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**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY
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HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE 52ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS
GENEVA, 30 APRIL 2014**

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

May I begin by extending our highest appreciation to you, Mr. Chairperson, and all esteemed Members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the opportunity presented on the occasion of the consideration of the initial and first periodic report of the Republic of Indonesia.

The Government of Indonesia highly regards the work of the Committee and we are looking forward to a productive exchange of views in the course of our dialogue.

Before proceeding further, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Harkkristuti Harkkrisnowo. I am the Director General for Human Rights, Ministry of Law and Human Rights and I am heading the Indonesian Delegation to this meeting. Our delegation consists of officials representing various relevant government ministries and institutions in Indonesia, namely Ministry of Law and Human Rights; State Ministry for Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Social Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Culture; Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Presidential Unit for the Acceleration of the Development of Papua and West Papua Provinces; National Agency for Border Management; as well as officials from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva.

Joining me at the podium are His Excellency Mr. Triyono Wibowo - Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, WTO and other International Organizations; Mr. Muhammad Anshor – Director for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Bambang Darmono – Head of the Special Unit for the Acceleration of Development in Papua and West Papua.

Mr. Chairperson,

In fulfilling our reporting obligation as a State Party to the Covenant, the Government of Indonesia has expended much effort in preparing the report as well as providing answers to the questions presented in the Committee's List of Issues.

Series of in-depth discussions and consultations involving a wide array of stakeholders, including provincial governments and our vibrant civil society organizations, have been conducted in Jakarta and many provincial capitals of Indonesia.

All these activities along with the preparation of Indonesia's participation in this dialogue were conducted within the framework of the implementation of our National Human Rights Action Plan and part of our integrated approach in mainstreaming human rights issues in our national development policies.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me first highlight some backgrounds relevant to the implementation of the Covenant in Indonesia.

Being the largest archipelagic state with heterogeneous population of more than 240 million people living across 17,508 islands, Indonesia has continuously aspired to be a strong nation based on principles of democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law.

As we started our democratic transition 16 years ago, Indonesia has undergone dramatic changes in almost all aspects of our nation's lives. We have developed legislative and institutional frameworks to promote a culture of respect for human rights in the country. Changes of mind sets and paradigm regarding human rights promotion and protection have taken place for the better.

As part of promoting democratic and effective governance, decentralization system of governance was introduced in 2000, providing greater autonomy for sub-national governments in managing various areas of development.

Channels for people's aspirations are abundantly available. Our civil societies have flourished and continue to contribute to the check-and-balance mechanism within our democratic life. Our press and online media have enjoyed much greater freedom.

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to make efforts to translate our commitment to human rights into various policies, measures, and actions. Nevertheless, progress does not always come easy and the challenges exist, among others, are the geographical constraint, as well as the need to improve capacity to deliver policies and effectively utilize resources.

Much has been achieved, but we recognize that equally much remains to be done toward the progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights in Indonesia. There is always room for improvement, and we believe that our dialogue and its outcome will contribute meaningfully to our national efforts to address any gap between our commitment and its implementation in this particular field.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 28 October 2005, the Government of Indonesia had ratified the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights through Law No.11 of 2005. The Covenant complemented the existing national legislation, and served as an important foundation for laws and regulations which were subsequently formulated and enacted for better respect, protect and fulfil economic, social and cultural rights.

As an update to our Initial and First Periodic Report submitted to the Committee in the first quarter of 2012, I wish to highlight some important developments relevant to the implementation of the Covenant that have taken place in Indonesia.

