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**COUNTRY REPORT STATEMENT BY
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THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE EAST ASIA GENDER EQUALITY MINISTERIAL MEETING
SESSION I: THE PROGRESS OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN EACH
COUNTRY AND PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED
JAPAN, 30 JUNE – 1 JULY 2006**

Madame Chairperson
Heads of Delegations
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor for me to take part, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, in the “East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting”. I also wish to congratulate you as the Chairperson of this session and express my delegation’s full confidence that under your able guidance the session will come up with fruitful results.

Madame Chairperson,

The Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 and the Outcome of the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty First Century”, expresses the resolve of the international community to establish a clear path towards the attainment of gender equality, development and peace for women, who account for half of the world’s population. Indonesia has ratified key international legal instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and has undertaken legal reform measures and has also introduced policy guidelines at various levels.

Madame Chairperson,

Indonesia's Presidential Instruction No.9 of 2000 on Gender Mainstreaming into National Development has been the key strategy in achieving women empowerment and gender equality at the national and sub-national levels. The strategy has been integrated in the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programs of the respective government agencies. The effort, furthermore, has been strengthened by the Decree and Circular Letter issued by the Minister of Home Affairs. As a result, the sub-national governments have engendered their provincial development plans. With regard to the policy guidelines, gender issues have been integrated in the 2000-2004 National Development Planning Program and 2004-2009 Medium Term National Development Plan in sectors such as education, health, labor, cooperatives, agriculture, politics, law, population, rural development, social welfare, poverty reduction, environment and economy. At present, the Ministry for Women Empowerment has 30 Women Bureaus at the provincial levels, 230 Women Divisions at municipalities, 29 Gender Mainstreaming Working Groups at the national levels and 304 Gender Focal Points at 440 municipalities to implement the Presidential Instruction and provide technical assistance.

Madame Chairperson,

Gender mainstreaming strategy is aimed at eliminating gender gaps in all areas of development. In the case of women's ability to actively participate in and to contribute to development, we note that only a few women occupy decision-making positions in the executive, the legislative and the judicial bodies, as compared to men. Less than thirteen percent of women hold decision-making positions in the executive body and only one woman at every six members of the Supreme Court. Affirmative actions to boost the representation of women in the legislature is embodied in Law No.12 of 2003 concerning General Election, in which one of the articles states that a quota of 30 percent must be allocated to women in legislature. However, despite the effort, women's representation in the legislative body is only 11.9 percent and in Senate only 19.8 percent. More efforts are needed to meet the target.

With respect to the elimination of domestic violence and prevention of trafficking in persons, we have undertaken several measures namely: (a) passing of Law No.23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence; (b) the passing of Presidential Decree No.88 of 2002 on National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children; (c) the establishment of Special Treatment Units at police stations in several provinces; (d) the establishment of Integrated Crisis Centers in several hospitals to help the victims (e) the passing of Law No.12 of 2002 on Child Protection and (f) the passing of Presidential Decree No.87 of 2002 on National Plan of Action to Eliminate Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children. Currently, we have drafted a Law on the Elimination of Trafficking of People, including women and children. Currently this draft awaits to be discussed with the parliament.

The Government sought to reduce the income gap between women and men through revision of related laws and regulations. The amended Law No.13 of 2003 on Labor in particular, has stated that "all workers shall have the same opportunity to get a job without discrimination" (article 5) and "every worker has the right to receive equal treatment without discrimination from their employer" (article 6). Those who break the Law are subject to administrative sanctions. Indonesia has also ratified seven basic ILO instruments such as ILO Convention No.100 of 1950 on Equal Remuneration ratified by Law No.80 of 1957; ILO Convention No.111 of 1985 on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation ratified by Law No.21 of 1999. Furthermore, the Government has prepared Guidelines on Equal Employment Opportunities to address the remaining gender inequalities at work.

With regard to the elimination of gender gaps in education, the Government has conducted several strategic measures namely (a) gender mainstreaming in education i.e. revision of text books, school curricula, gender sensitization to teachers, community (in particular poor community), and community leaders; (b) revision of Law on National Education to eliminate discrimination against women in education; (c) provision of scholarship to students, in particular girl-students from poor families; (d) Nine Year Compulsory Education for boys and girls aged 7 – 12 years. To eradicate the remaining high number of illiteracy among females aged 15 – 44 years, a special measure has been carried out through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding amongst the Minister for Women Empowerment, Minister of National Education and Minister of Home Affairs. Through this collaboration it is hoped that by 2009, the number of illiteracy among females will drop to 5 percent (at present 14.2 percent).

Despite many achievements, Indonesia acknowledges some impediments and challenges in the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategy that is still persisting in several countries, including in my own country. There are among others: (a) insufficient political will and leadership of the related governments at the national and sub-national levels; (b) the inavailability of policy framework to articulate the government's commitment to gender equality; (c) gender mainstreaming is often still seen solely as increasing women's participation; (d) lack of resources, disaggregated data, inadequate structure and government mechanism; and (e) lack of gender specialists.

We do hope that through this important meeting, we can mutually learn from each other to more effectively implement and communicate on gender mainstreaming strategy to our stakeholders.

Thank you.