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Statement by the Indonesian Delegation

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2nd Session of the Expert Mechanism of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples

Geneva, 13 August 2009.

Thank you madam Chair,

Since this is the first time we speak, let me congratulate you madam Chair on your assumption as the Chairperson of this august body. Indonesia supports the work of the Expert mechanism of the right of Indigenous peoples. The mandate of this body is clearly set out in the resolution 6/36 that among others stipulated that the Expert mechanism will focus its work on thematic issue.

Concerning the agenda under consideration, Indonesia is one of the countries that supports the International Declaration of Indigenous Peoples. Although we are facing some challenges, we have made steady progress in this regard.

However, in the deliberation of this particular agenda since yesterday, we observed that many participants in their statements seem to forget that the mandate of the Expert Mechanism is not to deal with country specific human rights violations. This is regrettable since this will not help and not give add value to the work of The EMRIP which is currently mandated by the Human Rights Council to study on lessons learned and challenges to achieve the implementation of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples to education. Therefore we should deliberate on the issue related to the agenda and mandates given by the Council to the Expert Mechanism and not politicizing the issue.

I should like to underline what has been stated many times by the Chair, the country specific issues of human rights violations is under the purview of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples. Therefore it would be to our advantages to focus deliberations on thematic issues that is of the interest of the indigenous peoples and of the world at large.

Thus we hope this issue will be seriously taken into consideration by Expert Mechanism in their next sessions, or otherwise we are just wasting our time and energy listening statements that are not related to the mandate of the Expert Mechanism and allows this body be politicized which in turn may question the credibility of the Expert Mechanism.

Thank you.