**Keynote Speech by Mr. Willem Rampangilei, Deputy Minister for Environment and Social Vulnerability, Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare, Republic of Indonesia
At The Expert Meeting
On Crime and Violence Observatories, hosted by the Geneva Declaration Secretariat**

Genève, June 27th 2013

Mr. Chairman,

First, please allow me to thank the Government of Switzerland and the UNDP for promoting the objectives of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. Indonesia is a core group member of the Declaration and fully supports the implementation framework which calls for strengthening of advocacy, measurability and programing related to armed violence.

Today's 'Expert Meeting on Crime and Violence Observatories' is a most relevant effort to leverage global knowledge in addressing the second pillar of this framework: measurability of armed conflict. I believe such knowledge is essential to gain a comprehensive understanding of the problems that we face and to devise effective solutions.

As a diverse nation of over 300 ethnic groups that speak 742 languages living across 17,508 islands, Indonesia has first-hand experience in facing the challenges of preventing and managing violent conflict. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of our experiences with this global forum.

Just 15 years ago, Indonesia was at a critical juncture in its history. A devastating monetary crisis shrank the country's economy by 15%, leading to large-scale unemployment and heightened levels of poverty. At the same time, the country was rapidly transitioning to a democratic political system.

In the face of this political and economic uncertainty, ethno-communal violence erupted across the country in places like Maluku, Kalimantan and Sulawesi. Separatist violence gained momentum in Aceh and Timor. According to our data from the National Violence Monitoring System in Indonesia (SNPK), over 21,000 people were killed as a direct result of these armed conflicts from 1998-2004. Beyond this death toll, these conflicts devastated local economies and exacerbated poverty levels in some of the least developed areas of the country.

For a country that takes immense pride in its motto of *Bineka Tunggal Eka* (Unity in Diversity), we were faced with the pressing need to overcome these violent conflicts and preserve our identity as a nation.

Over the last decade, we have managed to settle the major violent disputes through a combination of peace agreements, security interventions and development programs. Today, some of our peace initiatives, such as the one undertaken in Aceh, are included in international best practice cases.

Our efforts for peace have also been aided by the following rapid changes that have taken place simultaneously:

- A thriving economy that continues to grow at over 6.5% a year;
- Devolution of power to local governments through sweeping decentralization reforms;
- Major security sector reform where the police were separated from the military and;
- Consolidation of the democratic process which has allowed the people to voice their preferences freely at the polls.

Ironically, however, these very factors have also created fertile ground for new conflicts to emerge, calling for new approaches to detection and response. I will share with you a few very specific examples that I believe are relevant to many developing countries today.

1. While there is no doubt that democratic reform has brought about unprecedented freedom of expression and choice in Indonesia, the pace of institutional reform has been much slower. This mismatch in the political systems and state institutions has resulted in a situation where the people have very high demands from their government but the intuitions are not mature enough to fully respond. At the same time, there is no consistent understanding in our communities as to how they can exercise democratic choices with the responsibility that comes with it.

2. Notwithstanding the benefits of decentralization with regard to the overall representativeness of the political system, the rapid shift from 55 years of highly centralized state structure to a highly decentralized system has resulted in uncertainty over the division of responsibility between central and local governments. This is further exacerbated by the capacity gap that exists in the local governments' ability to fulfill their new mandates in the form of setting and implementing development priorities. Finding the right balance between these two extremes is a policy imperative but until this happens, the process remains contentious.

3. The major security sector reform, enacted in the early period of Indonesia's democratic transition, involved the separation of the civil police force from the military, which had been previously responsible for both internal and external defense. While this division has been most useful politically, it has often resulted in rivalries between the two institutions at the local level, negatively impacting the overall efficacy of our law enforcement strategy. What's more, in many far-flung parts of the country, the police simply did not have the manpower to suddenly take over responsibility for internal security from the military.

4. Rapid economic growth has spurred the development of major infrastructure projects across the country, but it has also intensified the competition over the control of these new resources. For example, a piece of land which was not worth much before may turn out to be a good mining investment. In such a setting we could have an investor, communities, local governments as well as central government all voicing claims over the same piece of land. In the absence of a responsive justice system, these small contests have the potential to escalate into larger conflicts.

The government of Indonesia is keenly aware of these challenges and the need to manage them. To be able to do this effectively, we need to have access to accurate and systematic information on when, where, how, and why violent conflicts are happening and what are their impacts. This is why we have developed the National Violence Monitoring System (SNPK). Last year, in December 2012, we launched this system as a publically available resource and today, I am encouraged to see that similar initiatives are also being developed in other countries.

Through the National Violence Monitoring System in Indonesia, we are looking to achieve three strategic goals:

1. Provide an empirical basis for the early detection of problems and for coordinating appropriate responses between government agencies.

2. As a basis for developing a more systematic set of policies and programs to address longer-term issues that emerge and for measuring their effectiveness.

3. As a platform for public debate on these issues to increase civil society participation in finding solutions and to increase transparency in the policy process.

In our experience, this kind of database is essential for helping policy-makers identify the problems and mobilizing the resources to overcome these problems. In the future, we are looking to further develop the National Violence Monitoring System platform into a decision-support system by compiling targeted information from other sectors with indirect but structural links to violence such as urbanization, poverty, education, unemployment, and other factors.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the challenges that I have just described are not unique to Indonesia. We are deeply aware that many developing countries that have gone down a similar path of political and institutional reform will have experienced very similar challenges. One could even call these the side-effects of progress.

These side-effects, if not detected early and not managed well, have the potential to result in violent conflict and can potentially off-set years of development gains. Therefore, I hope that today's deliberations between this community of experts will result in better ways to address these shared challenges.

WILLEM RAMPANGILEI
Short Biography

Rear Admiral Willem Rampangilei was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Indonesian Navy in 1980. Since then, he has served in various warships under the command of the navy's Eastern Fleet. He has commanded several warships and has served as a Mine Warfare Squadron commander. During his naval career, he has participated in numerous bilateral naval exercises with neighboring countries. In 1999, he was assigned as spokesperson during Military Martial Law in East Timor and in early 2000 he was assigned as Military Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI). From 2003 through 2007 he served as the Indonesian Military Adviser at the United Nations and was elected as Dean of UN Military and Police Adviser community. Other appointments in the military include Chief of National Hydrograph Services, Commander of Naval Base VIII for North Sulawesi and Eastern Kalimantan, and Lecturer on Security and Defense at the National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas). And the end of 2011 he was assigned as Deputy for Environmental and Social Vulnerability at the Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare.

Willem Rampangilei has attended military training and education within Indonesia as well as the U.S, Australia, the Netherlands, France and Belgium (NATO School). He graduated from Naval Staff and Command college, Joint Staff Course and Lemhannas. He has attended specialized training for Naval Surface Warfare, Mine Warfare, Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and Counter-Terrorism with U.S. Navy Seals in Guam. He has also spent much time dealing with peace-keeping operations. He also qualified as Dive Master.