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**Statement by the Indonesian delegation
at the Special Event on the
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

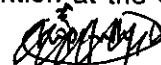
**4th Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 26 March 2007**

Mr President,

On the occasion of this event (~~focusing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities~~), my delegation would like to express its pleasure at this milestone development that will at last cater to the rights of the disabled, this most hard-done-by and disenfranchised segment of society. It was high time that the rights of people with disabilities, and their inherent dignity and worth, were proclaimed and defended on a par with those of all other categories and groups forming the human race.

The imminent adoption and its subsequent opening for signature of the Convention puts an end to this lacuna, and heralds the beginning of what we hope will be a new era for the promotion and protection of the rights of disabled people, including the full incorporation of rights-based approach in the overall process of development. My delegation welcomes the new Convention as a major achievement as well as an important and timely addition to the body of instruments for the promotion and protection of Economic, Social and Cultural rights, a category of rights that *is growing rapidly to keep pace with the development of our modern societies*. We are confident that the long overdue institutionalisation of the rights of disabled people will finally bring about the recognition and appreciation by the non-disabled of their value and contribution to society.

In this respect, Indonesia has taken an active part in the elaboration and drafting of this important document as part of our country's strong commitment to the defence of the rights of all social groups and categories, A commitment that is about to be translated into fact with our official signature of the Convention at the end of this week in New York. ✓



At the national level, ten years ago Indonesia enacted **Law No 4/1997** on persons with disabilities. This law gives people with disabilities equal rights and opportunities as well as duties and obligations on a par with those of normal citizens in all walks of life. The following year, this law was bolstered by government ✓

regulation (PP) No 43/1998 guaranteeing the right of disabled people to social welfare, while another regulation, No 468/KPTS/1998, issued by the Ministry of Public Works, established a set of technical standards for the accessibility of public and residential buildings.

Mr President,

We are aware that implementation is the better part of the law, therefore the government has also been engaged in efforts to raise the population's awareness of the problems of the disabled, and to their right to decent and equal treatment. Through public dissemination and with the help of civil organisations and NGOs, it has set about making people more aware of their rights while building up the capacity of disabled people to be more independent and enjoy these rights more fully.

One of the most significant features of this Convention is its stand alone provision of article 32, on international cooperation. The said article recognizes the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the Convention. We welcome this approach which will enable developing countries be provided with development assistance, in their efforts to progressively realize the rights set forth by this Convention.

In conclusion, while my delegation welcomes that this Convention has its place in the Council's deliberation in this session, we would like to encourage that the Council is given enough opportunity and adequate time to deliberate on a set of clear modalities before holding this kind of event in order to allow delegations to contribute in a meaningful manner as well as to allow the Council discuss any human rights themes in a more inclusive and non-selective manner. (to)

Thank you.