

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Makarim Wibisono
Head of Indonesian Delegation

General Debate of the Annual Ministerial Review
High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council
Geneva, 4 July 2007

on

**“Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the
global partnership for development”**

Mr. President,

- It is a pleasure for me to participate in this first Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) meeting of the renewed and strengthened ECOSOC. I believe that we should spare no effort in making full use of the AMR as a powerful new tool to advance implementation of the internationally agreed development goals in the economic and social fields.
- Let me also align myself to the statement by the distinguished delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

- Once again our attention is brought to the issue of poverty eradication and hunger. For many people around the world it is an issue of life or death. This is therefore an opportunity to not only create stronger political impetus but also match our will with action for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- We thank the Secretary-General for his report which serves as a useful reference for our deliberation today. We also noted that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2007 launched a few days ago reflects the progress as well as challenges in the achievement of the MDGs.
- As indicated in these reports the proportion of people living in extreme poverty around the world is declining. There has also been global progress in other dimensions of poverty such as access to education and health care. Be that as it may, uneven and slow progresses towards the Millennium Development persist especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, I remain confident that together we can do more.

- While it is true that every country must shape its own destiny, in our globalized world, our destinies are unavoidably entwined and so in the course of development, growth can only flourish in a global partnership for development. Financing for development must flow. Exports of developing countries must gain access to markets in a rules based international trading system. At the same time, we developing countries must put our houses in order including achieving good governance, fighting corruption and carrying out development strategies.
- To make the efforts of reducing poverty work for development, holistic approach has to be taken into account, particularly the complementary roles of the government, private sector and donor community. This effort should aim at enabling environments and positive investment climates by considering factors such as education and development of entrepreneurship, improve quality of public services and infrastructure. This consideration has to be in line with level of development and development priority.

Mr. President,

- On our part, Indonesia's commitment to achieve the MDGs is reflected in the implementation and progress of our national development base on pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-job strategy.
- The Indonesian economy is more promising today than it has been in the last few years. Our macro-economic performance is showing record figures since the financial crisis of 1998. The economy grew at 5.6% in 2005 and at about the same rate in 2006; that figure represents the highest growth rate in 2 consecutive years since the crisis. This year we aim to reach 6.3% of GDP growth. We maintained fiscal sustainability last year, our budget deficit was 1.1%. This is well below the OECD standard of 3%. We also managed to pay all of our debt to the IMF four years ahead of our schedule.
- While these figures are heartening, we are still not satisfied because what we want to achieve is NOT just high growth, we are also striving after QUALITY growth. We are after the kind of economic growth that ripples outward and benefits all Indonesians, providing them with more jobs, reducing poverty in their midst, and delivering a better quality of life for the individual and the community. This is what we call "growth with equity", and this is where the challenge lies.
- To achieve this, we have committed to spending the highest portion of the development budget for education and health, and for anti-poverty programmes. Indeed, this year, we are allocating over 50 trillion Rupiah almost 6 billion USD for Indonesia's Poverty Reduction Programme, including the National Programme for People's Empowerment --the PNPM Mandiri programme-- which targets tens of thousands of villages across Indonesia.

- Indonesia is also putting more emphasis on women's economic empowerment, especially micro-finance and micro-credit which is substantially supporting poor women's economic activities. To expand the role of women and deepen their participation in the economy, we have established a Forum on *Increasing the Productivity of Women in the Economy* and we have developed models to promote the economic empowerment of women in several provinces.
- In the 2004 – 2009 Mid-Term National Development Plan, the Government has formulated policies to enhance the quality of institutional and cooperative activities in which women are involved. Steps have been taken to develop small and medium enterprises for women. Furthermore, women are also participating in decision making processes and other related activities.
- At every phase of development, women should be able to actively participate. We equate progress for women with progress for the nation. Special attention should also be paid to other vulnerable groups, such as children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- In June of this year, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono issued an instruction (no. 6 of 2007) concerning Policies to Accelerate Development of the Real Sector and Empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The president's instruction will increase the transparency of the government's work plan particularly in accelerating economic growth to alleviate unemployment and poverty.
- At the regional level, Indonesia has played a constructive role in facilitating achievement of the MDGs and poverty eradication. The Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, agreed in 2005 emphasizes on regional and international cooperation. Through the Jakarta Declaration, Indonesia has been working with other Asia-Pacific countries to develop a regional roadmap aimed at helping countries falling behind the MDGs in the region.

Mr. President,

- While not losing sight of our main objectives, we should bear in mind of emerging issues such as climate change which have long term implications on development. In this regard, we need to advance immediate urgent attention to counteract the impact of climate change taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. International cooperation in the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) needs to be enhanced and actions for mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology must be strengthened.

- Therefore, discussion on the issue of climate change in the context of the substantive session of the ECOSOC, thematic debate of the General Assembly at the end of this month and the High Level Event to be held in New York in September 2007 are important building blocks to raise greater political awareness and momentum in the run up to the COP-13 of the UNFCCC and MOP-3 of the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Bali, Indonesia in December this year.
- To conclude Mr. President, Let us therefore put every effort to strengthen our partnerships and ensure that by 2015 and beyond, poverty eradication becomes a reality. I thank you.

Geneve, July 2007