

## Policy Recommendation

In collaboration with women's organization network, WRI conducted dissemination and advocacy for stakeholders involved in the legislation of Gender Equality and Equity Bill. The following are the recommendations proposed by WRI for the process of preparing Gender Equality and Equity Bill:

- ◆ Urge the House of Representatives to deliberate Gender Equality and Equity Bill openly and publish schedule of parliamentary sessions/meetings in its website, so civil society and other extra-parliament power can give their support and monitor the process of legislation of Gender Equality and Equity Bill.
- ◆ Urge the members of the House of Representatives to maximize the functions of the House of Representatives, which are legislation function, monitoring function and budgeting function to the substance of Gender Equality and Equity Bill. It is expected that the House of Representatives can produce public policy that notice the concept of gender equality and equity through good communication with extra-parliamentary organizations. In its function of budgeting and monitoring, the House of Representatives is urged to assure that a monitoring and evaluation mechanism which take into account the importance to monitor the planning and spending of the State Budget (gender responsive) is stipulated in the Gender Equality and Equity Bill.
- ◆ Urge the House of Representatives to ensure the fulfilment and respect towards women's rights that becomes the responsibility of all stakeholders, be it the executive, legislative and judicative body, political parties, as well as non-governmental organizations and individuals.
- ◆ Urge the House of Representatives to actively communicate with women's organization network that regularly oversees and participates in activities done by the House of Representatives and also actively participates in regular discussions held by extra-parliamentary organizations, with or without the presence of members of the House of Representatives, to collectively formulate the substance of Gender Equality and Equity Bill.
- ◆ Urge the Caucus of Women Parliamentary Members of Indonesia to actively and continuously use their position to monitor and evaluate the legislation process of Gender Equality and Equity Bill. It is expected that the Caucus synergise with extra-parliamentary power in disseminating gender responsive policy, particularly Gender Equality and Equity Bill, through its participation and openness in discussions held by women's organization network.

## End notes

- <sup>1</sup> Human Development Index is composite indicators comprising life expectancy, education and per capita income. Gender Inequality Index is composite indicators comprising reproductive health, empowerment and employment participation.
- <sup>2</sup> Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) refers to the number of women who die due to a cause of death related to pregnancy complication or its handling.
- <sup>3</sup> BKKBN. *Survei Demografi dan Kesehatan Indonesia (SDKI)*. 2007.
- <sup>4</sup> A physics terminology borrowed by Drude Dahlerup to encourage affirmative action or critical proportion that is believed to be able to change political institution as much as 30-40% quota. See <http://www.quotaproject.org/about/Quotas.cfm>
- <sup>5</sup> UNDP, Human Development Index (Value), <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/103106.html>.
- <sup>6</sup> Badan Legislasi. *Daftar Program Legislasi Nasional Rancangan Undang-Undang Prioritas Tahun Anggaran 2012*.

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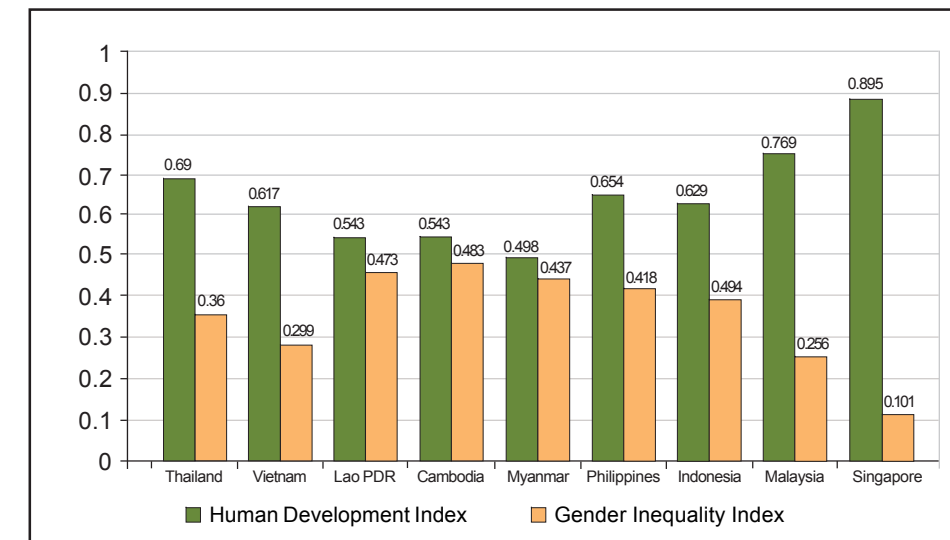
## The Gender Equality and Equity Bill & Women's Political Representation

The pattern of relation between women and men in public policy still shows forms of inequality between both genders. The Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>1</sup> and Gender Inequality Index (GII) had decreased, yet some indicators of women's welfare remains low (see Figure 1.).

