

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT
BY
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REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT
THE 52ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
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***Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of CEDAW Committee.***

Indonesia congratulates the 30th Anniversary of the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, we acknowledge the important role of the Committee to promote women's rights.

Indonesia welcomes the 52nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which include the agenda on the consideration of the Combined Report of Indonesia on the Implementation of CEDAW.

It is indeed an honour for me and my delegations to participate in today's constructive dialogue.

Our diverse delegates demonstrates Indonesia's full commitment to the promotion and protection of women's human rights. Not least, it reflects our strong desire to share with the international community the progress we are making, as well as the challenges we are facing, in this regard.

In fulfilling its reporting obligation under various international human rights instrument, Indonesia has consistently engaged with all stakeholders of human rights at central and

provincial level. This involves NHRIs, NGOs and CSOs, especially with National Commission on Violence against Women.

In our view, this constructive dialogue, building on and in synergy with similar processes at the national and regional levels, is an important mechanism for strengthening efforts to foster the promotion and protection of women rights.

For this purpose, in April 2010 Indonesia submitted its Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Report, as well as the Response to the List of Issues and Questions in January 2012.

The formulation of those reports involves various ministries and government agencies, including local governments in different parts of the country. Most of all, the reports are the product of cooperation among wider stakeholders of women rights, including national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil societies. Such practice was also part of Indonesia's commitments made during the Indonesian Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.

We have conducted a number of national workshops on the Implementation of CEDAW in Indonesia in Jakarta, West Java, East Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi and South Sumatera during 2009 – 2010. We also held training of trainers on the implementation and reporting guidelines of CEDAW for gender focal points and planners in the government ministries and agencies in 2009. The CEDAW's principles have been integrated in our National Development Plan 2010-2014 as part of the national government's commitment to promote and protect universal human rights including women's human rights.

***Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of CEDAW Committee,***

Indonesia is a big and multiethnic country. The total population of Indonesia comprises 237,6 million, in which 50,1% are male and 49.9% are female. Geographically, Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands, consisting of 5 big islands, 33 provinces, 490 districts, and 74 thousands villages, each has its own ethnicity and uniqueness. It has five major religions, in which 88 percent are Muslim. During this time, Indonesia has transformed

into the third democratic country in the world where freedom of expression and gender equality is fully respected and executed.

Since the last time we presented a report to this forum in 2007, we have made considerable and important progress in the field of the promotion and the protection of women's rights. However, this progress is not without challenges.

We remain committed to address those challenges and to ensure the fulfilment of women's rights which is in line with the Convention.

To complement our reports, on this occasion, I wish to share the progress how we fulfil our commitment to promote and protect the rights of women.

Madame Chairperson,

Indonesia continues to strengthen our legislative and policy frameworks in the field of human rights which have significant impacts on women's rights.

Since 2007, we have adopted and enacted a number of laws and regulations to further promote and safeguard women's rights.

This includes Law Number 21 of 2007 regarding the Eradication of Human Trafficking, which provides protection to the victims of human trafficking, including women and children.

Law Number 40 of 2008 regarding the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, which ensures the protection of women from racial and ethnic discrimination.

Law Number 36 of 2009 on Health which guarantees the access of women to basic healthcare and services, including the right to sexual and reproductive health.

The Government also enacted Law Number 8 of 2012 on General Election and Law No. 2 of 2011 on Political Parties that strengthen the importance of gender equality in politics.

At this time, through the Presidential Regulation Number 23 of 2011, we have established the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2011-2014, the third in a series of such National Action Plans.

The Action Plan is our national blueprint for promoting and protecting human rights which also covers the promotion and protection on the rights of women, among others reproductive rights, maternal health, women migrant worker, early marriage, and training for law enforcement officers. One of the new components of our Action Plan is the establishment of public complaints services which provides rooms for women to lodge complaints, among others, concerning act of violence and discrimination.

Madame Chairperson,

In 2009, Indonesia ratified the Convention against Trans-National Organized Crimes, as well as its two protocols which are the Protocol to Prevent, Prosecute and Punish Human Trafficking, especially Women and Children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

In November 2011, Indonesia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ratification of this Convention injects a fresh momentum in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Indonesia.

After length process in April 2012, finally we ratified the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. This shows our firm commitment to ensuring the welfare and the promotion, protection and the fulfilment of the rights of our migrant workers who are mostly women, and in response to general recommendation number 26 on migrant workers.

Further, just last month, we ratified the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and ratified the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child On the Involvement of Children in the Armed Conflict. Through these two Protocol, Indonesia will have stronger legal framework in the protection of children who are the victims of those crimes.

Further, the Government also continues its efforts in preparing the ratification of the Optional Protocol (OP) to CEDAW, including through dissemination and consultations involving related stakeholders. Such step is mandated in the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2011-2014. This reflects our full commitment to strengthening our legislative frameworks on women's rights.

