INTERVENTION BY THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON
EXTREME POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
GENEVA, 20 JUNE 2012

Madam/Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights for her reports.

It is interesting to note, that during the first three years of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur annual reports had elaborated on thematic issues connected to the relationship of the enjoyment of human rights and extreme poverty, such as cash transfer programs, older person and social protection, impact of the crisis and penalization of the poverty. While, in this annual report, the Special Rapporteur had chosen to focus her work on the assessing developments of recommendations made in the context of country visits and the challenges confronted by special procedure mandate holders in preparing a follow-up report.

Madam/Mr. President,

Poverty is a multi-dimensional problem requiring holistic solutions that are sustainable over time. My delegation shares the view of the Special Rapporteur that economic growth and increased income are important but not the only routes to poverty reduction. These need to be complemented by better access to basic services, empowerment of the poor, and reduction of social exclusion, insecurity and vulnerability.

Indonesia on its part applies two grand strategies on poverty eradication, through pro-job, pro-poor, pro-environment and pro-growth policy. Firstly, the Government is increasing income through productivity improvement and provision of better access and opportunities for poor community to participate in social, economic and cultural
activities. Secondly, Indonesia is committed to continuously reducing the cost of basic needs, education and health services through several programs.

The two grand strategies are accomplished by means of four pillars strategic policies namely creating opportunities, community empowerment, capacity building and social protection.

Along with private sectors, Indonesian Government creates wider opportunities by developing businesses and employment opportunities for poor people. Indonesia also believe that community empowerment is very important to increase the capacity and capability of the people so they are able to attain their economical, social and political rights.

The government with the support of private sectors and communities provides social protection and security scheme to also cover the poor people, particularly the poorest groups such as senior citizens, neglected children and disabled persons, and the poor communities due to natural disasters, negative impacts of economic crises, and social conflicts.

The Government of Indonesia has also made several programs to improve food security, lower infant and child mortality, established a nine-year compulsory basic education program for schooling age children, increased to 20 percent the amount of government budget allocated for education expenses, and made plans to improve people's access to save drinking water.

Madam/Mr. President,

In regards to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur, Indonesia takes note of the recommendation for the HRC and the OHCHR to seriously explore options for an institutionalized and well-resourced follow-up mechanism on country visits of special procedures. Similar recommendation was also made for States to explore the possibility of establishing a mechanism at the domestic level, with broad participation of stakeholders including civil society, UN agencies and NHRIs, to
internally review and monitor the progress made with regard to recommendations of human rights treaty bodies, including special procedures, regional mechanisms and the UPR.

While is a fact that the OHCHR as an institution is currently experiencing difficulties in its budget management, most countries globally particularly developing countries are also struggling to meet their basic necessities. Therefore the above-mentioned recommendations whilst of value in the long term, at this juncture seems impractical and burdensome for states. In this regard, my delegation believes that the UPR mechanism is a proper tool for review and monitoring progress and constraints in all human rights themes including in combating extreme poverty.

To conclude, my delegation would like to seek further elaboration from the Special Rapporteur on those two recommendations, taking into account current global financial crisis.

Thank you.