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**Opening Statement by:**

**H.E. Yasonna H. Laoly, Minister for Law and Human Rights**

**of the Republic of Indonesia**

**at the 41st Session of the Working Group**

**of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

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**Mr. Chair**,

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

* My delegation is honored to present Indonesia's fourth cycle report.
* It is also a great pleasure for me personally to stand before you almost five years after myself and my colleague, Her Excellency Retno Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, presented Indonesia's third UPR report.
* Indonesia emphasizes the instrumental role of the UPR that allows Member States to engage with one another constructively in supporting our endeavor for promoting and protecting human rights.
* Besides the presence of our delegation here.
* I also recognise and thank the participation of Indonesia’s National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organizations, academics, and media.
* Their robust participation shows our inclusive and multi stakeholders approach.
* Without a doubt, our participation in the UPR has so far inspired many policy improvements, as I will briefly touch upon in this opening statement.

**Mr. Chair,**

* Following the adoption of our third UPR report, in 2017 the Government held 7 meetings involving ministries, agencies, and stakeholders to follow-up on the 167 accepted recommendations.
* In 2020, the Government strengthened the **mechanism to follow up on UPR recommendations by establishing the Working Group for Reporting**.
* The Working Group, comprising more than30 Ministries and Agencies, has contributed to ensuring an extensive consultation process throughout the one-year preparation for the UPR.
* We have incorporated their valuable inputs.
* We will continue this practice to discuss all recommendations that will broaden the ownership of the UPR process in ensuring the full implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations.

**Mr. Chair,**

* It has always been our commitment to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.
* The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein visited Indonesia in 2018. The High Commissioner met with President Joko Widodo and held discussions with Indonesia’s top officials, national human rights institutions, civil society representatives, as well as religious leaders.
* The Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dainius Pûras visited Indonesia in 2017 to assess the realization of the right to health in the country.
* The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, conducted an official visit in 2018 that focused on best practices and challenges, especially for vulnerable populations, including women, children and populations living in rural and remote areas.
* In promoting the prevention of torture and other ill-treatments and universal ratification of UNCAT, Indonesia among others organized Regional Seminar on Convention against Torture Initiative for Asia-Pacific region in 2019 and 2022.

**Mr. Chair**

* Indonesia believes that success in promoting and protecting human rights is **strongly linked with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**.
* That is why the achievements in fulfilling human rights over the last five years cannot be detached from the continuous commitment of President Joko Widodo's administration to achieve an **independent, advanced, just, and prosperous Indonesian society**.
* This commitment is translated through the **National Mid-Term Development Plan 2020-2024**, in which the Government sets development priorities involving structural reforms and de-bureaucratization.
* Targets and indicators of SDGs have also been mainstreamed in this Plan, and localized at the subnational level, with partnership of NGOs, philanthropy, business, universities, media, and parliament.
* **Infrastructure development** is aimed at ensuring right to development throughout the Archipelago.
* Among others, by providing greater access for small industries and MSMEs, and building adequate education and health facilities to frontier, outermost, and disadvantaged areas.
* Moreover, the Government also prioritizes **human resource development** as the key to the nation's future, starting with accelerating the fulfillment of the right to health for women and children.
* In line with the Constitutional Court's decision, the Government is in the process of improving **the Omnibus Law**. The Law is created to establish sustainable support for business and investment while prioritizing human rights and environmental protection.

**Mr. Chair,**

* While many positive steps have been taken and results are evident, we also acknowledge that the impacts of the global pandemic cannot be disregarded, especially those that brought new challenges.
* For this reason, our National Report specifically allocates a chapter on efforts to **"Ensuring the Fulfillment of Human Rights during the COVID-19 Pandemic**".
* In this connection, the Government has been employing **the principles of inclusivity, prudence, and adaptability**.
* Under an integrated national policy, strengthened by appropriate measures, health protocols and financial incentive programs have been enacted.
* Right to life and health have been the utmost priority in pandemic response and economic recovery efforts.
* T**o ensure equal access to vaccines for all**, the Covid-19 vaccination is free to all and Indonesia is among the top five countries with the highest number of vaccinations.
* **To protect those who are economically and socially vulnerable**, the national budget is reallocated to strengthen **social protection programs.**
* This policy includes the provision of staple foods, conditional cash assistance, electricity subsidies, school tuition subsidies, and the pre-employment card.
* **On poverty eradication,** the national poverty level has decreased from 11.13% in 2015 to 9.22% in 2019.
* The policy innovations that we introduced in the last UPR, such as the **Indonesia Health Card** and the **Indonesia Smart Card**, have proven to be essential in cushioning the impact of the pandemic.
* Today, we proudly announce that more than 244 million people, or around 88% of Indonesia's total population, have been covered by our universal healthcare system, which significantly increased from 67% in 2017.
* To **ensure educational continuity,** the Government addressed infrastructural constraints, disbursed internet data assistance, and applied the Single Tuition Assistance program.
* Students from underprivileged families, orphans, as well as students affected by natural disasters continue to benefit from the Indonesia Smart Card program and receive support in funding and school supplies.

