

Mr President,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the reports of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or belief and to the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity who have both prepared constructive reports for our deliberations today.

As some of the points that are of concern to Indonesia we shall only be focusing briefly on making the following observations.

With regard to the Freedom of Religion or Belief;

In the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Jahangir, we note with interest the complexity of the issues covered under one umbrella. The freedom of religion or belief has rather particular and interlinking impact on the social, cultural and political structure of a country mainly because it has the capacity to affect the way in which the inhabitants of a country interact in those three very different areas.

Perhaps it is exactly for this reason that the Special Rapporteur urges States to put more effort into ensuring that there is a more equitable balance in their legislation on religious adherence as much in theory as in practice. There should also be, according to Ms Jahangir, strategies in place to assure the viability of the constitutional and legislative measures in place which need to sufficiently guarantee and protect these rights. My delegation is of the opinion that this must be considered as an ongoing process for most, if not all Member States mainly because States must be allowed the

policy space to apply this fundamental norm evenly and this takes time.

With regard to religious awareness or education, Indonesia for its part remains committed to inter-faith dialogue which my government believes constitutes one of the most critical ways in which knowledge and understanding can be shared.

My delegation would however seek some further clarification from the Special Rapporteur on the impact that the defamation of religions has played (page 16 of the report) in terms of both the freedom of religion and on the freedom of expression.

Mr President,

With regard to the report of the Independent Expert's report on **Human Rights and International Solidarity**;

My delegation feels that it is appropriate at this point to focus our attention briefly on some of the observations that have been raised by Mr Rizki.

He identifies three main areas of focus which we are of the view reflect the ongoing malaise in international collaboration which affect how globalisation is enjoyed in the world today. In this connection, my delegation appreciates the concrete examples of what countries can do to meet some of the global economic challenges.

To this effect, I would ask the Independent Expert's input on whether these examples provided (page 7) would be sufficient as "broad and sustained efforts" which would have enough impact to readjust the imbalance he noted as

existing in his report, and in order to promote a more inclusive society?

My delegation would conclude with the hope that international solidarity would serve to support global humanitarian assistance needs for fighting disease, meeting economic goals and in developing infrastructural capacity for agriculture, especially for LDCs and developing countries.

Thank you, Mr President.