Numerous laws and regulations pertaining to economic, social and cultural rights have been enacted. Among others are Law on Horticulture of 2010, Law on National Health System of 2011, Law concerning assistance to the poor of 2011, Law on Housing and Settlements of 2011, Law on Mass Organization of 2013, Laws on Village of 2014, Law on Trade of 2014, Government Regulation on Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility of 2012, Government Regulation on Beneficiaries of Governmental Subsidy on Health Insurance of 2012, Presidential Regulation on Health Insurance of 2013, Minister of Education and Culture Regulation concerning inclusion of local language in the 2014 curriculum, and Presidential Decree on the Revocation of Circular Note of the Presidium of Ampera Cabinet of 1967 regarding the Usage of Terms of "Tjina" to be Replaced by "Tionghoa/Tiongkok".

Indonesia has ratified another 4 international human rights instruments, namely Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; as well as Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. These measures have real and potential impacts on strengthening our national implementation of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in many aspects.

Indonesia is actively engaged in international human rights mechanisms, most recent ones are review process under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of second cycle in May 2012, dialogues with CEDAW Committee in July 2012 and Human Rights Committee in July 2013.

In addition, Indonesia has welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the issues of adequate housing in May 2013. In 2012 Indonesia has also extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health to carry out a field visit to the country.

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to use the National Human Rights Action Plan to ensure systematic improvement of human rights promotion and protection through planning and resources allocation in the context of public policy. We have also integrated the implementation of norms and standards covered in the Covenant in our National Human Rights Action Plan of 2011-2014. Our current action plan is the third since this instrument was introduced in the first time in Indonesia in 1998. The current Action Plan provides for mechanism of public complaints, making available additional channel for public to lodge their grievances on issues concerning human rights.

Presently, 432 sub-national Committees to implement National Human Rights Action Plan have been established all over Indonesia. Regular capacity building programs and various trainings have been carried out for members of these implementing Committees at provincial and district levels, in order to ensure constant progress in the implementation of

the National Action Plan. The Government is currently preparing the 2015-2019 National Action Plan on Human Rights to be implemented starting next year.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Indonesian Government continuously enhances its capacity to promote, protect and fulfil the economic, social and cultural rights of every Indonesian and every person in the country. The Government is currently implementing the National Medium Term Development Plan of 2010-2014, to achieve further improvement of people's welfare through sustainable development, strengthening democracy and also strengthening justice in all areas through fair and equitable development for all people in Indonesia.

10 out of the 11 priority areas in the National Medium Term Development Plan are dedicated to programmes relevant to the promotion and protection of rights guaranteed under the Covenant, namely: education, health, poverty reduction, food security; infrastructure, investment and business climate; energy; environment and disaster management; Special programmes for marginalized, frontier, outermost, and post-conflict areas; and culture, creativity, and technological innovation.

It is also important to note that our development efforts aim towards full enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights of all. To achieve a sustainable development with equity, the Government adopts "pro-growth, pro-job, pro-poor, and pro-environment" development strategy. This strategy was elaborated and has been implemented to promote sustainable economic growth which at the same time allow for an equitable distribution of its benefits among regions and people, with special attention given to those marginalized, vulnerable and in least developed areas. This strategy is also aimed at reducing progressively poverty and inequality as well as promoting social justice.

Now, allow me to underline some developments related to those priority areas.

By 2014, the Government has made meaningful progress in promoting sustainable economy through the creation of enabling environment for economic growth, strengthening resilience of all economic sectors and acceleration of infrastructure development.

Enabling environment for economic growth is attained through measures to stabilize the monetary and fiscal condition by controlling inflation, creating balance in the macro-economic factors, and promoting investment.

Indonesia's economy continues to grow and proves to be resilient despite global economic crisis. During the European financial crisis and slow growth of global economy, our economic growth remains stable and higher than the average global economic growth with 6.2 percent in 2012 and 5.8 percent in the first quarter of 2013, compared to our growth of 6.5 percent in 2011. In addition, Indonesia's GDP continue to grow from 10.5 million in 2005, to 33.7 million in 2012.

