

Statement by Delegation of Indonesia
2nd Session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Rights of
Peasants and People Living in Rural Areas
Geneva, 2 – 6 February 2015

Madam Chair,

First of all, let me congratulate you on your re-election. We are confident that under your wise leadership, the deliberation of the Working Group will be productive, and hopefully, the mandate of the WG can be fulfilled.

Madam Chair,

In line with NAM ~~as well as a group of like-minded states~~, my delegation would like to underline that our efforts today cannot be separated from the fights against poverty and hunger, especially due to the fact that 80 % of the people living in extreme poverty and hunger living and working in rural areas in developing countries.

With this aim on our mind, we have supported the resolutions on the issue of peasants.

As a country in which agriculture and maritime support the lives of almost 200 million of Indonesians, Indonesia places great importance to the livelihood of farmers, fishers and other people living in rural areas. One of the main policies of the Indonesian government is to focus on improving the lives of farmers, fishers, and people living in rural areas.

For us, the most important aspect is the protection of means of livelihood of farmers as well as their ability to work the land and their welfare. In this regard, the protection of farmers may entail efforts to empower farmers to overcome difficulties related to infrastructure, selling agricultural products with fair prices, business assurance, as well as availability of seeds, means, and land. These efforts are complemented with education and training. Indonesia's president has set the target that in three years, we have to be able to be self-sufficient with regard to staple food.

Furthermore, women in rural areas should also be given particular attention. In Indonesia, women are the front line in combating poverty and in contributing to growth. They run cottage industry, for example. Thus creating employment for others.

We also view the importance of access to financial resources, including for women in rural areas as well as farmers and fishers in general. We also attach great importance to education for those living in rural areas so that they can take part in every stage of development that impact their lives.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the draft text, we thank you for the new draft. We feel that a lot of improvements have been made. We also feel that there are elements that are important to the declarations; some others may still need further clarification, elaboration and reflection. We will provide comments in due course.

Indeed further discussions are needed. Discussions that take into account the voice of all stakeholders. In this regard, we understand that certain quarters of Indonesia civil society have

been involved in this process since its nascent stage. This demonstrates the active role of them in our country.

Lastly, my delegation commits itself to contribute actively and constructively during this working group session as well as future activities.

I thank you.