional policies that include the economic valuation of ecosystem services as a tool for planning and management of the coastal areas of our countries.

11° They entrust the General Secretariat to support initiatives of Member Countries to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of FAO.

**V. CLIMATE CHANGE**

12° Aware of the serious consequences derived from climate change, they agree to jointly identify the necessary measures to mitigate the impacts of its negative effects through projects to be financed from international funds like those of the Green Climate Fund provided within the Framework Convention of the UN on Climatic Change, and with the CPPS regular funds.
VI. FOOD SECURITY

13° They commit themselves to continue developing and strengthening activities designed to fight hunger and malnutrition, promoting the inclusion of fishing and aquaculture products in the basic diet in order to help the most vulnerable population, with special emphasis on products from small scale fisheries.

14° In this regard, the General Secretariat is entrusted to propose to the countries activities in this area, with the technical support of FAO and other organizations, under the coordination of CPPS, who is also entrusted to search for financial mechanisms to execute those activities.

15° They emphasize the value and the significant global contribution of the Pacific Ocean and its living marine resources to the food supply chain for the population of the Southeast Pacific and the globe in general and they reaffirm the commitment of Member Countries to the responsible development of fishing and aquaculture and the sustainable use of the living marine resources and the ecosystems that support them.

16° They acknowledge the role of the coastal communities, the government and private industry of each State in the preservation of food security under sustainable and sovereign conditions. They also recognize its role in the protection of endemic species of each country, respecting national laws on conservation and administration of fishing resources as well as regulations to prevent and fight illegal fishing. They also agree to encourage sustainable development of coastal communities to ensure management of marine environment and its resources to generate financial benefits from the oceans in a sustainable way.

VII. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES

17° They reiterate the importance of the small scale fishery sector within their respective economies, as well as their contribution to poverty reduction in the region and the promotion of food security.

18° They commit themselves to continue joint efforts to enhance actions to strengthen national and regional capacities, especially those that improve the potential and competitiveness of the small scale fishery sector, including transfer of knowledge at local and regional levels and, especially, promoting access to markets within the framework of sustainable management.

VIII. PROJECTION OF CPPS TOWARDS THE PACIFIC BASIN

19° They strongly request the strengthening of the projection of the CPPS towards the Pacific Basin, especially through an active approach to countries within the Latin American Pacific and to extend its reach towards those countries and organizations in the West Pacific. This in order to establish alliances, to develop joint projects and exchange of experiences on maritime issues, such as the impacts of climate change and the integrated evaluation of the marine environment at global level promoted by the United Nations, among others.

20° They promote the coordinated action of Member States regarding their interests on living and non living resources in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction as well as the search for alliances to tackle common challenges with coastal States of the West Pacific.
21° They acknowledge the need for integrated evaluations of the ocean as established by the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the state of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic aspects (Regular Process) of the United Nations. In this regard they commit themselves to collaborate on programs of integrated scientific research of the marine environment within the areas of national jurisdiction and to project those efforts beyond those areas to the entire Pacific Basin.

IX. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

22° They reiterate their support to initiatives carried out through the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific which has an important role in the conservation of the marine-coastal resources and ecosystems. This has been accomplished through technical and financial international cooperation, mobilization of experts and coordination of diverse regional programs and projects on issues like marine pollution, environmental management, biodiversity and protected areas, among others. They also acknowledge the support given by UNEP to regional actions taken within the Plan of Action.

23° They renew their commitment to tackle the increasing problems of pollution of the marine environment and coastal zones by adopting adequate policies and tools for integrated management to prevent, reduce and control the degradation of the marine environment caused by various land and marine based sources.

24° They acknowledge the urgency to tackle the problem of marine debris and commit themselves to implement concrete actions to promote clean production, recycling and responsible consumption. They congratulate the initiative to organize the “First Edition of the Regional School Competition to raise Awareness through Management, Prevention, Reutilization and Recycling of Marine Debris.” They also congratulate the students and authorities of participant schools and request the General Secretariat to continue promoting environmental education programs, public awareness campaigns and activities to reduce the impact of pollution on the marine environment.

