

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, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliment to the the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and with reference to the letter by the High Commissioner for Human Rights communication of 14 November 2011, inviting suggestions of Member States to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of treaty body system, has the honour to attach herewith a written submission by the Republic of Indonesia to the process of strengthening of treaty bodies.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 31 January 2012

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Human Rights Treaties Division  
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Geneva 1211



# WRITTEN SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING OF TREATY BODIES

## Introduction

1. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia is fully committed to the work of treaty bodies and shares their significant contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. Therefore, Indonesia supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen the human rights treaty body system in order to address its current challenges and to deal with its future increasing workload. Efforts to strengthen treaty body system should be placed within the context of strengthening State Parties implementation to the Human Rights Treaties.
2. As a mechanism which is established by State Parties, it is only logical that the strengthening process of treaty bodies has to be inclusive and be carried out through a state-driven process. While aware of the increasing role and contribution of other stakeholders, Governments remain the main actor in the promotion and protection of human rights.
3. Taking into account the capability gap among State Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligation and the continued growth of human rights mechanisms and treaties, efforts should be focused on simplifying the process and supporting state parties to deal with their obligations.
4. We are of the view that two major mutually reinforcing aspects should be considered in the process, namely substantive/technical and funding/resources aspects.

## Substantive/technical aspect

5. Indonesia supports any initiative aiming at generating efficiency and effectiveness of the treaty body system and procedures. We are of the view that limitation of pages will enable focused, to the point, and effective reporting, while a mechanism to provide additional information as needed remains feasible.
6. Although each treaty body has its distinctive and particular mandate, different treaty bodies should find ways and means to harmonize as much

as possible their reporting procedure and modality. Harmonizing and implementing the list of issues prior to reporting to every treaty body is one good example.

7. Considering the importance of their recommendations, treaty bodies should limit the number of recommendations towards focused, implementable and realistic ones.

#### Funding/resources aspect

8. Taking into account the current financial crisis, any initiative to increase budget and other resources of the treaty bodies are unfeasible. Therefore, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the current system is the only reasonable option.
9. In this era of globalized information and communication technology, reporting proceeding and contact should make the most of the technology and at the same time reduce the traveling cost.
10. For future planning, priority should be given to invest more on information and communication technology as an effective alternative to conventional conference/meetings.

#### Modalities of Strengthening Process

11. Recognizing the inclusive nature of treaty bodies, its strengthening process should be conducted through an open-ended Working Group, established by the UN General Assembly while taking into account the expertise of Geneva-based process and New York-based Fifth Committee.
12. The Working Group should have specific mandate and definite timeframe to address substantive/technical and funding/resources aspects of treaty bodies.
13. The outcome of the Working Group should be adopted by consensus to reflect broad and inclusive ownership of the process.

Geneva, 31 January 2012