

Thank you Madam Chairperson. Indonesia takes pride in its mosaic of its multiethnic, multicultural and multireligion community. For us diversity is regarded as the wellspring of strength. This is clearly emitted in our national ideology as we celebrate diversity that bonds us as a nation. However, as a matter of fact this immense diversity of Indonesia's culture, ethnicities and religious beliefs has also given a unique character which greatly impacts Indonesia's continuous endeavour in the area of human rights. As an archipelagic state and a home for more than 245 million people, it is only natural that Indonesia experiences the dynamic vivacity, driven from this complexity. Like other countries with similar characteristics Indonesia continues to deal with tensions involving different groups of religious followers which occurred in some communities in Indonesia. Although these incidents are secluded, several have become a source of concern nationally. In dealing with this issue, the government as the main duty bearer and all related parties including civil society, parliament and public have actively engaged and taken part in process of addressing the challenges and finding solutions. Madam Chairperson, among many success stories of managing the issue there are undoubtedly a number of pending and ongoing issues that have become a source of concern. We are fully aware of the technical challenges involving our law enforcement and government officials in addressing the communal tensions, nevertheless we have to clearly differentiate between lack of capacity and lack of commitment, in this regards lack of capacity is the question rather than lack of commitment.

Allow to share some of Indonesias strong points that play an instrumental role in addressing issues pertaining to issues of religious tensions in the country. First, state guarantees every citizen the freedom of religion and of worship in accordance with their religion and belief as stipulated in article 29 of the Indonesian constitution, this derives from long historical and empirical tradition of tolerance and harmony among different ethnic, cultures and religions at hte grassroots level. Second, the Indonesian government even at the highest level has time and again reaffirmed its solid commitment to the constitutional mandate of freedom of religion and workshop of every Indonesian, this has not only stopped at commitment but have been implemented through various policies and measures, some have been succesful some are ongoing process. Third, in the post war area in Indonesia, various policies, institutions and mechanisms are place to deal with human rights challenges which have undoutbedly strengthened the check and balance mechanism in Indonesia, our vibrant civil society and free media are not a tool to ensure human rights violations are hidden from public scrutiny. Lastly, in the spirit of parternship we value greatly the constructive role of relevant stakeholders and engage closely with them in our common endeavours to discuss and find solutions of any human rights challenges. We are of the view that taking into account their activities and actions on the ground the observations and input from civil society and other stakeholders are an instrumental part of the early warning system. Therefore the Indonesia government has taken them into account seriously.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.