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**Third Committee  
General Discussion  
11<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Statement by  
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of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item 28:  
Advancement of Women**

**New York, 11 October 2011**



At the outset, **Mr. Chairman**, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN, as well as the statement of the Group of 77 and China delivered by the representative of Argentina.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, more women have enjoyed their rights and their equal and full participation in development.

Nevertheless, the Secretary General's reports, and further discussion with UN-Women, and various mechanisms yesterday, reminded us again of the opportunity and risk to the advancement of women at all levels, in the ever-changing global landscape.

The world is still constantly in the grips of wars and conflict, natural disaster and economic meltdown. Rising inequality and disparity has impacted women more than ever. At the same time, science, technology and inventions have significantly improved health and well being, provided both men and women with longer life, more productivity and better prospects.

The recent global events also showed us how information and communication technology can inspire change toward a more transparent and democratic society, that demanded equal rights and participation of women.

The history shows that women- one half of humanity's potentials - can play a broader role, not only to promote peace and security, but also in maintaining economic recovery efforts, and ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.

For Indonesia, further promoting and encouraging the advancement of women will broadens opportunities and strengthens the resilience of any nations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The role and participation of women in the economy has become an important dimension of Indonesia's development agenda, in recognition of women's constitutional rights. In line with Beijing Platform of Action, Indonesia remained committed to strengthen policies and strategies to ensure that women are accorded a fair share of the economic pie.

Concrete steps are being taken to facilitate women's access to capital and the market in Indonesia, including the majority of women workers working in the micro-small-medium enterprises. National Community Empowerment Program in urban, rural, sub-district, under-developed and special regions designed to support the construction of economic and social infrastructure in communities to allow women entrepreneur to access necessary training, workshops and other economic resources.

To address the stigmatization attached to women's role and employability, government continues to promote targeted program of education and training for women, aims to change mindsets, and enhance the quality of human resources vital for national development.

The issuance of Law no. 13 of 2003 on Employment guarantees equal opportunity employment and treatment by employers. In addition, gender sensitive policies that safeguard the female workers' reproductive function; improve the rank/position of female workers; and promote equal rights and responsibilities between male and female workers, were being applied.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With globalization, employment opportunities away from the country of origin have emerged. It is estimated that there are 150 million documented migrant workers around the world. The massive labour migration that we are experiencing today, whether it is driven by reasons of economic, political or natural disasters, is an issue that must be urgently addressed.

At the global level, effort should also be made to ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared fairly to migrant workers, given their contribution to social and economic development, both to the countries of origin and destination.

As country of origin, Indonesia has taken institutional, administrative and legal steps, to protect and empower its migrant workers. The government is intensifying cooperation with both domestic and foreign recruitment agencies, to ensure the safety of migrant workers, and also their protection in the host countries.

We have developed arrangements with host countries, to ensure that their rights are respected and protected, including their rights to minimum wage and days-off. We are also upgrading their knowledge and skills to enhance their contribution to the host economies.

Whilst Indonesia is doing its part to improve the protection of women's rights, including women migrant workers, countries of destination should continue to calibrate their commitment to implement the international human rights instruments of women.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Development policies should also deliver opportunities for women to participate in democratic governance. Indonesia's first hand experience in a transition toward a full-fledged democracy, showed that the absence of women from political decision-making was a mockery for the entire process of democratization. Democracy requires the

participation of women in the decision-making process that affects their lives. To bring about such a democratic process, there should be continued dialogue in all elements of society, including for young women.

In recent years, Indonesian sees women emerge as builders of democracy and play important parts in the three branches of governments. We had a woman president and women ministers leading strategic ministries. Whereas 18,2% of the seats in the national legislative body are held by women and more women being elected as chairpersons of their respective political parties. In the judiciary branch, around 18 percent of supreme judges are women.

We have proved that democracy and women's rights can thrive among Muslims.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In years to come, Indonesia will continue working to close the gap between policy and practice at all level, in realizing gender equality and empowerment of women. Within this context, I would like to underscore the important role of UN Women in providing support for national partners based on each national priority.

Indonesia also urges UN Women to carry on mainstreaming and projecting gender perspectives and concerns in social fora and also, in economic and environment at the global level.

The forthcoming events like Rio+20, the International Conference on Disabilities, the Year of the Family provides such momentous opportunities. We are confident that UN-Women can play an active role in ensuring that such intergovernmental processes take into account the challenges women face, but also the positive contribution women can provide in addressing our common challenges.

**Thank you.**

