



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WTO
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with reference to the Letter from the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council concerning Concept note for the preliminary study on rural women and the right to food dated 2 April 2012, has the honour to convey the Government of Indonesia's view on rural women and their enjoyment of the right to food as enclosed.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 3 May 2012



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Attn. Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
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OHCHR REGISTRY

- 4 MAY 2012

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"Rural Women and their Enjoyment of the Right to Food"

Indonesia supports the modality and approach prepared by the Advisory Committee in the Preliminary Study on Rural Women and the Right to Food. Indonesia also supports the continuation of the comprehensive study which will include patterns of discrimination, with a special focus on female-headed household and temporary or seasonal workers, strategies and policies for their legal protection and best practices.

Indonesia is of the view that women's role, including rural women, is significant in the efforts to community development. Indonesia's effort to rural women's empowerment is in line with the global commitment, as Indonesia is a party to CEDAW and strives for the implementation of the Beijing Platform For Action (BPFA), as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In its effort to empower rural women in their enjoyment of the rights to food, Indonesia would like to share the following:

- The Government has issued Regulation No. 68 of 2002 on Food Security, which requires the Government to ensure that basic food necessities in regular households are met and affordable, as reflected in the availability of sufficient food in terms of both quantity and quality. Moreover, the Presidential Instruction No. 3 of 2010 requires a National Action Plan for Food and Nutrition as well as a provincial Action Plan, which involves the districts/municipalities.
- Indonesian women workers in rural area mostly rely on Micro-Small-Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to support their families. MSMEs have not only helped to afford family needs, but also contribute to provide job opportunities for the community that enable them to earn a better living.
- At the national level, several government institutions have created policies that are gender-responsive to assist women's role in the economy through MSMEs, such as:
 - o The Central Bank of Indonesia encourages banking policy that enables women entrepreneurs to access credits or loans for their business, as well as to benefit from training programs.
 - o The Ministry of Industry has introduced programs that allow women to access information and training related to their individual industries. It has also implemented programs that empower women in home industries.
 - o The Ministry of Trade has enacted a policy to boost creativity and innovation among women, and to improve the quality of their products through standardization and better packaging.
- Many women cooperatives have also helped to strengthen women's role in the economy, such as a provision of rolling funds, for example, to provide quality milking cows, ducks, and chicken. To support these women cooperatives, many programs have been conducted to help the cooperatives to continue its contribution in improving the community. One such program is called "Perkassa", which provides special assistance for women cooperatives in the form of cash. There are also various entrepreneurship and management trainings, as well as skill courses for business development.

- As part of the implementation of gender-mainstreaming strategies, the Ministry of Public Works launched supporting programs that contribute to the empowerment of women in rural areas through development and management of environmental infrastructure, such as drainage, improvement of the environment, and public provision of drinking water. All of these programs are coordinated nationally under the National Community Empowerment Program since 2007 by the Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare that is planned to continue at least until 2015. To facilitate this program, members of the local community are appointed as empowerment facilitators and become members of *Organisasi Masyarakat Lokal* (Local Community Organizations) or *Lembaga Komunitas Masyarakat* (Community Initiative Institutions) or *Lembaga Ketahanan Desa* (Village Resilience Institutions).
- As for the poor, programs implemented include the conditional transfer scheme, such as *Program Keluarga Harapan* (Family Hope Program) that transfers cash to women in households to strengthen their purchasing power in attaining their children's basic nutrition. Moreover, the Government's support for the *Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Mandiri* (National Program for the Community Empowerment) of Rp 12.1 trillion per year and its coverage will be expanded to include all 78,000 villages in Indonesia. The Government also pushes for the expansion of the *Kredit Usaha Rakyat* (People-Based Small Business Loan Program) to channel funds through local microfinance institution to increase access of medium and small scale enterprises and cooperatives to credit.
- Economic empowerment programs in general have also resulted in an increased participation of women in planning and decision-making process. The *Program Pembangunan Kecamatan* (Sub-District Development Programme), although not specifically focused on women, has been utilized by many women's groups for economic empowerment or promotion of health. At the grassroots and the most local level, women's groups have the strongest awareness of their roles and responsibilities to develop their regions. Furthermore, the Government continuously supports the strengthening of provision of health and education services, which are being expanded through the *Jaminan Kesehatan Masyarakat/Jamkesmas* (National Health Security Program) and *Jaminan Persalinan/Jampersal* (Delivery Insurance Program).
- The Government prioritizes the dissemination and advocacy of healthy social and cultural behavior, particularly to promote exclusive breast-feeding and infant feeding practices; investment in basic infrastructure (health, water, sanitation), particularly in rural and urban slum areas; strengthening community based-nutrition program through *Pos Pelayanan Terpadu/Posyandu* (Integrated Health Post) and *Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat/Puskesmas* (Primary Health Center); and empowering local community based institutions such as women's organizations.