

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY H.E. MS. LILY PURBA, CHAIR OF THE
ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR THE**

**Launch of the Regional Review on
Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN Relating to the
Identification, Management and Treatment of
Victims of Trafficking, Especially Women and Children**

28 September 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia

Excellencies, the Representatives from the ten ASEAN Member States to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC),

Excellency Mr. Phoukhong Sisoulath, Chair of the AICHR and Representative of Lao PDR to the AICHR,

Excellency Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat Chair of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers,

Excellency Francisco Fontan Pardo, EU Ambassador to ASEAN,

Excellency Nina Hachigian, US Ambassador to ASEAN,

Excellency Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy-Secretary General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, ASEAN Secretariat,

Excellency Ambassador Dr. Sujatmiko, Deputy for the Proction of Women and Children, Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia,

Excellencies Ambassadors of Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam to ASEAN, as well as senior officials from the Permanent Missions of ASEAN Member States,

Excellencies Ambassadors of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Republic of Korea to ASEAN, as well as senior officials from the Missions of Dialogue Partners to ASEAN,

Distinguished representatives from line ministries, civil society organisations and members of the media,

Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Launch of the Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN Relating to the Identification, Management and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking Especially Women and Children. The launch of the Regional Review on Trafficking in Persons marks a milestone in ASEAN's efforts to combat trafficking the region and to protect the rights of victims of trafficking, especially women and children.

Let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the US PROGRESS and the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) Human Rights Programme for providing support to the development of the Regional Review.

Recognising that trafficking in persons is a serious and prevalent concern in ASEAN and also the world, this remarkable achievement seeks to contribute to the goal of ending violence against women and children. The Regional Review was conducted to support implementation of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) especially Women and Children which was signed by the Heads of States at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015. It was undertaken as part of the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016, and aims to support ASEAN Member States' efforts to improve responses to victims of trafficking by providing an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the current situations, good practices, and issues for consideration, as well as presenting recommendations for improvement.

As Indonesia' Representative to ACWC on Women's Rights, I had the privilege of attending two important meetings regarding the issue of trafficking in persons, namely the Socialization of ACTIP conducted by the SOMTC in Manila, and the Workshop on Effective Communication organised by the AICHR in Nha Trang, Vietnam. I also had the opportunity to participate in the Interface Meeting between the AICHR and ACWC where the issues related to trafficking in persons were discussed. Tomorrow, we would have the opportunity to participate in the AICHR-SOMTC Regular Consultation on Human Rights-based Approach to the Implementation of the ACTIP and APA. These events

indicate the consistent and comprehensive efforts of ASEAN to address the issue of trafficking in persons.

I would like to highlight that the ACTIP and APA are milestone documents that have set the legal framework for ASEAN's cooperation, commitment and joint efforts in order to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons. Recognising the serious threats caused by trafficking in persons, especially on women and children, we notice that in the ASEAN region, some of our countries are not only the origin but also the destinations and transit points of victims of trafficking. The magnitude and complexity of trafficking, as a transnational crime and violation of human rights, constantly challenge us to strategically and comprehensively develop action plans at the national and regional levels.

Ladies and Gentleman,

This Regional Review is one of the ACWC's initiatives to achieve the goal of ending violence against women and children. With the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children, and the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, the ACWC will be pursuing more initiatives that would address the issue of trafficking in persons in ASEAN in collaboration with the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSUD), and other stakeholders.

I fully believe that with your active participation and contribution, we can have productive discussion and come out with concrete recommendations for future joint program and collaboration which can help in strengthening ASEAN cooperation as well as our national capacity in preventing and combating human trafficking.

Thank you very much. Terima kasih!