The Parliament is also in the process of drafting the Bill on Gender Equality. It is great to share that the deliberation of the Bill will take place in a few months to come. The Bill, among others, provides a definition of gender-based discrimination in line with Article 1 of the Convention. By so doing, we are assured that this Bill will strengthen our commitment to the implementation of the provisions contained in the Convention.

Madame Chairperson,

The integration of gender mainstreaming and equality in the national development process remains our top priority.

To this end, we have adopted the 2010-2015 Roadmap to Accelerate the Achievement of the MDGs in Indonesia, the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2010-2014, the Presidential Instruction Number 1 of 2010 on Acceleration on the Implementation of National Development Priorities, and the Presidential Instruction Number 3 of 2010 on Justice for All.

In 2011, the Government enacted Finance Ministerial Regulation Number 93 on Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting to support gender mainstreaming and equality in the national development. This was implemented by 28 ministries in 2012. We will expand this effort to cover all 34 ministries, as well as the provincial and district governments in 2013.

To support this effort, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a regulation Number 22 of 2011 on the General Guidelines for the Preparation of 2012 Regional Budget to encourage the acceleration of the implementation of gender mainstreaming through gender responsive budgeting at the regional level. At the National Level, at present, three strategic ministries namely Finance, Development Planning and My ministry collaborated in drafting National Strategic Plan on Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting to be used

as the national guidance and manual for all stakeholders in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating gender responsive budget implementation at all levels.

Madame Chairperson,

Indonesia constantly continues to empower women in national development plan and priorities, particularly in the national strategy on poverty alleviation.

The Government provides programs and schemes that lead to the advancement of women, including their families and societies. In the area of economy, one successful program is Desa PRIMA (*Perempuan Indonesia Maju Mandiri* – Independent and Progressive Indonesian Women Village Model), which provides advocacy and training of practical skills for women in order to boost their economic power. In 2012, there were 183 villages that implemented the pilot project or in 147 districts and cities in 32 provinces.

Similar schemes, such as National Program for Community Empowerment, Credit Scheme Specifically for Women in Micro and Small Enterprises and People-based Small Business Loan Program are available and accessible for women, especially those in rural areas, as well as Family Hope Programme, and Women Head of Household cooperative funds.

The Government also mainstreaming gender perspective in economy through the implementation of such programs as Community Health Insurance, Delivery Insurance Program, School Operational Assistance, Health Operational Insurance, Direct Cash Transfer, and Rice for the Poor.

Madame Chairperson,

Indonesia continues to increase its efforts in dissemination of the implementation of CEDAW, as well as on the promotion and protection of women's rights in general, through various seminars, workshops, trainings to all level of government, education and community.

The Government has also provided trainings, technical advocacy and capacity building programs for government officials, legal drafters and law enforcement officials on human rights, including in the area of women's rights.

Last year the Government has launched the Parameter on Gender Equality which is directed for legislators and policy makers both at national and subnational levels. Now we are developing a module on Training of Trainers to be utilized by legal drafters to increase their capacity in formulating gender-responsive laws and regulations throughout the country.

Further, gender mainstreaming perspective has been integrated in the school curriculum and textbooks. This is as mandated by the Ministry of Education and Culture which clearly stated that gender equality is a part of the national curriculum's basic framework and structure. A task force within both the Ministry of Education and Culture and Ministry of Religion was also established to oversee gender mainstreaming socialization programs starting from the national level down to sub-nationals.

Madame Chairperson,

I would like use this opportunity to present additional information on our progress achieved in the issues of political participation, trafficking, health, education, and migrant workers.

Our efforts to promote women in politics have shown some positive developments. Compared to the result of General Election in 2004 where only 11.09% out of 560 members of parliament were women, in the 2009 General Election the number of women member of Parliament increased to 17.86%, this is a significant leap, although we are also aware that this figure is still below our 30 percent goal. In addition, a Women's Parliamentary Caucus and a Women's Caucus in Politics have been established to actively collaborate with the government and civil society to promote the formulation of pro-women Law and to encourage more women to take interest and take part in political arena.

At the executive level, women have held many positions such as president, governor, minister, high-ranking official, regent/vice regent, mayor/vice mayor, regional police chief, and district/municipality police chief. The overall percentage of men and women in public service is almost equal: 56% of men and nearly 44% of women.

Indonesia has also passed Law No. 8 of 2012 on General Election and Law No. 2 of 2011 on Political Parties. The laws, which introduce many changes to the previous laws, reaffirm the importance of gender equality. In those two laws, political parties are mandated to include 30% women among their executive boards in central and regional levels and among their proposed candidates of legislator.

Madame Chairperson,

The Government of Indonesia attaches great importance to the issues of trafficking in persons especially women and children.