In stabilizing monetary and fiscal condition, the Government has focused on strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of the financial sector. Furthermore, the monetary policies to control inflation, fluctuation in foreign exchange and interest rates have managed to strengthen the country's economic stability as a whole. The Government has

successfully lowered the inflation rate from 7.0 percent in 2010 to 4.3 percent in 2012. Despite the global rise of inflation rate, the Government managed to control the inflation rate at 8.4 percent by adjusting the domestic fuel price.

Domestic monetary turbulence and global increase of crude oil prices in 2005 have also presented challenges to the Government's capacity to promote, protect and fulfil economic, social and cultural rights as well as poverty alleviation efforts. Nevertheless, poverty rate has decreased from 36.1 million (16.7 percent) in 2004 to 28.1 million (11.4 percent) in 2013 through stabilisation and social protection measures that targeted the poor such as the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM), Family Hope Program (PKH) and Rice Subsidy to Poor Household (Raskin), Poor Students Assistance (BSM), School Operational Assistance (BOS), Direct Cash Assistance Program (BLT).

On investment promotion, between 2004 and 2013, the Gross Fixed Capital Formation against the GDP has persistently increased. Investment ratio against the GDP has increased from 31.1 percent in 2009 to 33.1 percent in 2012. The investment growth also contributed to economic growth from the average 5.6 percent in 2005-2009 to 6.3 percent in 2010-2012.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government is of the view that development of infrastructure is instrumental in the efforts to provide connectivity, energy sustainability, clean water supply, adequate housing and settlements, and contribute to creation of economic growth centres in various parts of Indonesia as well as reducing the gap among provinces in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

By 2013, the Government has built 38.245 km of national roads to increase connectivity between provinces; improve provision of adequate housing through programs, such as Slum Upgrading Facilitation and Stimulant Assistance, Special Houses, Self-Help Housing Stimulant Assistance, and low rent apartments (Rusunawa) subsidies; and improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities through Community Based Total Sanitation programmes that has reached 15,603 villages and Community Based Sanitation programmes which has built 5,000 communal sanitation facilities. All of these programmes are also part of the efforts to implement Article 11 of the Covenant as well as to achieve national target of MDGs.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me now to dwell on some issues raised by the Committee as contained in the List of Issues.

Free disposal of natural wealth and resources (Article 1 paragraph 2)

Recognition and protection of traditional entitlement to land by *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* (traditional community) existing in many parts of the country are in principle guaranteed by the Indonesian Constitution which, in Article 18b (2), stipulates that "the State recognizes and respects *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* along with their traditional customary rights as long as this remain in existence and in accordance with the societal development and the principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and shall be regulated by law".

Law on Basic Agrarian of 1960 elaborates criteria for such entitlement which are: evidences on the existence of the *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*, on linkages of the livelihood of *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*'s to the communal land, and on the existence of a set of norms which govern the use and management of communal land by *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*. These criteria are reaffirmed in Law on Forestry of 1999.

In addition, the Guidelines to Resolve Collective Rights on *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* Land in the event of dispute was issued in 1999, which provide mechanism to determine communal land rights belonging to a *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*. The mechanism is an inclusive consultation process involving representatives from the local government, relevant ministerial institutions, *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*, NGO, and experts on *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*. The outcome of the consultation process serves as the basis for the issuance of by-law on recognition of the collective land right of the *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*, thereby strengthening the *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*'s legal standing upon the land in the event of a dispute or land grabbing by other parties.

The Constitutional Court Decision No. 35 of 2012 on the Judicial Review of Law No. 41 of 1999 on Forestry has provided a new interpretation on this issue by specifically recognizing *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* forest apart from State-owned forest.

Protection of traditional entitlement to land by *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* in some parts of the country continues to pose challenges mainly due to overlapping claims and the absence of regional by-law confirming the existence of *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* along with their traditional customary rights to land.

Various mechanisms are available to resolve disputes relating to this issue such as the Public Complaint Services of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights (*Yankomas*), mediation services by National Land Agency and the National Commission on Human Rights (*Komnas HAM*) or legal proceeding through the court.

