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**Commission on the Status of Women
The 54th Session
General Discussion
6th Meeting**

**Statement by
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**At the High Level Plenary
54th Session
Commission on the Status of Women**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I wish to congratulate you upon your election as Chair of the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women and other members of the Bureau. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation during the proceedings of this important session.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for the reports. I express the hope that our deliberations will result in action-oriented outcomes to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In discussing the theme of the session, Indonesia associates itself with the distinguished representative of Yemen, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The status of women has progressed on many levels after fifteen years of implementing the outcomes of the fourth World Conference on Women. Yet the reports of the Secretary-General also highlight the stark fact that inequalities as well as major injustices between women and men persist. This situation is exacerbated by the multi-linked crises and climate change.

This meeting is an opportunity to reassert our political will which is a precondition in our efforts to achieve our commitments on gender equality. Likewise this is an opportune time to underline that gender equality while being a goal in itself, is clearly a vital part of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. There are gender dimensions in all the MDGs. As we look towards 2015, we will have to redouble our efforts in fulfillment of the MDG promises in general, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in particular. Increased international cooperation is in this regard of critical importance.

We must bring this message through to this year's ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review that will consider gender issues as its main theme, as well as for the ten year review of the MDGs this coming September.

Apart from the strong commitment of governments, the United Nations plays a key role in advancing the status of women. In connection with the discussion on the new gender architecture within the UN system, Indonesia will continue to engage constructively in the process within the system wide coherence framework.

I do also wish to emphasize that the advancement of women is closely tied with livelihoods. Indonesia is encouraged that global efforts focusing on recovery from the

financial and economic crisis including those made through the UN is also taking gender perspectives into consideration.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me now to deliberate further on the achievements of some critical areas of concerns as follows:

Women and Poverty and Women and Economy

The financial crisis has different impacts or repercussions to men and women, be it in the economic, social and political spheres. The small scale business enterprises in Indonesia which dominated by women are worse off today because of the unavailability of loans from financial institutions. In order to protect the most vulnerable groups, including women, from the impacts of the financial crisis, the Government has carried out several interventions.

The Government's budget for the poor has increased substantially every year. The budget is disbursed among others, for direct assistance to the poor in the form of cash transfer; provision of cheap fertilizers, rice for the poor families, the Ideal Family Programmes targeted at poor families with pregnant women and school-aged children. Other allocations are for public health insurance and school operational assistance. There are also community empowerment programmes through National Community Empowerment Programme or PNPM Mandiri. The PNPM Mandiri consists of Sub-district Development Programmes, Urban Poverty Mitigation Programme and the Development Acceleration for the Under-developed and Special Region and Regional Socio-Economic Infrastructure Development Programme. Women and men have been included in the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of respective programmes. In order to increase the access of women entrepreneurs to resources, the Government has also provided micro and small medium credit schemes with no collateral and low interest. Women's status and quality of life and their empowerment have improved significantly with the implementation of these pro-poor programmes.

Education and training

In order to achieve gender equality in education and training, measures taken among others, are the increase of capacity building to all related- education institutions on gender mainstreaming; increase trainings to all relevant stakeholders on elimination of trafficking in women and children; a gender responsive education development through curriculum improvement, teaching materials and learning process, planning and budgeting for gender responsive education, formal and non formal education as well as partnership with universities and other civil society organization to combat illiteracy of women, to conduct gender responsive research and assessment and to train family on gender equality concepts. To achieve a significant drop in women in illiteracy, the Coordinating Minister of People's Welfare has issued a decree regarding

the establishment of the Coordination team for the National Movement for the Completion of Mandatory Nine Year Basic Schooling and Illiteracy Education. Indonesia places great emphasis to this area because education and training have proven empirically to be the most effective ways to empower women and to achieve gender equality.

Women and Health

The new Health Law Number 36 of 2009 specifies a five percent budget for healthcare. In reality, the budget continues to increase, most of which is spent for health services in community health clinics, where women and children mostly go to seek for health services and treatments; for health posts and for social health insurance. The high maternal mortality rate of women has been addressed through the revitalization of Mother-Friendly Movement and the Making Pregnancy Safer programme strengthened by the grand strategy of the Government's programme called Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness. Other measures taken to reduce maternal mortality are capacity buildings and partnership of midwives and healers; training of staffs of maternal care, certification of village midwives to meet the standardization of midwife education and the provision of free birth certificate for the poor families. All of these measures have managed to reduce maternal mortality from 307 per 100 thousand live births to 228 per 100 thousand live births.

Violence against Women

In order to address the issue of violence against women and children, since the passing of the Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, we have made some progresses with regard to the protection of women and children who are victims of violence. Apart from building women's crises centres, trauma centres and integrated services for women victims of violence all over the country, Minimal Standards on the Integrated Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence have been developed in 2010 as the guidelines for our stakeholders to provide protection services to the victims at the national and sub-national levels. The services consist of integrated services; health services, social rehabilitation services, law enforcement and legal services as well as reintegration services. Other measures taken are the establishment of coordination fora on victims management throughout the country; the establishment of integrated services for women and children and development of recording and reporting system to meet the needs of the victims. As a result, we can identify the increase number of women victims of violence filed report to the law enforcement officers and the cases being processed accordingly. The issuance of the law on anti domestic violence has increased the awareness of the people, especially women, taking into account that violence against women is a violation of human rights and this should be stopped.

Women in decision making position

The 2009 General Elections have strengthened the already democratic political atmosphere in the country with the convening of the second historical direct elections of the Indonesian President and Vice President. I am pleased to inform this august body that five women ministers under the present United Indonesia Cabinet II have been appointed to lead ministries dealing with women's empowerment and child protection affairs, health, trade, finance and national planning. This constitutes a gradual progress on the number of women ministers in the Cabinet, compared to the previous Cabinet. It is noteworthy to stress that under this Cabinet, the nomenclature of the State Ministry for the Women's Empowerment has been changed to include Child protection, mandating the Ministry to promote and protect children's rights in Indonesia, including rights of the girls.

A Significant progress has been achieved in the area of the implementation of gender responsive budgeting. With the issuance of Finance Minister Decree in 2009, in 2010 six government ministries are starting to implement gender responsive budgets as pilots in the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Finance and our own Ministry. Aside from that, five other government agencies will also initiate gender responsive budgeting, namely in Supreme Court, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and State Personnel Agency. All of line ministries should engender their planning and budgeting in 2011. Similarly, at the sub-national levels, we have advocated governors and regents, planners and budget programmers to start implement gender responsive budgeting following the issuance of the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 15 of 2008 on the Manual for the Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming at the Sub-National level.

However, we also acknowledge several challenges we are still facing in the implementation of the BPFA. Therefore within this framework, my Government takes this opportunity to express our gratitude for the assistance we are receiving from UN agencies notably UNFPA, UNIFEM, and UNICEF in our gender programmes. We also acknowledge the good partnership we have with other government agencies at the national and sub-national level, women's NGOs and other civil society organizations in our country.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm my Government's commitment to eradicating all forms of social, cultural, economic and political inequalities that impede the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality at all levels. I also urge the international community to join hands in the fulfillment of the commitments we made and objectives we set in 1995.

I thank you.