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Statement by
H.E. Hasan Kleib
Ambassador/Charge d'Affaires
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org

email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you upon your election and other members of the Bureau.

I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his reports.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

MDGs is approaching at a rapid pace. 2015 is within the horizon. Plans are drawn up and commitments are made years ago. This is the time to evaluate progresses made as well as setbacks.

Women represent half of our societies, and women must and have to be empowered. They must have a space where they can fulfill their true desires, develop their talent, and refine their skill.

Thus, it is timely that ECOSOC take up the theme gender equality and the empowerment of women. Today's meeting will further promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. President,

The reports of the Secretary-General show encouraging signs on the improved status of women to be full and equal participants of society. Yet, the disparities in progress worldwide prompt further action, taking into consideration each countries' national capacity and priorities.

Further action should be based on economic participation and opportunity; political empowerment, educational attainment; and promoting women's health and well-being.

Poverty and the uneven impacts on women are one of the critical challenges in advancing women's status. We need to safeguard any fall back in progress given the current downturn in the economy. Our efforts should include a re-examination of our approach which needs to couple a paradigm of poverty reduction with equitable wealth creation.

To this end, employment is a critical link to equitable wealth creation. With an enabling environment, women in the workforce have shown to be successful producers and generators of wealth. Their successes will inevitably inspire broad social transformation.

Yet, the increasing feminization of labor globally, in many ways restricts women's job opportunities and encourages violations of their rights. Since labor is a vital driver of development, further consideration on improving job opportunities with social protection needs to be taken into account.

Furthermore, half a million mothers die of preventable maternal causes every year. Partnerships in reproductive health and planning are essential to decrease pregnancy related deaths and complications.

Mr. President,

In the run up towards 2015, Indonesia's progress on MDG3 shows that the country is well on track in attaining the goal of gender equality and women empowerment. The ratio of girls to boys enrolling in and graduating from primary, secondary and tertiary schools is 100%.

To our contentment, we in Indonesia have witnessed over the years the increasing role of women. A woman as President. Women as Ministers. Women as Ambassadors. Women as Majors. Women as agent of change. The list is expanding by days.

They have made progresses and we want them to make further progresses.

Despite these progresses, we recognize that there is still a need for further transformation of their educational asset into economic and political participation.

Furthermore, as women still constitute the majority of poor, empowering women economically is fundamental. National mechanisms to assure women's access to economic opportunity and participation focus on increasing women's economic productivity. Their enhanced role is important in the village economy, and women-based micro industries.

Moreover, we are striving in reducing the maternal mortality rate in 2015 by two-thirds of the 1990 baseline.

Mr. President,

Most women today remain vulnerable economically, socially, politically and even physically. We must step up efforts in the interest of promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

As we observe, the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Indonesia looks forward to the adoption of the resolution on System wide Coherence that will establish a United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

I thank you.