One indicators of women's welfare is Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and the number of seats for women in the parliament. MMR<sup>2</sup> in Indonesia was 228 deaths/100.000 live births,<sup>3</sup> whereas, women's political representation in the parliament reached critical mass<sup>4</sup> as much as 30 percent. The percentage of women in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is 18 percent, in the Local House of Representatives is 27 percent, and the Provincial House of Representatives is 13 percent.

Table 1 shows that women's political representation since the General Election 1999-2009 was also followed by the decrease of MMR. It indicated that symbolic and descriptive representation of women in the House of Representatives had brought impact on people's welfare.

Figure 1.  
The Position of Indonesia's Development Index among ASEAN Countries<sup>5</sup>



*Equality between women and men is an important key to overcome poverty and realize prosperous society*

## Policy Brief

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Table 1.  
Comparison between Numbers of Women Parliament Members and Maternal Mortality Rate

Women Legislative Candidate	MMR	Women Legislative Candidate	MMR	Women Legislative Candidate	MMR
1999	1997	2004	2003	2009	2007
9%	334	11%	307	18%	228

Since August 2012 Women Research Institute (WRI) had conducted researches on women members of the House of Representatives and gender equality bill. As part of its research on women's political representation, this policy brief shows the importance of Gender Equality and Equity Bill. The Bill is an alternative policy to correct gender inequality and open a room for women's participation in politics.

## Research Findings and Analysis

### 1. Policy to Encourage Women's Political Representation

Women political representation influences the direction of democracy that is more inclusive in Indonesia. The incremental number of women legislative members in the House of Representatives brings more opportunity of raising women's issues to become a priority.

There have been policies that encourage gender equality in political and public life. One of them is Law No. 8/2012 on General Election. However,

there are still obstacles and challenges in realizing gender equality in Indonesia. The increase of violence against women reported by the National Commission of Women as much as 13.32 percent (from 105,103 to 119,107 cases) and the trend of violence in communities has become one of the indicators of weak representation of women in political and public life. In addition, women's political representation that has not reached the minimum point of 30 percent and its impact on welfare issues have also become the indicators of the need of change in policy.

The Affirmative Action on 30 percent quota policy (Law No. 8/2012 on General Election) was appreciated as commitment made by the state in assuring civil and political rights of women. Women's involvement in politics was also supported by men members of the House of Representatives when women came forward to be legislative candidates. Debates came up when political parties found it difficult to fulfil the quota and brought impact to the loss of women candidates' opportunity in their electoral districts. The increasing number of women members of the House of Representatives should complement to their quality and credibility as par-

Women political representation influences the direction of democracy that is more inclusive in Indonesia. The incremental number of women legislative members in the House of Representatives brings more opportunity of raising women's issues to become a priority.



liament members. Factions in the House of Representatives should regularly monitor and evaluate them to keep the quality and credibility of their members.

In order to keep and increased women's political representation, affirmation policy is needed to complement previous policies. Gender Equality and Equity Bill which currently discussed in the House of Representatives is the right momentum to issue affirmative policy. The Bill can become a reference for all stakeholders in producing responsive gender policies in Indonesia.



### 2. Gender Equality and Equity Bill: The Hope for the Realisation of Gender Equality in Indonesia

The stipulation of Gender Equality and Equity Bill as one of prioritized Bill in the House of Representatives in the national Legislation Programme<sup>6</sup> was fully supported by WRI as an investment for progressive regulation reform in Indonesia. However, there have been diverse responses from the members of the House of Representatives with regards to the Bill. Some were fully supportive while some were supportive under certain conditions, such as the Bill must not be against Pancasila values, provoke any controversies, and involve men in its advocacy process. The presence of the Bill in the National Legislation Programme was appreciated as an initiative that is

important to strengthen the implementation of existing gender equality policies

Meanwhile, the contra-response that emerged from members of the House of Representatives was related to the issues of effectiveness and efficiency covering human resources, energy and funds in the legislation process and the possible implementation in the field. The members of the House of Representatives were concern with the large numbers of human resources involved in the legislation process. There were also some women members of the House of Representatives who viewed that Gender Equality and Equity Bill was not a priority compared to other bills, while some male members of the House of Representatives mentioned that without the presence of this Bill it was imperative for everyone to implement gender equality.



The Gender Equality and Equity Bill is an alternative policy to correct gender inequality and open a room for women's participation in politics.