

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA) Asia-Pacific Ministerial
Conference on the Beijing+25 Review
Bangkok, 27 November 2019**

Good Afternoon Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Almost 50% of the population of Indonesian are women and more than half of them live among the 74.093 villages within Indonesia. On this note, Indonesia is strongly committed towards the promotion of women empowerment and gender equality. It is manifested in its participation to various international instruments and global frameworks that promote the rights of all women and girls.

Indonesia also committed to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA), as a crucial contribution to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

While women's contribution to development are recognized, they are still left behind. Women are still faced with, among others, poverty, barrier in labor force participation, barriers to participate in innovation and knowledge creation, and high maternal mortality rate.

Against this backdrop, Indonesia continue to promote women advancement in all aspects including health, education, economic empowerment, political participation and decision-making. In this respect, there are some important area that Indonesia have done and will continue to improve.

First, harmonizing and strengthening legislative and normative frameworks, as well as action plans and policies is one of the key aspect to the gender equality and women empowerment. The protection of the rights of women and children is guaranteed under various law and regulations, among others Law No. 39 Year 1999 on Human Rights, Presidential Instruction No. 9 Year 2000 on Gender Mainstreaming in National Development, Law No. 23 Year 2002 on the Protection of the Child, Law No. 23 Year 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, Law No. 36 Year 2009 on Health, as well as Law No. 7 Year 2012 on Social Conflict. Moreover, Indonesia has amended the Marriage Law on the minimum age for marriage and has developed a national strategy for the prevention of child marriage in 2019; and the Constitutional Court has removed the age discrimination of marriage by raising the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 19, the equivalent of that for boys.

Second, on women's access to health, Indonesia put priorities on reducing maternal mortality and expanding access to reproductive health services. Indonesia have enacted regulation on reproductive health which elaborates further realize women's rights to reproductive health, as well as improved the access to reproductive healthcare for women. Indonesia also have launched the National Health Insurance scheme which provides all mothers, especially the poor and living in remote areas, free basic maternal services. Indonesia also intensified campaign on men's participation in the caring and protection of pregnant mothers within their families and communities. It is because we believe that when women are healthy they are productive. They can work. They can educate. They can lead.

Third, on education, we have taken several policies to ensure gender mainstreaming applied in education system, among others by issuing Minister Education's Regulation No. 80 Year 2013 on Universal Secondary Education, as well as increasing literacy rates through literacy education program targeting women and girls. Gender curriculum also has been integrated in education and training for civil servant by Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between

Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and Institute for Public Administration. Moreover, Indonesia has also implemented inclusive education for children with special needs.

Forth, on economic empowerment, we have been implemented regulations to provide more opportunity for women to contribute into the economy, such as facilitating microfinance loans and capacity building to promote more women entrepreneurs. Women employment also has been boosted with regulations obligating the employers to provide access to maternity leave, lactation rooms and day care centres and flexible working hours for pregnant women.

Indonesia also improving rural women's capabilities, among others, by providing infrastructure and technology in rural areas to support local/village Business, and establishing a program called "Building Indonesia from the periphery". Towards this end, the government has issued Law No. 6/2014 on Villages which promotes the principles of participation, gender equality and empowerment in socioeconomic as well as decision-making process. Hence, under this pretext rural women are encouraged to be more active in the village planning and managing of village fund programme.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, women's representation for decision-making positions and political sphere, have given women that voice and space they need in times of peace and in times of hardship Indonesia have issued Law Number 7/2017 that requires political parties to allocate 30% women representation in its organizational structure at the national level. In the 2019 election, more than 32 percent of the candidates are women. The regulation is then strengthened by formulation of Grand Design for Women's Representation in 2019 Election.

Chair,

Onwards, we commits to scale up the efforts to address the remaining challenges in fulfilling gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in several areas, among others, climate change. Moreover, Indonesia has and will continue to support, as well as, work hand in hand with all stakeholders to provide enabling environment for women to unleash their innate potentials and make a difference.

I thank you.

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