Written Statement of
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Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva
at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

“Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance to Face the Challenges of 2021 and Beyond: Mobilizing Respect for International Humanitarian law, Inclusion, Gender, Innovation and Partnerships”

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Madam Chair,

2020 was a challenging year for all of us. The Global Humanitarian Overview estimated that 235 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2021.

This corresponds a 40% increase in the number of people that are affected by conflicts, climate change, environmental degradation and disasters compared to the previous year. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation.

As a country located in the “Ring of Fire”, in 2021 alone, Indonesia has experienced more than 1,460 disaster occurrences that resulted in more than 5.3 million people affected and displaced.

Reflecting on our experiences and this year’s theme, Indonesia would like to share the following pertinent points:

**First, reinforcing localization in humanitarian crises.**

Local actors play a significant role as first responders during a humanitarian crisis. Their knowledge of local needs, capabilities and challenges also ensures that aid management and delivery system are effective and efficient as well as prioritize the local community’s interests and needs, and not merely that of donors.

In an increasingly tight budgetary and fiscal space for humanitarian assistance, it is important that assistance are well targeted and in particular to the most vulnerable. Empowering and enhancing the capacities of local actors and communities are therefore critical.

During the pandemic, these local actors play an increasing role due to the restriction of mobility of international and regional actors. Emergency response and assistance have heavily relied on their shoulder.

On our part, within the context of strengthening national and local capacities as well as providing a contextual and tailor-made regional solution, Indonesia has launched the Regional Conference on Humanitarian Assistance in 2019.

It is the first state-led and 1.5 track forum that is focused to: i) strengthen network among government and relevant humanitarian actors in the region, ii) enhance the capacities of humanitarian actors, and iii) establish a platform for sharing knowledges and best practices in the region.
This year, Indonesia will organize the second iteration of the regional conference in August 2021 with the theme “Advancing Humanitarian Capacities in a Changing World: National and Local Leadership.”

**Second, innovative solution that synergizes multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to humanitarian assistance should be prioritized.**

The delivery of humanitarian assistance in crises and disaster situation cannot be solely fulfilled by governments. A synergized multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach is necessary to ensure the fulfillment of a sustainable and comprehensive humanitarian assistance.

Over the past several years, Indonesia has initiated a penta-helix approach towards disaster mitigation and relief as well as environmental protection.

The penta-helix concept brings on-board the government, civil societies, business sectors, local communities, the media, and the academia. This approach ensures that the humanitarian issues are solved in a cooperative and collaborative manner. This would also minimizes the risk of overlapping responsibilities while ensuring the sustainable, timely and cost-effective delivery of assistance.

**Third, coherence is needed in exploring the linkages between humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peacebuilding.**

The solution to every crises requires a combination of these three processes. The United Nations and the international community has established distinct mechanisms to address them individually.

As issues are increasingly becoming interrelated and interconnected, It is therefore important that we ensure the coherence and complementarity among the three mechanisms.

There should be a smooth transition between humanitarian crises responses, with the recovery and development stage while ensuring the maintenance of peace and security.

However, we should avoid any pre-conditionality for humanitarian aid, in particular those based on specific political gains.

Saving human lives should not be politized under any circumstances.

Madam Chairperson,

Indonesia will continue to play a leadership role in the area of humanitarian assistance.

In this regard, Indonesia is honored to co-facilitate the negotiation of the ECOSOC Humanitarian resolution with Switzerland that will be adopted at the end this segment. We would like to thank all member states for their support and constructive participation in the negotiation.

Additionally, Indonesia would also be hosting the two humanitarian-related events. The second Regional Conference on Humanitarian Assistance in Southeast Asia in August this year, as earlier mentioned, and the seventh Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali in May 2022.

The theme of next year’s Global Platform is “From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World.”

Through these initiatives, we will continue to facilitate the robust discussion on humanitarian issues at the regional and global level.

I thank you.