Aside from issuing the Law No. 21 of 2007 on Combating Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons, ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its 2 Protocols in 2009, the Government has established and implemented the National Action Plan on Combating the Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons and Child Sexual Exploitation for the period of 2009-2014.

The Plan consists of actions namely (i) prevention of trafficking in persons and child participation, (ii) health rehabilitation (iii) social rehabilitation, repatriation, and reintegration, (iv) development of legal norms, (v) law enforcement, (vi) coordination and cooperation.

Until now, the Government has established task forces in 25 provincial and 78 districts to ensure the implementation of the National Action Plan.

In addition, the Government is also working on the development of guideline on capacity development for the task force which is expected to be completed by 2012.

In the efforts towards punishing the perpetrators of trafficking in persons, during 2006-2010, the Government has brought 97 cases to court and 38 cases (39.70%) were adjudicated with reference to Law on Combating Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons.

***Madame Chairperson,
Members of CEDAW Committee,***

Indonesia has also taken serious attention to the issue of women's health. We have done a number of efforts to ensure that every Indonesian woman is entitled to the enjoyment of their health as part of their human rights. We have reformed the national health system that includes the betterment of women's access to health services and facilities.

The Government has been continuously increasing its national budget on health over the last couple of years. In 2003, budget allocation for health was IDR 6,63 trillion (around US\$ 0.74 billion), while in 2010 it increased quadruple to IDR 21,95 trillion (around US\$ 2.377 billion). Indonesian public health expenditure has achieved 70% of the WHO recommendation, which is US\$ 35-40 per person per year.

In order to achieve the MDGs target for accelerated reduction in Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), the Government of Indonesia made a breakthrough by establishing the Delivery Insurance Program (*Jaminan Persalinan/ Jampersal*). This insurance guarantees the financing of antenatal services, delivery assistance by health personnel, and postpartum services, including maternal care of newborns, postpartum family planning services, as well as exclusive breastfeeding counseling. The program is targeted to all pregnant women who do not have health insurance and who want to use basic service facilities, such as delivery personnel, community health centers and their networks, as well as third-class hospital referral. It is implemented gradually and estimated to achieve 4.6 million deliverance rates every year.

In addition, to date, the Government is in the process of approving Government Regulation on Tobacco to protect especially pregnant women and children.

Indonesia has also revitalized the family planning programme. The role of the National Family Planning Coordinating Board has now been strengthened to become the National Population and Family Planning Board as mandated by Law No. 52 Year 2009.

The national family planning program is focused on increasing the access and quality care in 23,500 family planning clinics country wide. Currently, there has also been an ongoing

discourse to revise Law No. 1 of 1974 on Marriage to better reflect the current situation of the advanced protection of women's rights in Indonesia.

On the issue of sexual and reproductive health, Indonesia has taken a number of steps in ensuring its fulfillment, particularly for women and girls. These include the improvement of access to public health services and capacity building for health personnel and related stakeholders.

In addition to enacting the Law on Health in 2006, which is aimed at fulfilling reproductive right and health of married couple, Indonesia also adopted a life cycle approach and a continuum of care, starting from pre-adolescents, adolescents and youth, child bearing and reproductive ages, then neonatal and under-five. Further, the Government expanded NGO-initiated Adolescents Reproductive Health program which focuses on providing information, counseling and certain services of reproductive health to young people.

Other programs include School Health Program to promote healthy life among school students, including on reproductive health; Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness Programs to prepare young people to live a healthy reproductive life during pregnancy, delivery, and post partum; and the development of center for information and counseling on adolescent reproductive health.

The Government has also increased health personnel capabilities, both in quantity and quality. The distributions of general practitioners, specialists, midwives, and paramedics, particularly to meet the needs of health workers in remote area, border and remote islands, have been increased through, inter-alia, pre-service and in-services training for strategic health personnel, and implementation of program on the deployment of contract-based health personnel.

Madame Chairperson,

In the field of education Indonesia continues to pursue equal rights for women and men. Indonesia's MDG report for 2010 reflects that the country is on track to achieve the MDG targets for primary education and literacy. At the primary education level, the disparity in

participation rates among provinces has been significantly reduced with the Net Enrollment Rate (NER) above 99% in almost all provinces.

The school drop-out rate for primary and secondary education has been trending downward owing to several programs being implemented, such as scholarships to poor students; retrieval and remedial programs; special education in remote, marginalized, natural and social disaster areas, and for economically disadvantaged families; formal education packages; and an inclusive education program for children with special needs.

To guarantee the rights of girl child to education, Indonesia is working to ensure that by 2015 every Indonesian child receives at least nine years of basic education.

In 2013, the Government is planning to launch the universal education program at secondary schools to prepare the extension of the compulsory education from nine years to twelve years as an effort to fulfill access to education for all.