Law on Village was enacted this year to provide for, among others, the recognition of *Adat Village* administrations in accordance with traditional norms living in their respective community, and mandates sub-national governments to issue by-law on recognition of *Masyarakat Hukum Adat* in their respective administration whenever such community exists in accordance with national laws and regulations. In some provinces where there is traditional community and such by-law to recognize its existence has not been completed, the Ministry of Forestry provides transitional arrangement to safeguard the interests of the community.

The principle of "Free and Prior Informed Consent" is an integral part of the Government's policy with regard to the use of land for development projects. The principle requires mandatory inclusive consultations on equal footing between the community, the Government and business actors, including in approving the use and the benefit sharing of development projects involving communal lands owned by *Masyarakat Hukum Adat*.

The Government consistently urges business actors, specifically in the extractive industry, to respect this principle and the rights of the local communities through the practice of good corporate governance. In 2004, the Government established the National Committee on the Governance Policy (KNKG), which provided the Code of Good Corporate Governance in Indonesia that mandates business actors to uphold the principle of

transparency and accountability and to implement a sustainable programme of corporate social responsibility.

Further, in 2008 the Government under the Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare has launched the Movement for Corporate Social Responsibility as an embodiment of the commitment by business actors in contributing to community development and the environment.

Article 2 paragraph 1 – Maximum available resources

In the planning and budgeting for disadvantaged provinces and groups to promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, the Government focuses on minimizing the development gap existing between underdeveloped regions and other parts of Indonesia. Against this backdrop, the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) of 2010-2014, gives special attention to accelerate the development in underdeveloped, outermost, and post-conflict regions, by provision of the Special Budget Allocation in the National Income and Expenditure Budget Plan. Special Budget Allocation is provided to local governments to prioritize programmes on infrastructure, housing, water and sanitation, and health by the respective technical ministries according to the needs identified by the regions. In order to achieve well-targeted programmes, these priority programmes are monitored and evaluated by the Ministry of Finance and the Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare. A Presidential unit was set up in particular to strengthen coordination of the implementation of Government programmes to accelerate development in the Provinces of Papua and West Papua. Progress on many indicators has been recorded but continued efforts need to be ensured.

Article 2 paragraph 2 - Non-discrimination

Indonesian Constitution provides for the principle of non-discrimination on any ground for the protection of human rights. Furthermore, the Law on Human Rights of 1999 states that "every person has the right to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination". Ratification of various international human rights instruments by Indonesia has further integrated the principles of human rights, non-discrimination and equality in the national legal framework.

To this effect, a number of implementing regulations and administrative measures in various fields such as education, employment, housing and health have integrated the principles of non-discrimination on any ground. These sets of laws and regulations oblige the Government to guarantee non-discriminatory treatment for every individual in the fulfillment of their economic, social and cultural rights and to achieve "social justice for all".

Law No. 40 of 2008 on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination even criminalizes any act of discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

Furthermore, on persons with disabilities, the Government continues to take steps to ensure their accessibility as part of the national development priorities, and recognizes the continued contribution of many national and local organizations of people with disabilities in this regard. The ratification of the Convention on Persons with Disabilities in 2011 has further strengthened national effort and commitment to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities. The Government has implemented National Action Plan on Persons with

Disabilities 2004-2013 with the purpose of integrating disability issues including accessibility aspect, within the national development agenda. The formulation of Action Plan was based upon "Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific". Currently, to better align with CRPD that was ratified in 2011, the Government of Indonesia is drafting the new National Action Plan on Disabilities.

Article 3 - Equal rights of men and women

The Government's commitment to achieving gender equality and women empowerment is translated into national policies such as the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2011-2014, the 2010-2015 Roadmap to Accelerate the Achievement of the MDGs in Indonesia, and the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2010-2014.

Mainstreaming gender perspectives is also critical to accelerate progress for women and girls as agent and beneficiary of development in all sectors. Along this line, a gender responsive planning and budgeting mechanisms were introduced and hopefully will be implemented by all government agencies at national and sub-national level by 2015.

