



## **AIDE MEMOIRE**

### **Professor Harkristuti Harkrisnowo**

Indonesia's Candidate to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against  
Women  
2017-2020

1. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia attaches great importance to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in promoting progressive effort on women empowerment and gender equality worldwide. It is primarily for this reason that the Government of Indonesia has presented the candidature of Professor Harkristuti Harkrisnowo for election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at election to be held during the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in June 2016.
2. Professor Harkrisnowo is a renowned Indonesian scholar, policy maker, and advocate on human rights and women's issues. She is also a leading Indonesian authority and frequent commentator in national media on a broad range of social concerns, touching on such areas as corruption, the police, judicial performance, and law reform issues. She has vast experiences in developing legal theories and policies on human rights, including in formulating laws and strategies to support the elimination of violence against women and the girl-child.
3. First and foremost, Professor Harkrisnowo is a highly devoted academic. She is a lecturer of criminal law and human rights law at the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Law as well as Gender Studies Postgraduate Program (1991-present). She was also a Visiting Professor at the University of South Carolina (2006) and Beijing University (2007). Currently, she serves as the Chair of University of Indonesia's Council of Professors, and the Acting Executive Director of Human Rights Resource Center, a Jakarta-based think-tank focusing on human rights issues in ASEAN.
4. As a scholar, she conducted numerous research on women's rights, and has become the main expert in the study of Indonesian criminal law on violence against women. One of her research in the early 2000 identified that the Indonesian criminal law system at that time had not provided enough protection for victims of violence against women and the girl-child, and proposed the formulation of specific regulations and law enforcement procedures for such victims.

5. Her reputation as an expert on human rights and criminal law led to her appointment towards various policy-making positions. She headed the teams that formulate the Draft Law on Victim and Witness Protection (1999), Draft Law on the Rights of Women (2003), Revised Draft of Juvenile Justice System Law (2005), and Draft Law on the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (2008). In 1999, Professor Harkrisnowo also became a member of the National Law Commission. In 2006, she was appointed as the Director General for Human Rights at the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, a position which she held until 2014.
6. Professor Harkrisnowo has a wide-ranging experience in human rights diplomacy, the UN human rights system, and international human rights treaty body mechanisms. She was a member of the Indonesian Delegation to, among others, the Universal Periodic Review (2008 and 2012), 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014), 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Committee (2013), as well as the 57<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2013 and 2015). Furthermore, under her leadership as the Director General for Human Rights, Indonesia has successfully ratified four new international human rights instruments, namely the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
7. Whether as an academic or a policy-maker, Professor Harkrisnowo has always been a prominent and vocal human rights and women's issues advocate. She has made invaluable contribution to Indonesia's legal system reform to provide a better protection for women and children, and hence could use her experience for advancing the rights of women and the girl-child at the global stage. In view of her distinguished qualification and competence in both doctrinal and practical aspects of the rights of women and the girl-child, Indonesia is convinced that Professor Harkrisnowo – if elected – will contribute to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women with her utmost dedication.
8. It is also important to note that since the establishment of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, four experts from Indonesia has been elected as a member of the Committee. It has been more than 11 years since an Indonesian expert served as a Committee member, therefore it is high time for Indonesia to revitalize its contribution within the Committee. As a member, our expert will have the opportunity to bring the voice of half of Indonesia's 250-million population, as well as the aspiration of a democratic muslim majority country, that is committed to advance the rights of women at the national, regional, and global level.

9. For these reasons and more, this year, Indonesia has decided to submit the candidature of Professor Harkristuti Harkrisnowo for election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia would highly appreciate the support of the esteemed State Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to Professor Harkrisnowo's election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

---