The Government continues to engage the main challenge to improving equal access of girls and boys to quality basic education. The policy to allocate 20% of the national budget to the education sector will be continued in order to accelerate the achievement of universal junior secondary education by 2015.

Madame Chairperson,

To strengthen the protection of migrant workers, various legislative, administrative, institutional and other measures have been in place. They are, among others, the ratification to the International Convention of the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the enactment of Presidential Instruction No. 1 of 2010 on Acceleration of National Development Priority 2010 and the establishment of Integrated Team for the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers Overseas.

Indonesia is also in the process of revising Law No. 39 of 2004 on the Recruitment and Placement of Migrant Workers Overseas.

Furthermore, to improve protection for the rights of migrant workers, the Indonesian Government is evaluating the existing legal protection frameworks in each country of employment which include its respective national legal provisions and their observances,

existing bilateral agreements, as well as regional and multilateral protection frameworks applicable in these countries.

The Government of Indonesia notices that the contribution of domestic workers to the development and economic growth of the country cannot be ignored. Awareness of the public to ensure the protection of domestic workers in Indonesia is even increasing.

This has led to the movement to recognize domestic workers as professional workers which should enjoy rights at work as also applied to workers in formal sector. The movement has been translated into an initiative to elaborate a bill on domestic workers. The Bill is now being discussed by the parliament, and receiving inputs from various stakeholders including domestic workers themselves.

Madame Chairperson,

The Government consistently strengthens its collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in the promotion and protection of women's rights.

We continue our collaboration with National Commission on Human Rights, National Commission on Violence Against Women, and Ombudsman in advancing the cause of women rights in Indonesia.

We work hand in hand with our vibrant civil society and the mass media in advancing rights of women and combating discrimination against women.

Madame Chairperson,

We do not cease there. We are also active at promoting and advancing the women's rights agenda at the regional level continues.

The most current one is what did in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

During our chairmanship in 2011, ASEAN continued its efforts to advance the human rights agenda. We are formulating an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, which we hope

to be adopted this year. This important Declaration will provide a strong framework for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. It will also serve as a common reference for all ASEAN member countries in advancing our cooperation in the field of human rights, including the promotion and protection of women rights.

As a result, ASEAN has a fully functioning ASEAN Interregional Commission on Human Rights and ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children, as part of CEDAW and CRC implementation mechanism.

Since last year, Indonesia has served as Chair for the ASEAN Committee on Women and has led the birth of the ASEAN Ministerial Women body which its first meeting to be held in Vientiane next October.

Indonesia actively makes efforts to strengthen regional framework on the protection of migrant workers. Among the priorities is the elaboration of legally binding instruments on the protection of migrant workers within the framework of ASEAN.

Indonesia also actively contributes to regional forum, such as the Colombo Process as a forum to strengthen common stand of countries of origins and countries of destination, and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, which bring together countries of origin and destination to cooperate in protecting the rights of migrant workers.

Moreover, as the country with the largest Muslim population, Indonesia has also worked hard for the establishment of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It held its inaugural meeting in Jakarta on 20-24 February 2012. Indonesia is represented by a woman as a member of the Commission and elected as Chair of the Commission.

In December this year, we will also host the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Members States in Jakarta.

At the bilateral level, Indonesia also seeks to improve the protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers among others by strengthening bilateral arrangements with countries of employment for that purpose. The Government of Indonesia has firmly implemented a

moratorium of permitting workers to work in countries that do not guarantee the protection of Indonesian migrant workers.

***Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of CEDAW Committee,***

Like any other country, in realizing all activities, we have been facing a number of challenges.

The first, is in the context of regional autonomy where there have been various perspectives and views from local governments and the public in managing their regions. To accommodate this, the Government has implemented Law on Regional Autonomy to better reflect the interests of the regions. The law is currently being split into three individual law respectively on villages, on regional election and on regional autonomy. The main objective of the amendment of the Regional Autonomy Law is to tap the dynamic of the autonomy and to ensure the inclusive and non-discriminative governance, including inclusion of gender perspective.

Based on the challenges faced in the past, the mechanism to formulate regional law was further strengthened as provided for in the Law No. 12 of 2011 on Law-making Procedures. According to the Law, the substance of draft legislation shall not, in principle, contains or causes discrimination, injustice, and inequality.

Any draft by laws should be verified their conformity with human rights principles and norms as stipulated in the 1945 Constitution.

Second, Indonesia is a multi ethnic and multi cultural country and the prevailing patriarchal society where male domination is still prevalent in most parts of Indonesia. Advocacy, gender sensitization, building capacities and changing the mindset of society towards a more gender and inclusive sensitive are our ongoing endeavours.

***Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of CEDAW Committee,***

We look forward to engaging in a constructive and genuine dialogue today.

Along with me, my colleagues from the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Development Planning Agency, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Government of West Papua Province who are ready to contribute to our dialog today.

I thank you, Madame Chairperson.