The Government continues to take measures to overcome gender-based stereotype through early awareness-raising programme on gender equality. Gender equality issues are integrated as part of curricula in primary and secondary schools. Gender roles and violence against women are part of subjects such as civic and character building, health, biology, sports, and religions. The Government also develops gender responsive teaching and learning materials including types of profession that can be pursued by women in the male dominated field of work, such as engineering, science, army, construction, mining, etc.

Article 6 - The right to work

To improve access to and information on employment, private companies are obligated to regularly submit report to the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration regarding information on open vacancies based on sex, age, education, skill/expertise, experience and other necessary requirements. An on-line information system on labour market and employment services has been established in 33 provinces and 456 regencies/cities.

To expand job opportunities for all, several policies and programmes have been implemented. For example, the Ministry for the Development of Disadvantaged Regions has established Regency Leading Commodities Programme (*Program Unggulan Kabupaten*) through public-private partnership to develop zone(s) for economic growth in the 183 regencies identified as underdeveloped regions, has created approximately 100,000 employments. For persons with disabilities, the Government has mandated one percent hiring quota in pursuant to Law on Persons with Disabilities of 1997.

The Government continues to empower women workers that are mostly engaged in informal sectors including agriculture sector and micro/small enterprises by providing broader access to financial resources as well as training to improve their skills and capabilities.

Furthermore, to convert work force surplus from the informal to formal sector, the Government has taken several measures, including promoting and empowering young

entrepreneurs; improving knowledge and skills of informal workers; and facilitating access to financial resources in financial, technology and marketing. These measures have resulted in the steady decrease of workers in the informal sector, from 63.96% in 2011 down to 59.8% in 2013 and the increase of workers in the formal sector from 36.04% in 2011 to 40.2% in 2013.

The Government job creation programme is also part of the bigger effort to alleviate poverty and promote the welfare of society. From 2004 to 2013, the Government has managed to create 17.1 million new employment opportunities. With the increasing work force of 14.2 million people during the period, the unemployment rate decreased from 9.9 percent to 6.3 percent in 2013.

Article 7 - The right to just and favourable conditions of work

The application of equal remuneration for work of equal value is carried through various legislations, policies and programmes such as Law on Equal Remuneration of 1957, Law on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation of 1999, and Law on Manpower of 2003. These set of legal framework ensure equal rights for all workers including between men and women. The value of remuneration of any profession is generally determined on the level of skill, educational background and other qualifications needed to carry out the work. There is also a standard for minimum salary equal for men and women employees.

Pertaining to measures taken to monitor working conditions, the Government has provided guidance and supervision on the implementation of occupational safety and health conditions as mandated in Law on Occupational Safety of 1970, Law on Manpower of 2003 and Government Regulation on the Implementation of Occupational Safety and Health Management System of 2012. Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration has created monitoring mechanisms such as labour inspector.

Law on Manpower of 2003 also provides protection for female workers against sexual harassment. Complaint on sexual harassment can be submitted through informal and formal procedures. The victims may also file their complaint through the trade/labour union, labour agency in the local area, or industrial settlement mechanism institution.

The Bill on Domestic Workers has become national legislation priority since 2010 in which the latest public hearing on the Bill was conducted in 27 February 2013.

Article 8 – Trade union rights

The Law on Civil Service Administration of 1999 and 2014 do not have any specific provision governing strike by civil servants. Since there is no legal provision on this issue, it is often interpreted that civil servants are not allowed to conduct a strike. However, an act of strike in 2013 carried out by civil servant from medical professionals was not criminalized. It is important to point out that there is a number of channels or mechanisms available for civil servants to voice their grievances, including the Administrative Court.

