



STATEMENT

BY

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THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION

BEFORE THE THIRD COMMITTEE

OF THE 57th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ON AGENDA ITEM 105 AND 43: PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, AND
FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE**

SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN

NEW YORK. 14 OCTOBER 2002

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all state that the Government of Indonesia emphatically Condemns the atrocity of the terrorist bomb blast that claimed the lives of almost 200 people, and me first of all state that the Government of Indonesia emphatically condemns the last Saturday. On behalf of the Government and express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families and friends of all those from various nationalities that fell victim to the deadly terrorist attack, and also thank the members of the UN for their outpouring of support at this time of tragedy.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Secretary-General for his reports that helped to frame our discussions here today.

Indonesia welcomes the outcome of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held earlier this year. The special session adopted the "A World Fit for Children" declaration and its action plan, renewing the international community's efforts to help the world's children. In the decade following the World Summit for Children in 1990, significant progress was made in reducing infant and child under five mortality, rates of malnutrition illiteracy, and various other indicators of child welfare. However, unless those rates of progress can be improved in the coming decade, globally the Millennium Development Goals will not be met.

With this in mind, Indonesia will host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting in May 2003, and believes that such regional cooperation will contribute to the fulfillment of the action plan adopted at the special session. Indonesia seeks the cooperation of, and to cooperate with, its partners, regional and global, where appropriate, with respect for the sovereignty, equality, and territorial integrity of all member states, and in the spirit of multilateralism, for the betterment of Indonesia's and the world's children.

Already, Indonesia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and has signed its two optional protocols relating to children in armed conflict and to the sale or prostitution of children. With the support of the Government and of the UNICEF Representative Office in Jakarta, NGO's dealing with the protection of the rights of the child have established an

independent National Commission on Child Protection. Most significantly, the Parliament has recently passed a national law to protect the rights of the child, which should help strengthen the basic infrastructure in Indonesia for protecting the rights of children.

Also, to further advance the global action plan, Indonesia is developing a National Plan of Action encompassing children's rights to survival, development, and nondiscrimination, as well as other issues pertaining to children, and National Plans of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and the Elimination of Trafficking in Women and Children.

Indonesia also realises that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the plan of action as set forth at the special session rests with each individual country. Indonesia, as a responsible member of the international community, accepts its obligation, and is moving to enact and implement appropriate policies and legislation. However, the Convention on the Rights of the Child noted that states' obligations were to take appropriate measures, "in accordance with national conditions and within their means and the special session earlier this year acknowledged that to implement the plan of action would require, "significant additional human, financial, and material resources, nationally and internationally, within the framework of an enabling international environment and enhanced international cooperation

Clearly the intention was not that nations should be forced to go it alone in implementing the plan of action, but in the context of cooperation and support from the international community, and in the realization that the limited means of the poorer countries were insufficient to successfully implement national plans without such support.

The Government of Indonesia, as well as those of many of its fellow member states, is ardently striving to promote the welfare of its own children, and cooperate on a multilateral basis to help save the world's children, but asks that the international community takes the steps necessary to create that enabling international environment which is needed to achieve our shared goals for ourselves, and for the world's children. The aftermath of Monterrey and Johannesburg has left the international community with a surplus of goodwill; let us not repeat the failures of the past, but rather capitalise on that goodwill, by turning will into action.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.