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### **PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Written statement<sup>\*</sup> submitted by International NGO Forum on Indonesian  
Development (INFID), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 February 2008]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the  
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

**“The Government of Republic of Indonesia has not completely realized the fulfilment of Economy, Social and Cultural Rights in the Effort of Poverty Reduction”**

Today, billions of people in the world, including those from Indonesia, still experience poverty as their daily life. Although everyday poverty and the effort to manage it is mentioned by the officials of the Republic of Indonesia, nevertheless each day cases of malnutrition, clean water scarcity, and mortality rate of mothers during childbirth due to lateness in health service are found too. Mortality caused by contagious diseases is also continuously occurring.

Although Indonesia has signed the global pact Millennium Development Goal and has actually ratified the International Covenant on Economy, Social, and Cultural Rights with UU No. 11 / 2005 on Ratification of International Covenant on Economy, Social and Cultural Covenant, yet poverty still becomes of the major adversary for the Indonesian people.

The other fact that indicates poverty reality in Indonesia is the ever increasing flow of work force migration to other countries. This shows the unavailability of employment opportunity in Indonesia. During this year, among those seeking better luck abroad, approximately 206 Indonesian migrant workers have died. Not including in the figure, those who have been raped, tortured, imprisoned and been denied of their rightful wages.

In the state speech on 16 August 2007, the President, Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono stated that the effort to reduce poverty in Indonesia was in its exact path with increasing state budget, yet the claim could still be questioned. In the state budget for 2008, there is budgetary cut in several departments to fund the handling of Lapindo mud disaster, while actually the expenses for the handling of Lapindo mud disaster should completely be burdened to the gas exploration corporation owned by the Bakrie business group. The 2008 State Budget will also be amended and 15% economizing will be implemented following global economy crisis which affects Indonesian economy. The 15% economizing is predicted will reduce the budgetary allocation for public services sectors (health and education)

Similar to last year, in the MDGs achievement progress report of Asia Pacific countries this year Indonesia is still categorized as slow country and probably will lag far behind in the achievement of MDGs if it is not accompanied by pro poor political will and state budget.

The report entitled The Millennium Development Goals: Progress In Asia And The Pacific 2007 (can be accessed in the website <http://www.unescap.org/stat/mdg/MDG-Progress-Report2007.pdf>) which was launched by UNESCAP, UNDP and ADB to evaluate the progress and regress of countries in Asia Pacific region in the effort to achieve MDGs. This year report re-confirmed the need of strong commitment, particularly for countries in Asia Pacific region that are slow in the MDGs achievement, to complete the remaining half time in the target of MDGs achievement in 2015. The countries in Asia Pacific region only has the remaining 7 year time to free at least 196 million people from the poverty line, more than 23 million children from hunger and malnutrition as well as early infancy mortality (below 5 year old age mortality) of approximately 1 million infants.

The other issue that was given special attention in the report was the inappropriateness of sanitation and clean water scarcity (particularly in urban areas) became the trigger of the remaining high rate of poverty. Environmental damages caused by disaster and climate change, particularly deforestation in Indonesia, are also considered as one of the factors of the slowness of MDGs' achievement particularly for goal 7.

Although in general Indonesia is considered to make progress in the effort to solve poverty, yet there are still critical points that cause Indonesia be considered of having the potential to be off the track in MDGs achievement. The critical points are the still high number of infants with below normal body weight. Indonesia is considered of failing in halting the increase of underfed (malnutrition) infants. Such condition is definitely worrying since malnutrition will affect the decrease of infants' level of intelligence in their later years. The failure of Indonesia in making the infants healthier is the failure of Indonesia in preparing the nation's future.

Other critical note is the failure of Indonesia in making the people closer to the access to clean water. This is an evidence of the fact that the policy that provided space for water resource privatization (through UU No. 7/ 2004 on Water Resource) was not the answer to the effort of fulfilling clean water access. The privatization policy even triggered placing the poor people even further from the clean water access. The impact of it is the worsening sanitation system which will trigger the spread of contagious diseases and death. The report even mentioned that during 1990 to 2004, the number of urban people who got clean water access declined 5%. It is an amazing regress in the target of clean water sufficiency in MDGs.

Deforestation on Indonesian forests which contribute to the increase of global warming was also accused as the obstacle in the effort to achieve MDGs. Indonesia became the greatest contributor in deforestation and carbon emission in the Asia Pacific region. While other countries succeeded in reducing carbon emission, Indonesia had actually kept contributed more carbon emission, through the continuing deforestation and increasing investment in extractive industry (mining) sector. This means there was failure in environmental and natural resource management policy in Indonesia. Certainly the environmental demolition tragedy in Indonesia was not solely done by Indonesia. The tragedy could also be a form of trans-national crime. Facts on the involvement of International Financial Institutions (both bilateral and multilateral) were discovered in the funding of extractive industry in Indonesia. Multi-parties' seriousness is needed in stopping deforestation and environmental demolition practices caused by extractive industry in Indonesia and other parts of the planet earth. Bali Meeting on Climate Change (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) on 3 – 14 December 2007 in fact could neither produce an agreement that will be beneficial for the people. The UNFCCC meeting in Bali was only the arena for credit carbon trade which increasingly making the life of the poor people even harder.

Internationally, the post industrial countries (both those included in G8 and OECD) still deny the promise to fulfil the commitment of Goal 8 (global partnership) to lessen the burden of poor countries. The majority of those countries hesitated in allocating the minimal limit of 0.7% of their GDP to assist overseas development (ODA). Foreign assistance is still allocated more on weaponry purchase and military cooperation (as part of the "war against terrorism" project) compared to the assistance for poverty resolution. The

commitment of debt load reduce, through debt cancellation scheme, is also remain very insignificant.

Based on the situation mentioned earlier, INFID states that the Government of Indonesia has not had strong commitment in placing the MDGs as the guidelines for poverty reduction policy. The Government of Indonesia even still believes in the development prescriptions imposed by international financial institution and creditor countries (such as privatization, private investments, market liberalization, and development funding by debt) as the option to poverty management policy. The policy packages imposed by the international financial institutions and creditor countries have been proven to be increasingly ensnaring Indonesia further in the deepest hole of poverty.

Therefore, for the sake of halting the impoverishment process occurring in Indonesia, INFID insists the UN Human Rights Council to:

1. Demand the Government of Indonesia to put an end to policies that increasingly impoverish the people of Indonesia even further. If the Government of Indonesia still has strong commitment in the effort to achieve MDGs, thus all related Acts in the effort to reduce poverty need to be harmonized with the International Covenant on Economy, Social, and Cultural Rights that have been ratified by UU No. 11 Tahun 2005.
2. Demand all UN member countries and international financial institutions to encourage the existence of debt load relief politic to be implemented completely, both by debt swap proposal for MDGs achievement, debt relief and debt repudiation/debt cancellation (rejection for debt payment/debt cancellation for illegal debts).
3. Demand the post industrial countries to fulfil goal 8 commitment on global partnership. The post industrial countries have to stop giving aids in the form of debt that increasingly strangles and burdens poor countries. All exploitative conditionality attached to aids should be obliterated. Multilateral financial institutions should also stop funding impoverishing projects

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