With regard to the protection of workers against unfair dismissal, the ILO Convention on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining of 1949 ratified through Law No. 18 of 1956, and Law on Industrial Relations Disputes Settlement of 2004 have provided normative frameworks. Collective negotiating mechanism stipulated within these laws

focuses on the bipartite principle for disputes settlements in industrial relations. In this regard, the Government established both tripartite and bipartite cooperation institutions to empower workers unions to represent workers in collective bargaining. By 2013, 15,376 units of Bipartite Cooperation Institution were established, meanwhile regarding Tripartite Cooperation Institution, 1 unit at the national level, 33 units at the provincial level and 307 units at the regency/city level have been established.

Article 9 - The right to social security

On the question of provision of social security for the unemployed, under the National Social Security System, all people including the unemployed can have the access to health insurance, accident insurance, old age insurance, pensions, and life insurance. In practice, however, unemployed persons are often the beneficiaries of health insurance and other benefits for the poor provided by local government.

Regarding social benefits for the elderly, in addition to the National Social Security System that is available for the elderly, the Government also provides various benefits such as services on mental, spiritual, religious; health; employment; education and training; and access to public facilities, infrastructures, legal aid, social protection and assistance. For neglected elderly, social rehabilitation and services are also provided in the forms of care institutions, day care and home care.

Furthermore, since 2009, the Government has implemented an Inclusive Social Protection System to improve the quality and coverage of social rehabilitation and services for persons affected by social welfare issues such as persons with disabilities, neglected children and elderly, victims of natural disasters, the poor and Remote *Adat* Community (KAT), by providing them with necessary resources to empower them.

Since 2010, the Government has also initiated the Social Programme for Children's Welfare that provide social care for approximately 330 thousand neglected children and toddlers, homeless children, children in conflict with the law, children with disability and children with special needs.

Article 10 - Protection of the family, mothers and children

National Constitution and legislations have guarantee the protection for children against economic exploitation, including worst forms of child labour. The National Action Plan on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2013-2022) and National Action Plan on the Prevention and Eradication of Trafficking in Person and Sexual Exploitation against Children (2009-2014) provide coordination of policies in this regard. Related stakeholders at all level through Regional Action Plan and community empowerment programme involved in the eradication of worst forms of child labour. Child Labour Reduction Programme was also implemented to assists child labours to obtain education and/or vocational trainings. These programmes have managed to reinstate 32,663 child labours to school from 2008 to 2013 and target 15,000 child labours by 2014.

Article 11 - The right to an adequate standard of living

According to the Law on Disaster Management of 2007, the Government prioritizes the protection of vulnerable groups during emergency response, in the forms of rescue,

evacuation, protection, health care, and psychosocial services. These priorities have been incorporated into the National Disaster Response Plans 2010-2014, among others in the formulation of specific programs for empowering disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and other special need groups in disaster relief. Indonesia was among the first countries to have a national guideline on post-disaster damage assessment that combines recovery needs with loss called the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) with the objective to ensure better quality of life after disaster than of pre-disaster with the "build back better" approach.

On food security, the Government ensures the availability of affordable food and to safeguard the stability of prices, by creating the State Logistics Agency (*Bulog*) and the Food Security Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Food Security Agency ensures the availability of basic food through stabilizing strategic food prices; conducting needs and stock assessment of strategic food; monitoring food prices and supply; strengthening of Community Food Distribution Institution and developing Community Food Reserve. Other efforts include maintenance of price stability by creating efficient and effective distribution network of Shed Receipt System; empowering traditional markets and developing Regional Distribution Centers.

The 2014 Law on Trade also ensures the availability and affordability of basic commodities, by enhancing the role of the Ministry of Trade to manage domestic trade, including by controlling the distribution chain and supply availability, and stabilizing the prices of basic commodities.

Regarding adequate sanitation, including elimination of open defecation practice, the Government has launched a rural health development policy with particular focus in providing sanitation to underdeveloped regions in Indonesia. The Government since 2004 also has initiated the Stop Open Defecation programme. Up to 2013, the programme has assisted 16,282 villages to access adequate sanitation facilities.

