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Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)
Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

Madam Chairperson

Thank you for the opportunity. I'm speaking on behalf of AMAN, an indigenous organization in Indonesia representing 777 Indigenous communities and more than 30 indigenous peoples organizations.

I'm privileged to be here at the moment with two indigenous leaders from Aceh, they are Mr. Yuriun and Mr. Amirullah, from JKMA Aceh, an Indigenous organisation in Aceh which is a member of AMAN. We are here to present the situation that Indigenous Peoples have dealt with since the impact of the Tsunami.

For Indigenous peoples in Indonesia, the tsunami caused not only loss of life, damage and loss of property, but also interrupted our socio-cultural systems, for example the dislocation in our governance systems due to our leaders being casualties of the tsunami. Thirty communities who are members of AMAN/JKMA were seriously impacted. In total, approximately 4000 souls were taken by the Tsunami. In term of damage to property, in most cases, all that remained were only the foundations of houses. The shoreline was decreased.

Around 7000 survivors are still living in emergency tents and the rest are living in temporary barracks of which are in very bad condition. For Example, one barracks is 36 metres square and is occupied by 5-12 people. Such barracks do not have adequate facilities to support these people.

With this opportunity, AMAN and JKMA would like to address several concerns:

1. The short term rehabilitation plan is expected to take between six months and one year. We would prefer that this rehabilitation does not only focus on the improvement of infrastructure, but also the security of the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples. These preparations should involve the Indigenous peoples including Indigenous Women.
2. According to Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 2/2005 on The Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and Nias Island - North Sumatera Rebuilding and Reconstruction program that will be handled by an Executive Agency (Badan Pelaksana or BAPEL) must not give sole emphasis to the aspects of development and infrastructure. Consideration for the social, cultural and natural environments must receive an equal emphasis in the programme. The Policy must also prevent the re-centralisation of the government in

Aceh Province. It must provide a basis for the special spirit of the Indigenous Peoples to return to autonomy.

3. Regarding the right of land and other natural resources, all of the Indigenous peoples affected by the disaster are still to this day spread out over various evacuation locations, must be involved intensely, especially in matters that are related to their rights to land that were destroyed.
4. There are Indigenous communities that have their culture tied to traditional lands and territories along the coast. Communities like this should not be relocated far away from the coast. The relocation programme should fulfil the principal of Free, Prior and Informed consent.
5. The security issues raised by the military should be carried out reasonably, or otherwise they will hinder civil society efforts in helping Indigenous Peoples. The Emergency status in Aceh should not be the reason for inappropriate resettlement of Indigenous peoples.

Our gratitude goes towards our Indigenous sisters and brothers from all over the world who have and continue to support us. We would like to thank The Assembly of First Nations, The Saami Council, Ainu People, AIPP. We also wish to thank very much the Saami Parliament Council and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who have helped our organisations cope with this tragedy.

In collaboration with the Assembly of First Nations, AMAN and JKMA have conducted a rapid needs assessment for short, medium and long term period. The needs assessment was based upon a shared philosophy of enhancing organizational capacity and encouraging local initiatives of Indigenous Peoples as a means to recover and rebuild from the tragedy, and to provide joint assistance that is based on the needs and priorities of the affected communities.

From there, AMAN and AFN have agreed upon future collaborative work in supporting Indigenous peoples affected by Tsunami. This strategy will focus on a broad range of interrelated activities:

Lands and traditional territories - priorities expressed by the Indigenous communities include: Indigenous participation in the development of the Master Plan currently being developed by the Government of Indonesia; maintaining community integrity in rebuilding plans; and respect for principles of free, prior and informed consent throughout the planning process, rather than having policies and forced relocation imposed upon the Indigenous Peoples.

1. **Education** - Include: the rebuilding of schools - communities want to be able to take the lead in planning, but need assistance in rebuilding; teachers - many communities lost teachers and most remote communities had difficulties in attracting teachers pre-Tsunami; school supplies and materials; and scholarships for students to pursue their education.

