

## GROUP WORK - AREAS OF POLICY HARMONISATION – SOUTH ASIA

### Output from South Asia Group on Identification of areas for policy harmonization

A. Creating common policies where feasible and necessary	
<b>India &amp; Sri Lanka</b>	<p>For harmonisation of policies between different states/provinces/ sectors</p> <p><b><u>India</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 to 20 years plan</li> <li>- Stock, Fleet basis</li> <li>- Production, sustainability of the sector, livelihood</li> <li>- Harmonisation of gear, fishing zone and fleet strength regulations</li> <li>- Based on the assessment of the existing provisions</li> <li>- Harmonisation of policy with respect to close seasons and close area</li> <li>- Harmonisation of data collection mechanisms</li> <li>- Based on appropriate fisheries management unit</li> <li>- Harmonisation of MCS</li> <li>- Common periodical reviews</li> <li>- Harmonised fishery policies with the other sectors policies</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Sri Lanka</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harmonised the policy formulation process between centre and provinces</li> <li>- Provide the clear policy guidance to the provinces from the centre</li> <li>- Set up common standards for implementation, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>- Common periodical reviews</li> <li>- Harmonised fishery policies with the other sectors policies</li> </ul>
<b>Harmonisation of policies between neighbouring countries</b>	<p><b>Common policies aim at:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harmonised global hard and soft laws (Incorporating EAF approach)</li> <li>2. Protection and enhancement of livelihood</li> <li>3. Optimizing the fishing strength based on the stock</li> <li>4. Integrating environment concerns into fishery policies</li> <li>5. Adapting fishery sectors to the climate changes (global warming)</li> <li>6. Protecting critical habitats, endangered species &amp; migratory species</li> <li>7. Assessing environmental impact from pollution</li> <li>8. Joint management of shared habitats such as Gulf of Mannar, Sundarbans, Andaman Sea</li> <li>9. Protection of the integrity of the environment</li> <li>10. Coordination, information sharing &amp; networking</li> <li>11. Protection and safeguard of fishers across the borders</li> <li>12. Detering and eliminating IUU fishing</li> <li>13. Inter-country Memorandum signed but not implemented</li> <li>14. Setting up a common management body for shared stock and shared conservation area</li> <li>15. Regional engagement for shared fisheries management</li> <li>16. Regional cooperation for biodiversity conservation</li> </ol>

	<p>17. Regional cooperation in capacity building, human resource development, &amp; technology sharing</p> <p>18. Revive the SAARC fisheries/ environment working group</p> <p>19. Full engagement with the regional fisheries and environment body</p> <p>20. Economic study of common regional fisheries</p>
<p><b>B. Joint efforts to implement existing policies</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing joint working groups for fisheries sector</li> <li>▪ Existing MOUs on fisheries sector</li> <li>▪ Initiation of process for cooperative management of shared resources (eg. Gulf of Mannar)</li> <li>▪ Initiation of process for cooperative management of shared stocks/ species (eg. Sharks and hilsa)</li> <li>▪ Regional working group on setting up of MCS regime</li> </ul>	