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**Statement of the Indonesian Delegation
at the 16th Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
3 May 2016**

Madame Chairperson,

As an archipelagic state spanning an area as vast as New York to California, Indonesia is proud of its multi-ethnic, multi religious mosaics. With a population of almost 260 million people, the protection and promotion of human rights remains the cornerstone of our nation's policies.

The Indonesian Constitution guarantees that all citizens are equal before the law and their human rights are fully protected. Our unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights continues to be strengthened, including through our participation in the Universal Periodic Review process.

In addition, we continue to contribute constructively as a member of the Human Rights Council. Our cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, is demonstrated, among others, through the recent visit of the Special Rapporteur on Health to Papua and other parts of Indonesia.

In that light, **Madame Chairperson**, my delegation deeply regrets the practice of certain groups, armed with their own ill-intended agenda and misleadingly claiming to be the genuine representatives of over 400 tribes in Papua and West Papua Provinces of Indonesia, attempting to misuse this august Forum.

Instead of focusing on the most pressing issues confronting the indigenous peoples; instead of contributing constructively to the genuine steps being taken to improve the welfare of our *Adat* community, these groups are before our very eyes upturning established procedure and practice. Before our very eyes, by taking the separatist group agenda and making patently false statements and allegations, they are breaching the UN Charter and the provisions of UNDRIP itself, and violating the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of states on which the UN stands as a multilateral institution.

This has to stop, **Madame Chairperson**.

Comments concerning the so-called 'issue of West Papua', made by some speakers during the dialogue with Special Rapporteur and the Chair of EMRIP, on 1 May 2017, are not only biased, but misleading. The facts show that prosperity, justice and rule of law, as well as respect for human rights and the

specific interests of the Papuan community, continue to guide public policy and programs throughout the area.

Regrettably, some of these mischievous and misleading statements arise from plain ignorance of history, including the history of Indonesia at the UN, the principled position of the international community over the years, as well as ongoing advances and development in the provinces of Papua and West Papua.

In this regard, my delegation recalls and reaffirms the 1969 reintegration of Papua into the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia by the historic Act of Free Choice. That Act remains **valid, legal and irrevocable**. That Act, through GA Resolution 2504 (XXIV) of 1969, remains accepted and acceptable to the respective governments, the UN, and the international community of nations,

Beyond this, the issue of Papua will continue to be addressed within the context of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Indonesia.

Madame Chairperson,

With regards to the Special Autonomy of Papua, the Government of Indonesia faces complex issues and conditions on the ground as it works to improve the welfare of the Papuan people. Nevertheless, despite issues which include leadership, management and budgetary allocations—which are often overlooked—the Government continues to seek ways of improving the socio-economic conditions in both provinces.

In that regard, we proudly cite the extensive ongoing infrastructure development to improve and enhance the area's connectivity with the rest of the country; the promotion of broader health systems; better access to quality education, as well as wider career opportunities in the bureaucracy and the economy. All of these efforts are being undertaken and led by our Papuan brothers and sisters, including through their elected officials and legislatures.

Finally, as Indonesians we remain fully confident that, intensive communication and dialogues involving all genuine stakeholders, such as religious and *adat* leaders, will continue to be identified and utilized to achieve the true aspirations of all Papuans.

I thank you.