

**EXPERT MECHANISMS ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
11th SESSION, 9th – 13th JULY 2018**

**The Right to Life and Right to Health of Indigenous Children of
West Papua, Indonesia**

Agenda item 7: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Thank you Madam Chair

My name is Esra Mandosir, I belong to West Papua indigenous peoples
I am the UN OHCHR Indigenous Fellow.

First, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with regard to the right to life and the right to health of indigenous children of West Papua in Indonesia.

Madam Chair, we recognize the good will from the government of Indonesia in implementing its international obligation under the UN Convention on the Right of the Child, which it ratified through Presidential Decree Number 36 in 1990, including the Indonesia Law Number 35 in 2014 which enshrined the protection of children's rights in Indonesia. However, in the first quarter of 2018, a high number of victims of epidemic outbreaks and malnutrition occurred in two remote regencies of Papua Province that resulted in the death of 98 indigenous children and affecting approximately 550 indigenous children in the regencies of Asmat and Pegunungan Bintang.

Madam Chair, these epidemic outbreaks and malnutrition in the regencies of Asmat and Pegunungan Bintang revealed the government failures to uphold its international obligation to protect the rights of indigenous children as per article 6 of CRC, article 59 of Indonesia law on the protection of children's rights, article 45 of Special Autonomy Law in 2001 for West Papua and more specifically, articles 21 and 24 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We therefore recommend the Government of Indonesia, in particular the Department of Health to:

1. Provide access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation programmes for the two regencies of Asmat and Pegunungan Bintang particularly, the most affected indigenous children.
2. Provide access to adequate health care service and medicines to indigenous children in the two regencies mentioned above particularly the affected villages.

I thank you Madam Chair