

**Remarks of Minister of Education of Indonesia  
At the ECOSOC Special Policy Dialogue  
“Accelerating Progress on the EFA Goals:  
Mobilizing Resources and Partnerships”  
Geneva, 4 July 2011**

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*Thank You Very Much Excellency  
And Good Afternoon,*

1. Indonesia put **education as the top priority** of the national development. In 2002, a constitutional amendment obliged the state to allocate at least 20 percent of the total government budget to finance education. This is triple the level in 2000. Our law mandated that 9-years basic education is compulsory and free of charge.
2. **We have strong commitment to ensure the achievement of the EFA goals.** Primary education access is now close to universal with net enrolment at over 95% (gross enrolment is 117%) and junior secondary gross enrolment is currently over 98%.
3. **Indonesia is managing a big size of education system.** At the basic education, we manage 44 million students, 200.000 schools, with more than 2.8 million teachers located in more than 17.000 widely dispersed islands with about 300 ethnic group and 750 local languages.
4. This diversity lead us to embrace the principle of **inclusiveness and non-discrimination** in our education policy, that is education for all our children, regardless of gender, religion, race, and economic background as mandated by our law.

5. Two strategies for addressing the issues of equity. First, at the **supply side (services provided by the government)**, we give a guarantee that education services is **available and affordable** for every children and **promote society awareness** of the importance of education. We give a guarantee that every school has enough resources to run education services by providing **School Operational Aid (BOS)** in the form of block grant to meet operational cost for each student. This major reform has been critical in reducing cost barriers to access and providing resources for quality improvement inputs at the school level. The current annual budget for the School Operation Aid is about \$US 2.2 billion.
6. Secondly, at the demand side, we made **affirmative policy to mobilize resources** to ensure access for children from poorer families, remote areas, outer island, and border areas, by giving them scholarship, which is now accounted for 13% of the student population.
7. In addition, another key strategies include provision of **integrative (one roof) primary and junior secondary schooling, utilization of ICT** to provide educational services in a new ways that can both enhance learning and achieve efficiency gains, and **boarding school** (student and teachers together). Special incentives also be given to the teacher assigned in these areas.
8. To facilitate real quality improvement for all schools, key strategies have included establishing **National Education Standards and comprehensive Education Quality Assurance System**. Minimum service standards have been developed to assist district and school, particularly in under-developed and under-resourced areas to prioritize

and invest resources in the critical inputs which will result in school improvement.

9. Another key strategy is establishing **National Examination** to map nationally the quality of teaching-learning processes at the school, district, and provincial levels, from which we could establish affirmative policy. Additionally, we are currently developing strategies for improved management and more efficient utilization of teacher workforce through **qualification upgrading and certification, as well as teacher remuneration.**
10. Since education is a shared responsibility between government, community, and the private sectors, then resource mobilization is key success to finance education. More effective and innovative financing strategies, including **public-private partnerships** and targeted government investment, to achieve EFA goal has been an important key policy for our resource mobilization.
11. Of course **Indonesia is ready to work together with international partners** to strengthen the world of education together, to ensure that every child can enjoy the experience and benefits of quality education. Hopefully we will have a new generation who are not only intelligent but tolerant, nonviolent, and courteous, so as to build a prosperous society and peaceful world.
12. **Education is to humanize the human being.** Providing better education for our children is not only do the right thing, but also do the **noble thing.**

Thank you very much

