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**Third Committee
General Discussion
10th Meeting**

**Statement by
Indonesian Delegation
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to
the United Nations**

**Agenda Item 28:
Advancement of Women**

New York, 12 October 2010

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I also thank the Secretary-General for his reports submitted under the agenda item on advancement of women.

Mr. Chairman,

This year we have conducted important reviews on the global progress made to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women.

As we commemorated the 15th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women assessed the status of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Actions. The review reaffirmed that the outcome of the World Conference remains a pivotal platform for gender equality and women's empowerment.

In the same year, the High Level Segment of ECOSOC evaluated the strategic link of gender equality and advancement of women to the achievement of other internationally agreed development goals in the economic and social fields. The MDGs Summit last September further reaffirmed that fundamental strategic link.

The common thread among the reviews was that gender equality is a fundamental prerequisite for development and human rights.

Despite some encouraging progress, there are still recognizable inequalities between men and women. We must eliminate the inequalities through their root causes that include poverty, discrimination, prejudice and conflicts.

We should implement action-oriented strategies and integrated, comprehensive, multi-sectoral and gender-responsive approaches to the achievement of the MDGs.

We need to ensure that national development plans, poverty eradication strategies, as well as strategies for achieving the MDGs will contribute to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Toward these goals, we should strengthen political commitment and leadership of all stakeholders at all levels through global partnership. Besides fostering the spirit of multilateralism, United Nations should increase their role in providing a system wide response to address the challenges against gender equality and advancement of women.

Thus, we all welcome the establishment of **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)**. Indonesia will support the future work of the new entity, currently under the leadership of Madam Bachelet. Member states should work together in ensuring that the January 1st, 2011 deadline to operationalize UN Women is achieved. In this context, Indonesia would like to emphasize that gender concerns of both developed and developing countries should be equally addressed by UN Women, taking into account the different needs and capacities of each country.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia recognizes the synergy between development and advancement of women.

For this reason, the Government of Indonesia has been implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and other international instruments as a guideline to promote the rights and well being of women.

Early this year, the President issued decrees to accelerate implementation of the 2010 National Development Priorities as well as to promote justice in national development program. The decrees provide a vital link among development actors from national to sub-national level to coordinate pro-people development, establishing justice for all and accelerating the achievement of MDGs. The Government is accelerating progress on 11 priority programs to be implemented through 155 action plans, which include programs related to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Various ministries have formulated and implemented policies, programs and activities to reduce gender inequality in their respective sectors under the coordination of their gender focal points and gender working groups.

The enactment of regional by-laws on gender mainstreaming has motivated sub-national government to engender their regional planning and budgeting.

We also issued guidelines for drafting regional by-laws among others, to prevent discrimination and gender bias toward women as well as to protect human rights and promote gender equality.

The Government is also in the process of redrafting the **Draft Law on Gender Equality**. The draft is hoped to have a very strategic role in overcoming the limitations of previous regulations. Law on Gender Equality is expected to serve as an umbrella and guideline, not only for the executive branch, but also legislature, the judiciary, university and private sectors in formulating their policy.

In the area of **women and poverty and women and the economy**, the Government has been implementing National Community Empowerment Programs in urban areas, sub-districts, under-developed and special regions.

Human trafficking, including trafficking in women and girls, is one of the worst forms of human exploitation. It often uses violence as a method of control and subjugation. Both preventive and punitive measures have been implemented. The capacity of law enforcers is the most basic challenge in prosecuting perpetrators. The resolution of trafficking has been even more daunting in cross border cases. This aspect requires closer cooperation between countries.

On **violence against women and children**, the issuance of the law on anti domestic violence has increased the awareness of the public, especially women, taking into account that violence against women is a violation of human rights, and this should be stopped. The Government has established minimum standards on the Integrated Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence in 2010 as a guideline for our stakeholders to provide protection services to the victims at the national and sub-national levels.

Such efforts at the national level are Indonesia's concrete contribution to eliminate violence against women in the region, inter alia as reflected in the **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region** adopted in 2004.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, allow me to reiterate Indonesia's firm commitment to gender equality.

We remain seized of the obstacles that intrude on the rights of both men and women.

And we believe the key for concrete progress is well coordinated actions among multiple stakeholders of the gender issues at all level.

I thank you.