Article 12 - The right to physical and mental health

To improve access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health and maternal health services in rural and remote areas, the Government has implemented various programmes such as Universal Delivery Care; Basic Emergency Obstetrics Neonatal Care at community health centers; Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics Neonatal Care at general hospitals; and Programme on Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness. The Government has also increased the quantity and quality of health personnel particularly to meet the needs of people in remote areas, border and remote islands.

In the effort to expand access to health, in January 2014, the Government enforced the new National Health Insurance programme that expected to provide Universal Health Coverage of more than 121.6 million people in 2014, and 257.5 million Indonesians by 2019. During its 100 days of implementation, the National Health Insurance programmes have been joined by 119.4 million people, including the poor and workers from informal sectors.

Articles 13 and 14 - The right to education

On the right to education, the total budget allocation for education has increased from 76.6 trillion Rupiah in 2005 to 331.8 trillion Rupiah in 2013. This is due to provision mandated by the Constitution to allocate 20 percent of the State Budget and of the Regional Budgets for education which has provided resources to implement programmes on education. For example, the 12 years free and compulsory education programme launched in 2013, to replace the 9 years programme in order to promote greater access to higher education; and improvement of education systems quality and service programmes at all levels of education.

Since 2010, the Government has implemented 756 thousand class room rehabilitation programme in elementary and junior high schools with the total expenditure of more than 16 trillion Rupiahs. The Poor Students Assistance (BSM) programme has reached 62 million students from all levels of education with the total expenditure of 32.8 trillion Rupiahs from 2005 to 2014 while the budget allocated for Operational School Assistance (BOS) has reached 32 trillion Rupiahs by 2014.

All these programmes have reduced the number of illiteracy and increased average number of school participation. Based on the statistical data of BPS, the literacy rate in rural areas increased from 89.68 in 2010 to 89.99 in 2012. Meanwhile, according to the data of the Ministry for the Development of Disadvantaged Regions in 183 underdeveloped regions, literacy rate has increased from 86.47 in 2010 to 86.80 in 2012, and the length of school participation increase from 6.81 years in 2010 to 6.97 years in 2012.

In addition, school enrollment gap between groups of economic status has declined as reflected in School Enrollment Number (APS) for school-age population, for example the school enrollment number of student aged 13-15 years in the poorest quintile increased from 72.2% in 2009 to 77.9% in 2011.

Article 15 - Cultural rights

Measures were taken to protect the heritage of ethnic and linguistic minorities, including preservation of around 15 thousand cultural heritage sites, 146 cultural conservation areas, including cultural heritage and languages of ethnic groups and *Masyarakat Hukum Adat.*, as well as revitalization of 50 museums and provision of cultural facilities in more than 2,400 schools.

To preserve linguistic heritage and diversity, the Government has implemented measures to develop, preserve and protect Indonesia's national language and local languages, with participation from all levels of societies. Policy of many local governments to use local languages for both official and informal communication during the work in the local government offices and the provision of local language curriculum as compulsory local subject content in schools are several notable examples in this regard. Other measures include documentation of local languages and the compilation of local language dictionaries: "Local Languages Map of Indonesia" has identified 1,300 tribal codes and 1,000 language codes. This mapping is an important measure to preserve existing and endangered local languages

Furthermore, as the host of World Culture Forum in 2013, Indonesia also promoted the integration of culture within Post-2015 Development Agenda as stipulated on the forum's outcome - the "Bali Promise".

On the whole, the promotion and protection of cultural rights in Indonesia as a multi ethnic and culture nation is regarded crucial to preserve its national identity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me now conclude this introductory remark by reiterating Indonesia's firm commitment to upholding its obligation under the Covenant.

Together with me, my colleagues from various ministries and institutions are ready to engage in the dialogue with all members of the Committee on issues pertaining to the Covenant.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.