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P R E S S R E L E A S E

4th Indonesia – European Union Human Rights Dialogue Joint Statement

The fourth session of the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue was held on 15 November 2013 in Brussels and for the first time featured a site visit, in this case to the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR).

The Delegation from the Republic of Indonesia was led by Mr Muhammad Anshor, Director for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while the Delegation of the European Union was led by Mrs Anette Mandler, Head of the Division Human Rights Instruments and Bilateral cooperation in the European External Action Service.

The Dialogue took place in an open, cordial and constructive atmosphere, and provided the opportunity to discuss and exchange information on various issues of shared concern and common interest, reflecting the shared values of human rights and democracy that underpin the relationship between the EU and Indonesia, as enshrined in the Indonesia-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).

Both sides provided updates on recent policies and their respective efforts with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, including Indonesia's 2011-2014 National

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Plan of Action on Human Rights (RANHAM), the adoption of the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy in June 2012 and the subsequent appointment of Stavros Lambrinidis as EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

Both sides agreed to strengthen effort towards cooperating more closely in international institutions dealing with human rights, notably the UN Human Rights Council and discussed efforts to strengthen national protection in human rights through ratification of various international human rights instruments such as the UN Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and the Rome Statute.

The Dialogue discussed the issue of non-discrimination, especially with regard to freedom of religion and belief and the protection of minority groups, an area where both the EU and Indonesia face considerable challenges. Both sides agreed on the importance of offering adequate legal protection for minorities and bringing perpetrators of violence to justice. The need to ensure full protection in law and practice of all rights without discrimination on any grounds was also underscored. Both sides took note of various initiatives to foster exchange and dialogue on matters of pluralism and tolerance, including the Indonesia Interfaith Scholarship.

Discussion on justice and rule of law focused on a wide range of issues, including prison conditions and rights of detainees and prisoners, the situation of refugees and asylum seekers, and efforts to provide effective protection from torture and ill-treatment, including through the ratification of OPCAT.

The EU welcomed the presence of a vibrant media and civil society in Indonesia and its importance for a free and democratic society. Both side agreed on the need to ensure and protect freedom of expression and association.

Both sides agreed to strengthen partnership and cooperation on various human rights issues including business and human rights, migration and human rights as well as human rights and discussion on the death penalty. The EU reiterated its strong opposition to the death penalty.

Both sides agreed that the next dialogue round would be held in Jakarta in 2014.
