

STATEMENT BY ASNLF DELIVERED AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES
14 - 15 June 2022

Thank you Madam Chair,

My name is Muhammad Krueng and I am representing Aceh-Sumatra National Liberation Front (ASNLF). Thank

(I would like to make some remarks under Session 3: Minority participation as a procedural and substantive right and process, concerning the situation in my homeland, Aceh.)

First of all, the term “minority” in Indonesia is quite ambiguous and not clearly defined in any legal conduct or regulations. Indonesia regards all ethnicities in the country as minorities.

The Acehese, for example, are one of them, constituting only 1.7 % of 270 million of Indonesia's population. They have a distinct identity, a different background etc and are often treated differently by the central government.

Madam Chair

After thirty years of armed-conflict, there is indeed a peace-deal between the Free Aceh Movement and Indonesia. But due to the lack of the government commitments, particularly with reference to the international covenant on civil and political rights, the above-mentioned DEAL has met with failure.

Although Indonesia has officially ratified the covenant on 28 October 2005 (UU No. 12/2005), its implementation is advancing at a slow pace. However, most of the Indonesian laws or regulations are originally from the era of Dutch colonial laws.

Theoretically, the laws guarantee the freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of association and other fundamental rights, but the problem is that all these guarantees are practically limited. As a new and a multi-ethnic entity Indonesia is obsessed with unifying the nation, and anything that is deemed to weaken the state is forbidden. Words such as

referendum or plebiscite to determine the genuine aspirations of the Acehnese are outlawed. Having said that, the participation of the Acehnese to exercise their fundamental rights is not possible.

ASNLF, therefore, calls upon this august forum to closely monitor the implementation of all of the ratified covenants without any restrictions, with particular emphasis on the right to self-determination of the people of Aceh - without fear.

Thank you Mr. Chairman (Madam Chair)