25° They commit themselves to promote participation of their Universities in activities of the CPPS concerning environmental education and in carrying out technical and scientific research studies regarding the sustainable use, conservation and protection of the ocean and adjacent coastal areas and whose results could be shared through the exchange of experiences and knowledge.

26° They reiterate their willingness to promote the conservation and non-lethal use of whales in international forums through activities such as tourism for the observation of whales which will benefit coastal communities. They reassert their support of actions in this regard carried out by the Group of Buenos Aires within the framework of the International Whaling Commission.

27° They highlight the efforts made by the CPPS to promote scientific research of whales and other cetaceans regarding the mitigation of impacts of anthropogenic origin, space analysis, population models and identification of critical habitats and migration routes.

28° They acknowledge the efforts made by the Plan of Action in developing regional capacities for the use of tools for integrated coastal management. They wish to thank the support of the Inter Governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Government of Flanders in developing the Information and Data Network of the South Pacific for the support of Integrated Management of the Coastal Area.
29° They commit themselves to identify significant ecological and biological areas such as coral reefs, creating new marine and coastal protected areas and to contribute to the consolidation of the Regional Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific as a platform to strengthen management and sustainability of these areas.

30° They commit themselves to implement the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and especially to attain the objectives regarding fishing resources, vulnerable ecosystems and Marine Protected Areas to ensure that coastal and marine ecosystems continue to provide essential services for the welfare of the population in the region.

31° They recognize the serious threat in the introduction of invasive marine species for the marine environment and food security of coastal states. In this regard, they value the efforts made by the General Secretariat in close collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), designed to support countries in the region to implement measures and legal instruments to reduce the risk of introducing these species by ballast water from vessels.

32° They highlight the promoting and coordinating role of CPPS and its Plan of Action in the protection of threatened marine species. They value the contribution of plans and programs for the protection of marine mammals and the conservation of marine turtles, sharks, rays and chimera.

33° They support Decision Nº 13 of the XVIII Meeting of the General Authority of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific (Guayaquil, March 2012) to help the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the organization of a scientific workshop to facilitate description and identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), beyond national jurisdictions in the East Pacific, taking into account the principles of the Law of the Sea.

X. OCEANOGRAPHY

34° They reaffirm their commitment to activities carried out by the CPPS in this field and under the Regional Program of the El Niño (ERFEN), the GRASP (GOOS Regional Alliance for the South Pacific), and the Regional Tsunamis Early Warning System.

35° They promote the assessment of social and economic impacts of the El Niño Phenomenon, as well as actions for adapting and/or mitigating its effects accordingly.

36° They urge the General Secretariat to implement the agreement between CPPS and the International Research Centre for El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN), signed on June 29, 2010 to foster the comprehension of the El Niño phenomenon and its environmental, social and economic consequences for the countries in the Southeast Pacific.

XI. DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION OF THE WORK OF THE CPPS

37° They agree to promote a broader dissemination of the objectives of the CPPS and its activities taking advantage of new information technologies and maximizing the use and regular updating of its web page.
38° They encourage CPPS to approach Universities and Research Institutions dedicated to marine research through their National Focal Points as well as the General Secretariat in order to strengthen capacities of its Member Countries.

**XII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR**

Finally, since the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CPPS took place in the Galapagos Islands, recognized by UNESCO as Natural World Heritage, Land and Biosphere Reserve and National Marine Park, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Colombia and Peru wish to thank the Government of Ecuador and the inhabitants of the Galapagos Islands for their hospitality. They also wish to express their support to actions towards the protection, conservation and sustainable use of this Archipelago and they entrust the General Secretariat to collaborate adequately in such actions. They also congratulate the organizers for the support provided for the meeting.

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