



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UN



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

New York, 5 February 2013

Dear members of civil society,

As laid out in General Assembly **resolution 66/254** we have sought through the mandate given to us by the President of the General Assembly to “conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on how to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”.

During the 66th session of the General Assembly we provided a common platform for Member States to discuss and deliberate on this very complex but important issue. This included a series of thematic discussions on issues related to the reporting process, methods of work, capacity to implement and resources, as well as on the previous reports delivered by the United Nations Secretary-General and the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the outcome of her multi-stakeholder process.

In addition, during the intergovernmental process we heard interventions, and received written inputs, from experts of the treaty body system, national human rights institutions and civil society. We believe that these interventions and contributions supported the intergovernmental process by providing additional information and perspectives that enriched the discussions. We would like to thank you for sharing your expertise on this matter.

In the view of the co-facilitators the overall approach of Member States during the process was positive and constructive. Our observation is that throughout the negotiations, delegations exhibited a strong sense of commitment as well as a spirit of compromise, which we believe sets a positive tone for future engagement in this process. This is reflected in the **report of the co-facilitators to the President of the General Assembly** that has been published in **document A/66/902**.

To reflect the need for continued engagement in the intergovernmental process we led a series of informal discussions with Member States on a draft resolution which was adopted by consensus on 17 September 2012 as **resolution 66/295**. The final text of the resolution is attached. This positive development will allow the process to be brought forward in a constructive way and with the shared objective of strengthening the treaty body system as a whole.

The resolution extended the process to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, “to build upon the discussions held thus far with a view to identifying in the upcoming session of the Assembly concrete and sustainable measures needed to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”. Additionally, the President of the General Assembly was requested to “extend the mandate of the two co-facilitators to continue open, transparent and inclusive negotiations, with the view to considering a possible outcome during the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly”.

Following the discussions at the 66th session of the General Assembly the co-facilitators are proposing to continue the process with in depth discussions on issues identified in the **report of the President of the General Assembly (document A/66/902)** as well as any issues raised by Member States. The co-facilitators are proposing an indicative timetable for the process during the coming months as attached. For further information please contact the Mission of Iceland (Mr. Vardi, email: th@mfa.is) or the Mission of Indonesia (Mr. Arief, email: arief.adnan@indonesiamission-ny.org).

Yours sincerely,



Desra Percaya
Co-facilitator
Permanent Representative of Indonesia
to the United Nations



Greta Gunnarsdottir
Co-facilitator
Permanent Representative of Iceland
to the United Nations

Attachment:

Indicative Timeline for the Intergovernmental process of the General Assembly at the 67th session of the General Assembly

- **12 February 2013:** Informal meeting.
- **19-21 February 2013:** Thematic discussions, followed by informal-informals.
- **26 February 2013:** An informal interactive hearing with civil society.
- **9-11 April 2013:** Thematic discussions, followed by informal-informals.
- **16-17 April 2013:** Informal-informals.
- **6 May 2013:** An informal interactive hearing with civil society.
- **6-8 May 2013:** Thematic discussions (if needed), followed by informal-informals.
- **End May:** Short Informal-informals as needed.
- **End May 2013:** Consideration of report.