

Statement of the Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN - Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago) – Indonesia

**Oslo Climate and Forest Conference
27 May 2010**

Thank you Chairperson,

My name is Mina Susana Setra, speaking here on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago, an umbrella organization of 1,163 Indigenous Communities from different places in Indonesia. Our members live along at the river banks, from lowland to mountain areas, from the sea coasts to small islands, from Aceh to West Papua.

Indigenous peoples are not just stakeholders. We are rights holders that have internationally, the recognition to our rights to lands, territories, forests and other resources. We uphold, that the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples, affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, must be fully recognized and respected in all decision-making processes and actions related to this "REDD+ Interim Partnership." Our traditional knowledge, innovations and local adaptation and mitigation practices must be respected, recognized and supported.

Mr. Chair, we would like to welcome the "REDD+ Interim Partnership", as a new beginning of the real action by States in reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation. Yesterday, Indonesia and Norway has signed Letter of Intent as the starting point of this partnership. We want to congratulate our President Mr. Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Mr. Jens Stoltenberg for the new partnership in building efforts to save our forest. We offer our Indigenous expertise and effective participation and contribution in the planning and implementation processes.

Mr. Chair, we recognize some progress in the national level, related to Indigenous Peoples' Issues. The Government of Indonesia has opening spaces to engage with Indigenous Issues by having a continue dialogues between Government and Indigenous Peoples. Its enable us to start a partnership and cooperation with the government in different issues. We have signed MoU with the Ministry of Environment on the Identification of Indigenous Peoples' Rights and their Traditional Knowledge, as an effort to identify the real contribution of traditional knowledge and the important of the protection of Indigenous Peoples Rights in climate change's adaptation and mitigation. We have MoU with National Commission on Human Rights on Mainstreaming Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Indonesia. We have dialogue with Ministry of Forestry on REDD and customary forests. Especially, we thank you our President, Mr. Yudhoyono, who took an initiative to open a dialogue with us about the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The new Law on the Recognition and the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is in the National Legislation Program and will be decided in 2011. While us also looking for an effort, the amendment of Forestry Law No. 41/1999 to a better law that recognize our rights and contribution on forest protection.

Mr. Chair, while we congratulate the partnership initiative, we wants us to keep in mind, of the "home work" which we all bear, in making ideas, initiative, good will, into reality. There's still a long way to go from here. Forest issues can not be separated with other issues. To be able to reach the aim of saving forest, we need good governance, and in some cases, governance reform is necessary. Transparency, enabling policies to support the works, as well as full and effective

participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society are important elements that could not left behind.

Mr. Chair, many of us here are not living in the forest and not having direct connection with forest. Indigenous Peoples does. They face the reality of forest situation and they seek support from you for their struggle to protect the forest. As not many of them can participate here, dealing with tables, papers, words, it is your moment, to show the responsibility, to ensure, not only that the forests are save, but especially, the indigenous peoples and local communities who save the forest, are save.

Thank you Mr. Chair