

Statement
Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
at the Interactive Dialogue with SR on Indigenous Peoples
23 September 2020

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay and wish him success in the undertaking of this mandate.

Although Indonesia does not recognize the concept of indigenous peoples as reflected in the UNDRIP, Indonesia remains a supporter of the Declaration, and continues to be of the view that UNDRIP is instrumental for the promotion and protection of human rights of peoples to whom the Declaration applies to.

Indonesia is, however, home to tens of millions of customary law communities, or what we call "*Masyarakat Hukum Adat*".

Like indigenous peoples across the world, customary law communities in Indonesia also face particular vulnerabilities, including in facing the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded these challenges.

In this connection, customary law communities continue to have a significant role to play in the protection of biodiversity and in maintaining the balance of natural ecosystems. In the Indonesian context, customary law communities have very strong ties to ancestral lands and the natural environment, whereby the preservation of customary lands and forests is part and parcel of the way of life.

Due to these reasons, the Indonesian government has great interest to protect its customary law communities. In the last decade, Indonesia's Constitutional Court has made three landmark rulings recognizing customary law communities's collective rights to customary or "*Adat*" lands and forests. At present, the Indonesian government is in the process of mapping these lands, with a view of providing adequate legislation to protect the rights of customary law communities over those lands.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

In undertaking your mandate, what do you think would be the best way to sustain and strengthen the environmental protection agenda within the framework of promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and customary law communities?

I thank you.