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STATEMENT BY
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SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF
THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

CANCUN, MEXICO, 9 DECEMBER 2010

Madam President,
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me at the outset congratulate you on your being elected as President for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. I am confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will prove to be successful. Allow me also to convey through you, our appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for their hospitality and warm welcome in Cancun.

Madam President,

2. The increasing number of greenhouse gasses emission is alarming. Therefore, it is imperative to implement a deep cut strategy of emission reduction in order to minimize the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change. And now is the time.

3. In addressing this enormous climate change problem, we appreciate your effort in making a balanced, comprehensive and party driven outcome in both negotiation tracks, the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP through open, transparent and inclusive process.

4. I would like to share the views expressed by the G-77 and China that we need to have a set of decisions here that covers all building blocks of the Bali Action Plan; that shall not undermine our final goal for a legally binding outcome.

Madam President,

5. We are of the view that the establishment of the second and subsequent commitments period under the Kyoto Protocol is a matter of urgency. These commitments should be followed with comparable measures by other developed country parties to ensure the achievement of global target for emission reduction. This is also in line with the call of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the COP-15 last year in Copenhagen, for developed countries to fulfil their historical responsibility to slow, stop and reverse global warming, in order to achieve global strategic goal to limit the rise of global warming to within 2 degrees Celsius. This burden of responsibility cannot be shifted or deferred.

6. Given the global and over-arching nature of climate change, strong leadership is needed in order to address it. Thus, it is in our view that developed countries, must take the lead and committed to an ambitious, economy-wide, quantified emission reduction target as well as the provision of technology, capacity building and financial resources to developing countries. In this respect, we urge developed countries to materialize their financial pledges for both adaptation and mitigation actions.

Madam President,

7. It should be noted that a global ultimate goal requires a collective responsibility and mutual cooperation. Developing countries, based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, must take actions in order not to replicate another historical mistake in adding the climate problem. Developing countries should also take part by establishing a strategy toward low carbon development path while ensuring their sustainable development.

8. Despite the fact that we might be facing hindrance to pave the way to reach a solid consensus, we have to devise creative and innovative ways to meet the global target of emission reduction. This is now the time for us to create a historic landmark by demonstrating greater flexibility and compromise.

Madam President,

9. The rapid deforestation in the last 200 years has made rainforests even more critical for the survival of our planet and humankind. Our trees and forests are of crucial importance in the global carbon cycle. Until now, there is not yet a single technology that is able to replace the significant role of tropical rainforests as natural carbon absorbers.

10. With that in mind, along with other tropical forest nations, Indonesia is determined to promote the socio-economic development of our people, some of whom still languish in poverty. But we are also aware that our tropical rainforests serve a much larger purpose as the lungs of the world and provide an invaluable environmental service to the world. In achieving these twin objectives, Indonesia has shown the political will, innovation and creativity both through domestic actions and international cooperation with other country parties.

11. In this joyous occasion, I would like to urge all parties to not take forest nations for granted. Our forests are the key to the global climate solution. We must now inject a new economic logic where it is more beneficial for nations and communities to keep the trees up, than to chop them down.

Madam President,

12. To conclude, let us do our utmost here to make sure this conference propels us to the goals that will save us and our future generations from the devastation of climate change. Let us rejoice in what we have been given. Our planet. Our home. Now, let us begin the action.

Cancun, 9 December 2010

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