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**Statement of the Indonesian Delegation
The 15th Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
May 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the Forum this year.

Notwithstanding our support of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in 2007, Mr. Chairman, my delegation holds the position that the framework in which this Forum is now functioning is not fully applicable to Indonesia. My delegation, however, wishes to convey some pertinent aspects to clarify some related issues being raised in this Forum.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reaffirm that the protection and promotion of human rights of every person is fully guaranteed under Articles 28 to 28J of our Constitution. Regardless of ethnicity or religion, all citizens in our country are equal before the law.

Various government policies in the promotion and protection of human rights have been implemented on the basis of this principle enshrined in our Constitution, as well as our laws on human rights. We have solid national human rights framework, dynamic institutions and very active civil society.

Nevertheless, national efforts to promote and protect human rights is always work in progress.

This is the reason that we all have the obligation to continue to work for improvement, and Indonesia is strongly committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all Indonesians.

On the ground, we are first to admit certain security challenges that remain. Regrettably, these may sometimes lead to cases of violence that may erroneously be attributed to the strained relations between some groups of people and security personnel.

It is important to understand that activities such as rallies, demonstrations and some community activities that are commonly conducted in many parts of Indonesia, are regulated by laws. Just like in many countries, when the law is broken, the police are obliged to take necessary action to maintain order and ensure compliance.

Nonetheless, any allegations of abuse by security forces are taken very seriously and processed accordingly.

Mr. Chairman,

Regardless of the complexity of the issues and the challenging geographical conditions in Papua and West Papua Provinces, the Government of Indonesia has sought, and will continue to seek, ways and means to improve security, prosperity and respect for human rights in both provinces.

Under the Special Autonomy Law, the Provinces of Papua and West Papua enjoyed greater autonomy among the rest of all autonomous provinces in Indonesia under the broad national system. The autonomous framework covers all sectors of administration and authorizes the two provinces to regulate and manage their own interests on the basis of their aspirations and with full respect to the fundamental rights of all Papuans. Papuans enjoy greater access and authority in the improvement and development of their land, and the use of their resources.

This broad range of authority, Mr. Chairman, in the realization of the right to self-determination, is supported by a substantial budget that is among the largest in the country.

Furthermore, the two Provinces, including the 42 districts and cities there, are governed by Papuans themselves. Through open and transparent direct elections, Papuans have cast their votes in choosing their own leaders, including governors, mayors, regents and most members of the House of Representatives. This is another demonstration of self-determination.

Besides continuing the inclusive development program, as well as trust and confidence-building, the Government continues to emphasize infrastructure development in both provinces, with the target of the comprehensive economic development of Papua.

Permit me to point out, Mr. Chairman, that under President Jokowi's tenure, an 8.772 km undersea fiber-optic is being constructed to ensure closer connectivity of Papua and the rest of Indonesia. Other infrastructure projects include the development of international-class seaports, trans-Papuan rail networks and bridges, as well as the renovation of the international airport and markets.

Other practical steps being taken include the promotion of the rights of all through the provision of broader health systems and better access to quality education, as well as wider career opportunities in the bureaucracy and the economy.

Mr. Chairman,

Some misleading and baseless statements were made by certain participants concerning Papua and West Papua.

This should not divert the main focus of the Forum as well as our tireless effort in advancing and building Papua.

Permit me to restate that the reintegration of Papua into the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia through the 1969 Act of Free Choice remains in place, and is valid, legal and irrevocable.

We recognize that there are certain groups who cannot accept this fact. Nevertheless, that decision is acknowledged and accepted by all the respective governments, by the UN and by the community of nations.

Beyond this, the status of Papua as an integral part of Indonesia is not only final, as a result of the 1962 Act, but also through the 1969 endorsement of the General Assembly in Resolution 2504 (XXIV).

As we have always stated, the issue of Papua has been and will continue to be resolved within the context of Indonesian territorial integrity.

In this connection, we regret that some challenges being faced on the ground have sometimes been disproportionately and erroneously cited for the benefit of certain groups of people.

Instead of utilizing the available democratic mechanisms in place at national level in Indonesia and at the provincial level in Papua and West Papua, certain groups choose to misuse the international fora, including this august Forum, to advance their extraneous agenda undermining the UN Charter as well as UNDRIP itself, using fabricated information. This is indeed obnoxious and detrimental to the credibility of this Forum.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our fervent hope that various avenues, the utilization of existing democratic institutions in the country, including intensive communication with all related stakeholders such as religious and *adat* leaders, will help to identify and achieve the true aspirations of all Papuans.

Indonesia will continue to give appropriate focus on the development of Papua and West Papua Provinces, and the enhancement of social welfare and justice for all.

I thank you.