**Mr. Chair,**

* Following up the previous UPR recommendations, and to answer some of the advanced questions, allow me to highlight our progresses and achievements:
* In the context of **legislative measures and institutional framework**, the National Action Plan on Human Rights continues to serve as the national guideline for ministries, agencies, and local governments to promote and implement human rights principles at the implementing level.
* The realization of the **National Action Plan on Human Rights** has continuously increased, with participation of local governments from 12 provinces and 44 municipalities in 2015 to 32 provinces and 423 municipalities in 2020.
* The fifth generation of the National Action Plan for 2021 – 2025 was launched, focusing on accelerating the **fulfillment of human rights of four vulnerable groups,** namely women, children, persons with disabilities, and customary law communities.
* The Draft of Presidential Decree on National Strategy on **Business and Human Rights** is now being finalized.
* Our commitment **to ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance has concretely progressed**, and has been submitted to Parliament.
* The **revision of the Correctional Law,** has further strengthened the criminal justice correctional process and ensured that inmates are granted their rights in accordance with the Mandela Rules.
* Finally, to accelerate criminal legal reform in Indonesia and to adapt with contemporary developments in criminal law, the Government has submitted a Bill to **revise the Penal Code**.

**Mr. Chair,**

* In line with the majority of the recommendations to our third UPR report, Indonesia **prioritizes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**.
* The formulation of government regulations, policies, and programs has been consistently ensured to **mainstream a gender perspective**, and increase the role of women in economic sectors and decision-making.
* Our commitment to implementing the CEDAW has been exemplified by our dialogue with the **CEDAW** Committee in October 2021.
* Efforts to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriages, continue to be strengthened.
* In 2019, the Marriage Law was amended to increase the minimum age limit for women to marry at 19, equal to men.
* The new legislation, **Sexual Violence Crime Law**, enacted in April 2022, strengthened the legal frameworks for the protection of women, especially enabling victims of sexual violence to seek justice and hold perpetrators accountable.
* **Regional Technical Units on the Protection of Women and Children** and data collection application system called **SIMFONI PPA** were established to strengthen our capacity to protect survivors of violence.
* **In** **addressing discriminatory local laws and by-laws**, the Government has strengthened its prevention mechanism by establishing a review mechanism.
* On this note, we appreciate the work of the National Commission on Violence Against Women, who has conducted a study on discriminative laws and provided recommendations to regional governments.
* Since 2016, from the early identification of 421 discriminative regional regulations, the number has decreased to 309.
* The implementation of the juvenile justice system continues to be expanded **to fulfill the rights of children**, by promoting **restorative justice principles** and ensuring adequate facilities, infrastructure, and human resources.

**Mr. Chair,**

* On the issue of **the rights of persons with disabilities,** the Government has strengthened its mechanisms to achieve disability inclusive development by establishing the **National Commission on Disabilities.**
* As a State Party, we continue to align our policies with the CRPD, as reported during our recent interactive dialogue with the Committee in June 2022.
* With as many as 22.9 million persons living with disabilities, a **National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities** has been launched and a nationwide outreach movement is carried out to ensure persons with disabilities' access to public services.
* In protecting **the rights of Indonesian Migrant Workers,** Indonesia continues to strengthen national legal frameworks and bilateral cooperation on the placement and protection of migrant workers, and implementing capacity-building programs.

**Mr. Chair,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

* Allow me to address what some of you have indicated as issues of primary concern.
* **First, in accelerating efforts to promote and protect human rights in Papua.**
* Under President Joko Widodo's administration, the priority has been **accelerating development and welfare** in Papua by accelerating the comprehensive provision of public services and infrastructure development from education, health services, food, and transportation,
* Through the revised Special Autonomy Law, increasing the special autonomy budget allocation for Papua by 2.25 percent of the national budget will help accelerate the development programs in Papua.
* It is supported by Presidential Instructions, the National Medium Term Development Plan, and National Priority Program.
* Currently 43 ministries and agencies are instructed to participate in accelerating the development of welfare in Papua, whilst **Master Plan on the Acceleration of Development in Papua** for 2022-2041 is being finalized.
* **Second, in addressing past human rights abuses**, the Government is committed to providing immediate reparation and delivering justice for the victims and their families.
* We have been paying very close attention to the concerns regarding this non-judicial process.
* We emphasize that forming a Non-Judicial Settlement Team is **complementary and not a substitute for the judicial process.**
* Judicial mechanisms continue to operate in accordance with the law.

**Mr. Chair,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

* We continue to address emerging challenges.
* First, **on reversing the impact of the pandemic that affects 273,5 million Indonesians, especially for vulnerable groups,** Indonesia continues to encourage strengthened international cooperation to solve various challenges significantly to meet the SDGs.
* Second, **on the indirect impacts of climate change**, especially on people living in coastal areas, the Government continues to innovate and accelerate efforts to increase communities’ resiliency and to provide adequate support to low-income communities.
* It focuses on employment policies and programs related to energy efficiency, green city planning, mitigation, and climate adaptation.
* Third, **to address the deepening of inequality and to ensure that no one is left behind**, the Government will continue to fulfill the fundamental rights of the poor and those living in disadvantaged, frontier and outermost areas, especially with regard to access to health and education.

**Mr. Chair,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

* Allow me to end this Opening Remarks by reiterating Indonesia’s commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.
* We look forward to having a constructive dialogue with you today.
* I thank you.

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