

Presented by
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**RIGHTS OF REPLY OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION
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1. It is with much regret that Indonesia has to exercise its right of reply, not only from a procedural perspective but also from the basic principle of its national interest. Indonesia strongly deplores the statement by Adat Alifuru yesterday. Not only was it a fabrication, it also had the flavour of political propaganda which could have a negative effect on the current recovery and reconciliation process in Maluku. One should have raised question about her credentials, especially in light of her claim that she was representing people in Maluku. No less doubtful is her claim to knowledge of the current situation on the ground.
2. Let's be logical! If the terrible fairytale she told the Forum yesterday is in fact happening in Maluku nowadays, all media, both national and international would be filled with reports and pictures of Maluku on their front pages. This is only logical since (1) we are living in the cyber world – a world with no boundaries; (2) the Indonesian press is currently among the freest in the world, and (3) the dynamic civil society in Indonesia is one of the most vibrant in the world.
3. Should the concern of the delegation of Adat Alifuru be sincere about improving the welfare of the people in the province, my Government would be more than ready to engage in constructive dialogue on the matter. That approach would certainly be more appreciated by the people of Maluku rather than her baseless shouting from exile probably to incite acts of hostility and possible conflict in the province.
4. The success of the on-going well implemented reconstruction and reconciliation process in Maluku will certainly depend on commitments both from the Indonesian Government and the people in the province. The current Government fully commits itself to learn from the past mistakes. For its part, the international community, including the Permanent Forum should support the process.
5. It is my delegation's fervent hope that this noble Forum will distance itself from such an erratic separatist aspiration. Let us protect this Forum from attempts to make it a fertile breeding ground for separatist movements around the world which is absolutely against the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.