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**Statement by the Indonesian Delegation  
Half-Day Panel Discussion on Indigenous People  
Geneva, 17 September 2013**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Special Procedures for the presentation of their reports.

My delegation takes note of the SR's observation in his report that the vast majority of the people in the various of the Asian region may be considered, in a literal sense, indigenous to the region.

Indonesia is a multi-ethnic country. Indonesia's demographic composition remained unchanged since the time of colonization. Each of ethnic groups practices their own particular and unique cultures, traditions, languages and adheres to particular bodies of norms and therefore most of them constitutes customary Adat Community (Masyarakat Hukum Adat). Indonesia continues to promote and protect traditional collective rights of the Adat Community in accordance to the national regulations.

It is clearly stipulated in the Constitution, article 18b (2), that "The State recognizes and respects traditional communities 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."

Furthermore, the Article 28I (3) of the Constitution stated that the cultural identities and rights of traditional communities shall be respected in accordance with progressing times and civilizations.

For this reason, the House, together with the Government, is currently drafting the bill on the Protection of Adat Community (Perlindungan Masyarakat Adat). This drafting of Bill marks Indonesia's strong commitment to continue to promote and protect the rights of Adat Community in Indonesia, as mandated by our Constitution.

To conclude, Mr. Vice President, my delegation is of the view that constructive and respectful dialogue among relevant stakeholders on this issue are of pertinent. We believe that mutual trust is an important element in this matter. We urge that focused discussion on the promotion of principle of non-discrimination in our common efforts should be upheld.

I thank you.