

Statement Delivered to the AICHR Regional Consultation on the Review of the AICHR TOR
By The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM)

Commissioner Roichatul Aswidah, MA

Thank you Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights – (Komnas HAM), please accept our sincere appreciation to the AICHR for conducting this important consultation with various actors who work on human rights in ASEAN, particularly the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). This consultation is important as one of the means to improve human rights situation in ASEAN region, particularly through the work of ASEAN Human Rights mechanism, the AICHR.

One particularly issues that we want to highlight today is the cooperation of the AICHR with national human rights institutions. In the past five years of the work of the AICHR, the NHRIs have been waiting to work together with AICHR in addressing human rights situation in our region. Although the current AICHR TOR provide in the article 4.9 that AICHR has mandate *“to consult, as may be appropriate, with other national...entities concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights”*, we observe that this mandate are not yet fully implemented, especially in the existence of national human rights institutions in some of ASEAN countries.

The NHRIs, particularly KOMNASHAM, have a quite long history and experience in promoting and protecting human rights in ASEAN countries, which could be used as a rich sources of knowledge and practices for the institutional building of the AICHR. The NHRIs have been the forefront of institutions which deal with the actual human rights situation on the ground, dealing with victims and affected communities. We have also contributing to the development of national law relevant to human rights in our countries and an active agency in the international human rights mechanism such as the UN mechanism.

We view that the current relationship and cooperation between the AICHR and the NHRIs are on piecemeal basis and ad hoc. We hope to see that in the review of the AICHR TOR, the AICHR will consider to strengthen the platform for cooperation with other institutions like the national human rights institutions.

We also convey our support to the review process of the AICHR TOR towards *“enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN. We will also hold consultation with national actors on the review of the AICHR TOR in our country”*.

Thank you Madam Chair.