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**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
H.E. AMBASSADOR RACHMAT BUDIMAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC INDONESIA
AT THE 59TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
VIENNA, 14-22 MARCH 2016**

Excellencies, Mr. Chairman,

First of all, allow me to join others in congratulating Ambassador Galuska as the Chair of the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as well as all members of the Bureau. Rest assured of Indonesia's full support for your chairmanship, Ambassador, and for the successful outcome of this meeting.

Let me also express our appreciation for the work that has been done by the UNGASS Board, under the able leadership of Ambassador Sharma, in the preparatory process of the UNGASS 2016. My delegation also expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this session.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement of the Asia Group delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ayesha Riyaz of Pakistan, and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman, the world drug problem is rampant and continues to pose a threat to the health and lives of millions of people, their families and society in general. It is unfortunate to note that 246 million people have consumed narcotic drugs, as shown in the World Drug Report of 2015. The world drug problem is a complex issue that needs to be addressed and countered in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

Against this background, Indonesia is of the view that UNGASS 2016 is timely in serving as an important high-level forum to discuss progress and challenges in relation to the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, with a view to strengthening the ongoing national, regional and international efforts to effectively address the world drug problem. In this regard, my delegation stresses the three international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of international drug control policy, and underlines the importance of upholding the rule of law, law enforcement and respect for human rights.

On the on-going negotiation of the draft UNGASS outcome document, my delegation would like to underscore that the outcome document of the UNGASS should be consistent with the spirit contained in the three international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of the international drug control system. In line with GA Resolution 70/181, my delegation believes that the outcome document should be short and concise, as well as action oriented. Indonesia appreciates the positive and constructive participation shown by many delegations during the negotiations, and urges others to continue to do so. Having negotiated the draft outcome document in the last five weeks, I believe that delegations know only too well each other's positions, and their red lines.

Therefore, to achieve the goal of the negotiations speedily, my delegation appreciates and is ready to be engaged in the discussion of any proposal that does not go beyond our red lines.

Mr. Chairman, in response to the growing danger of drug abuse, Indonesia has taken a number of measures at national level. Indonesia implements a balanced strategy between demand and supply reduction in countering and addressing its drug problem. In this regard, our experience shows the importance of active participation of the community in the prevention efforts at all levels, and for eradication measures to counter the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances.

With a view to more effectively implementing the national drug control policy, the mandate of the National Narcotic Board, as the leading national body in the prevention and eradication of narcotic and other drug related offences, will also be strengthened. This national body, in this regard, needs to be equipped with better financial resources, human resources and infrastructure to carry out its mandate.

My delegation also wishes to inform that Indonesia continues to develop its strategy to reduce the number of drug addicts through the rehabilitation program. This strategy includes the improvement of post-rehab or after-care programs and facilities. In this regard, treatment and rehabilitation programs are designed not only to cure addictions but also to equip drug addicts with skills so they can prepare for reintegration into society. Such programs show positive results, as the number of drug users fell from 4.2 million in 2011 to 4 million in 2014, and the number of daily drug-related deaths was down from 40 in 2011 to 33 in 2014.

Mr. Chairman, while progress has been made in other areas, the current state of drug trafficking activities involving individuals and organized criminal group is still worrisome. These criminal activities continue to be a serious threat, which demands extraordinary counter-efforts. As the Indonesian economy continues to grow, it attracts transnational organized criminal groups as a potential market for illegal drugs, in particular ATS. Drug trafficking rings and drug abuse continue to spread in many parts of the country, and penetrate all levels of society, including the young generation.

To tackle this serious crime, Indonesia has taken strict law enforcement measures to hold drug traffickers and drug-related criminals accountable for their crimes. For Indonesia, the serious nature of the crime can be certainly established by looking into the gravity of its negative impact. It is beyond dispute that illicit narcotic drugs pose a serious threat to human lives and adversely

affects the health, economic, social and political foundation of individuals, their families and society.

My delegation wishes to stress that the law enforcement and other programs have show positive results in containing the problem. I should also mention that in the case of Indonesia, it is never an easy task for our law enforcement personnel, given the size of our country.

Mr. Chairman, as no country can tackle this crime alone, regional cooperation, for our region in particular among ASEAN member countries, is important. In this regard, Indonesia fully subscribes to the common position of ASEAN, which was adopted at the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters on 29 October 2015. My delegation also believes that to suppress and eliminate the scourge of drugs, a zero-tolerance approach is needed to provide people and communities in the region with a society free from drug abuse and its ill effects.

My delegation stresses that the transnational challenges posed by the world drug problem should be addressed with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. In other words, each country has the sovereign right and responsibility to decide on the most appropriate approach to address the drug problem within its borders, taking into account the historical, political, economic, social and cultural contexts and norms of its society.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, my delegation believes that this Special Segment is timely to pave the way for the successful conduct of the UNGASS 2016, and remains steadfast in its constructive participation for the deliberation of the outcome document.

I thank you.