2. **Jobs** - The need for employment and income generation. Some communities were able to hire survivors to clear debris, but this happens on a daily basis, and offers no security for the future. Currently, many survivors are in temporary camps without meaningful work or activity.
3. **Housing** - Indigenous Peoples want to return to their communities and rebuild their homes as soon as possible. This will require financial and human resources, as well as full participation in the planning process for rebuilding.
4. **Alternative Energy development** - Indigenous Peoples are interested in exploring possibilities for alternative energy such as solar cells and green energy.

Thank you Madam Chairperson

AFN portion of joint AFN/AMAN statement at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

(presented by Sawa Atleo)

Madame Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important forum. I am here as a representative of the Assembly of First Nations, which is the national representative organization of First Nations citizens in Canada. I bring greetings from the National Chief of the AFN, Mr. Phil Fontaine, who has asked me to convey his warmest regards.

As you have just heard from my good friend and colleague Rukka Sombolinggi, the Assembly of First Nations is working to develop a partnership with AMAN in Indonesia to assist Indigenous Peoples in the Aceh province to recover and rebuild from the effects of the December 2004 Tsunami.

This is an innovative, Indigenous to Indigenous partnership to enhance organizational capacity and encourage local initiatives of Indigenous Peoples as a means to recover and rebuild from the tragedy, and to provide assistance that is based on the needs and priorities of the affected communities.

Despite the broad differences in cultures, traditional territories and development, Indigenous Peoples worldwide have experienced similar forms of marginalization as a result of colonialism, imperialism and racism. Indigenous Peoples face common challenges, such as recognition and protection of their collective and individual rights. Given the similarity of experience, and the need to create alliances and take action in solidarity with Indigenous people around the world, it is important to focus on developing and maintaining partnerships and relationships between Indigenous Peoples. We believe that we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to work at an international level in order to improve the situation of First Nations in Canada, and that of Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

Our approach as Indigenous Peoples is different than that of the dominant cultures - although we come from different parts of the world, we see things with the same eyes. As Indigenous Peoples, we have experienced difficulties as a result of pre-conceived notions and unsustainable imposed solutions. In order to avoid this, our approach has been highly collaborative and consultative - we have worked to establish a highly personal connection, based on sharing our traditions and cultures. This approach has resulted in a very strong bond, and strong working relationship.

As Rukka has noted, we have agreed to develop a long-term strategy to address the priorities identified by the Indigenous Peoples. However, we cannot do this alone, we need the support of Aid Agencies as well as the Permanent Forum and the United Nations system.

We want to acknowledge the support we have already received from the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on this initiative.

The recommendations that AMAN and the AFN are making are as follows:

- 1) We would recommend that the UN, Aid Agencies and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) develop relationships with AMAN and JKMA, as the best way to work with Indigenous Peoples in the Aceh province. The coordination functions of AMAN and the JKMA are critical, as they are trusted and accepted, and they can facilitate work directly with communities.
- 2) We would strongly recommend that the UN, Aid Agencies and other NGOs make all efforts to understand the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and Communities, as well as Indigenous rights and concerns, as rebuilding plans move forward.
- 3) We strongly urge that the Permanent Forum and other UN Agencies take the concerns of Indigenous Peoples into consideration when releasing reports and recommendations. For example, recent governmental proposals do not allow rebuilding in areas within 200 meters up to 4 km of the shoreline for environmental and safety reasons. Such proposals do not appear to include an analysis of Indigenous rights or concerns.
- 4) We would recommend that the UN, Aid Agencies and other NGOs take both human and financial resources into account when planning rebuilding activities. Financial resources are extremely important, but are not enough on their own, and local capacity development is critical.
- 5) We would recommend that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues continue to monitor the rights and concerns of Indigenous Peoples affected by disasters and tragedy throughout the world, and assist Indigenous Peoples in

focusing the attention of the international community on these issues. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum must be adequately funded to continue to play this important role.

In closing, I would like to note that I had the great honour to participate on the AFN team that worked with AMAN and the JKMA to develop the rapid needs assessment in the Aceh province. It was a life-changing experience, and I am absolutely amazed by the strength and resiliency of the Indigenous Peoples that we met. Our organization and our people are fully committed to this partnership and to do all that we can to assist in the on-going relief efforts.

Thank you Madame Chair