

*Delivered by: Evitarosi Sonia Budiawan*

Mr President,

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), IMPARSIAL, and the Indonesian Interfaith Network (JAI) are deeply concerned about the current human rights situation in Indonesia and disappointed that the government has not accepted a number of significant UPR recommendations.

The Indonesian government has failed to safeguard and promote the right to freedom of religion or belief by not undertaking effective measures to prevent discrimination based on religious affiliation. Certain regulations contradict the freedom of religion or belief and are used to persecute people on the basis of religion. We therefore strongly urge the Indonesian government to review and/or revoke laws and policies, which restrict the freedom of religion or belief and discriminate against minorities, including Law No. 1/PNPS/1965, Joint Decree (SKB) of the Three Ministers on Ahmadiyah of 2008, Article 156a of the Criminal Code on blasphemy, and Article number 28 of the 2008 Electronic Information and Transaction Law. Moreover, a number of religious communities face serious obstacles from the government and surrounding communities with regard to establishing and/or using their place of worship.

Regarding the death penalty, we noted that in the last 2.5 years alone, 18 people have been executed. The imposition of the death sentence has increased, reaching a total of 134 new death sentences. Furthermore, the problem of unfair trial in Indonesia raises serious concerns, as seen in the case of Mr Zulfiqar Ali, a Pakistani citizen. In the light of this, we strongly urge the Indonesian government to establish an independent team to review unfair trial cases, and immediately to impose a moratorium on the death penalty to prevent potentially killing innocent people in the future.

One of the nine commitments made by President Joko Widodo during his election campaign in 2014, was always to have due regard for human rights. We urge the President and Indonesian government to keep this promise.

I thank you Mr President.