

Statement
Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
at the Annual Panel Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
22 September 2020

Madame President,

Indonesia reaffirms its commitment to the protection of the human rights of all peoples, including the rights of human rights defenders.

Our unwavering support towards the work of human rights defenders is evident through our positions in the Council, including through our commitment to further advance the Council's work towards the holistic implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

In doing so, Indonesia also refers to the OHCHR, which has concluded that "...defenders can be of any gender, of varying ages, from any part of the world and from all sorts of professional or other backgrounds". In particular, it is important to note that human rights defenders can also be government officials, civil servants or members of the private sectors working to pursue the betterment of human rights.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia has consistently called for the Council to pay greater attention towards the plight of human rights defenders, especially those who are in the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19.

In this connection, Indonesia reiterates its support towards enhancing the protection of vulnerable communities, including indigenous human rights defenders, and defenders of the rights of local and customary law communities. Indonesia also underlines the importance of a more inclusive approach in discussing issues affecting indigenous and customary law communities.

On this note, I wish to seek the Panel's views on how to better ensure that the narrative regarding the protection of indigenous human rights defenders can also extend to local/traditional communities not covered by the UNDRIP or other UN resolutions.

In conclusion, Indonesia firmly believes that human rights defenders, in all their forms and professions, are key partners in the advancement of human rights. Therefore, their right to carry out legitimate work in an enabling environment, and to be free from threats, attacks, reprisals and acts of intimidation must be protected, especially in a time of pandemic.

I thank you.