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**Permanent Forum on Indigenous
Issues
Ninth Session
Economic and Social Council**

**Statement by
Indonesian Delegation**

Agenda Item 7:

**“Future work of the Permanent Forum, including
issues of the Economic and Social Council
and emerging issues”**

New York, April 2010

**Mr. Chairman,
Esteemed members of the Forum,**

Allow me to reiterate the importance of the Forum's work, and its role in promoting the principles, and ideals that the United Nation's was founded on.

As a member of the United Nations, Indonesia comes to this Forum with an enduring commitment to guarantee justice, equality and prosperity for its people.

Mr. Chairman,

As a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society, Indonesia takes pride in its mosaic of peoples, which has evolved from our country's long history of tolerance and solidarity.

This longstanding practice of tolerance and solidarity inspired the birth of Indonesia's state philosophy: "unity in diversity" which is the unifying foundation of Indonesia's plural society.

Our philosophy has been the driving force behind Indonesia's democratic process that began since the nation's independence six decades ago.

Indonesia's democracy has been evolving. In the face of a changing political landscape, new challenges have emerged that have demanded a thorough reform process taken from hard lessons in the recent past.

The process has resulted in a remarkable transformation of Indonesia.

A decade of nation wide efforts to establish a new foundation for political, economic and social life has reoriented Indonesia's development strategy to strike a balance between economic growth, democracy and respect for human rights.

The process of reforms and democracy include implementation of new laws on regional autonomy. Under the new law, local governments are guaranteed greater self-rule, and a larger share of revenues for local constituencies.

The peaceful democratic process and regional autonomy, has empowered the local people to determine their region's development in accordance with their needs and aspirations.

Our recent direct general elections testify to the growing empowerment that is taking root in all of Indonesia. People are more involved at all levels, expecting greater accountability of their elected officials.

Nevertheless, the Government of Indonesia recognizes that we still need to do more even when things have changed so much and so fast.

We believe that that regional autonomy will benefits continues to benefit the peoples. Most importantly, through democracy and reform, we hope that equality, justice and prosperity are reinforced for all Indonesians.

Mr. Chairman,

In discussing the future work of the Permanent Forum, we acknowledge and encourage the work by the Forum on climate change; and the impact of the economic and financial crisis on development.

Those issues are amongst top priorities for Indonesia, and we have been working with the international community to ensure a comprehensive strategy and framework, which takes into account the needs of all countries and its people.

We also wish to reemphasize the call to improve the Forum's method of work. We fervently view that the continued improvement of its working methods is the key for the overall success of the Forum, and therefore encourage the study of other functional commissions' procedures as guiding tools.

Indonesia reiterates that the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent must be applied at every phase of Forum's decision making process. This will ensure a greater transparency, responsibility, trust and accountability of the Forum when it deals with any issue that requires its attention.

Finally, we are certain that the Secretariat of the Forum will always continue to uphold its solemn responsibility in safeguarding the trust of Member States. This is crucial in maintaining the Forum's credibility and effectiveness at all times.

Thank you.