



**Statement by  
Mr. Masni Eriza, Deputy Director for Humanitarian Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia  
for General Debate of  
the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of  
the Substantive Session of the ECOSOC 2013**

**Geneva, 15 July 2013**

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to begin by extending my delegation's appreciation to the Bureau and Secretariat, as well as to the OCHA for the excellent arrangement of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC Substantive Session this year. Indonesia aligns this statement with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Indonesia takes note of the Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

The principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, and independence apply to all humanitarian actors providing humanitarian assistance.

Efforts to further promote the values and compliance to the principles of humanitarian assistance therefore need to be intensified, including through dialogue with all non-state actors.

The increasing complexity in humanitarian crises and natural disasters require strengthened, effective and accountable international humanitarian responses.

Relevant actors in the global humanitarian architecture must scale up efforts to improve their modalities and capacities so that they are able to effectively respond to growing demands on humanitarian assistance.

With an international humanitarian landscape that is characterized by an entwined web of various actors namely governments, private sector, community leaders, IGOs and NGOs, and even military, improving coordination and cooperation amongst actors and putting in place a coherent response to any complex emergencies, particularly in the field level, is key.

The United Nations with its universality and mandate, as well as its high level of acceptance in member states, must be able to play a pivotal role in the global humanitarian architecture, not

only in financing, but also in coordinating, delivering and reporting, in responding to humanitarian crises.

The leadership of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in bringing together all major humanitarian agencies, both within and outside the UN system remains crucial. There are four areas for the IASC to reinforce: first, framework and capacity to develop system-wide humanitarian policies; two, provide clear division of responsibility for various aspects of humanitarian assistance; three, develop a common ethical framework for all humanitarian activities; and four advocate for common humanitarian principles to parties outside the IASC.

In this regard, the Emergency Relief Coordinator should continue and improve the dialogue with member states on the relevant processes, activities, and deliberations of the IASC.

**Mr. President,**

Although there has been a significant decrease in the number of deaths and people affected by natural disasters, according to the IDMC's estimation for 2012, more than 30 million people in 82 countries were displaced because of natural disasters, or almost double the number from 2011. Moreover, the damages and loss stood over US\$138 billion. That means that 2012 marked the third consecutive year for economic disaster losses to exceed US\$100 billion.

The demand for more resources and investment as well as strengthened capacities for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, especially in developing countries, couldn't be clearer. It is visible by the increasing challenges faced by Member States, and the United Nations humanitarian response. It is also apparent by the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crises and continuing food insecurity.

The UN system should continue to enhance humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries. The international community, the relevant entities of the UN system and other relevant institutions and organizations should support national authorities in building and strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and to prepare for, and respond to disasters.

Governments, humanitarian and development organizations need to develop a common understanding on the various risks that could lead to a humanitarian crisis. It is important in this regard to develop local, national and regional emergency preparedness plans that draw upon community knowledge and focus on education and institution building.

Developing such comprehensive plans need to involve all relevant stakeholders and actors, including the local community and the private sectors.

**Mr. President,**

We should not overlook the importance of regional organizations in convening countries to discuss common risks/hazards and in promoting cooperation and coordination between countries on these issues. The UN and relevant humanitarian partners should continue supporting the development and strengthening the capacity of regional organizations to

undertake this work. In this regard, the relationship between ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance and UN OCHA need to be further strengthened in the years to come.

Indonesia welcomes the Secretary General's initiative on the 2015 World Humanitarian Summit and underscores the need to discuss the modalities of the Summit within the General Assembly framework, and calls OCHA to ensure an inclusive, consultative, and transparent preparatory process.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**