



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **On the outcome of the meeting of the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA) Banda Aceh, 12 July 2006**

The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA) was held on Wednesday 12 July 2006 under the chairmanship of the Head of Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), Mr. Pieter Feith. The delegation from the Government of Indonesia (GoI) was headed by Minister Sofyan Djalil. The Free Aceh Movement (GAM) delegation was led by Irwandi Yusuf. The acting Governor of Aceh, Mustafa Abubakar, was also present. This exceptional COSA meeting was dedicated entirely to discussing the new Law on the Governing of Aceh (LoGA) enacted by the National Parliament (DPR) on Tuesday 11 July 2006.

At this initial exchange of views on the LoGA, all parties congratulated the National Parliament for the comprehensive outcome and welcomed the planned visit of members of the Special Committee (*Pansus*) to Aceh on 13 July which would offer further explanations.

The Head of the AMM recalled the AMM's initial statement following the enactment of the Law and outlined AMM's preliminary views on the LoGA. He stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) does not require the Law to be a word by word reflection of the MoU but should rather be based on the set of principles agreed upon in Helsinki. Most of these have been accommodated even though interpretations might differ. In conclusion AMM considers the LoGA to broadly cover the principles in the MoU.

Minister Djalil outlined the legislative process and the main principles of the contents of the Law. He opined that the Law is based on the DPRD draft, while taking into consideration the Constitution as well as the MoU. The Minister further stated that the law grants autonomy to the local government and that implementation will to a large extent be the responsibility of the DPRD, noting that out of 99 implementing regulations 94 will be developed by *qanun*.

While welcoming the law, the GAM delegation requested further time to examine the content of the law before drawing conclusions. The GAM delegation expressed a number of concerns especially about possibilities to amend the law and asked a number of questions while reiterating that they will not revert to armed struggle.

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The parties agreed that the only way forward is for all stakeholders to continue the dialogue in an open and constructive way in order to achieve full implementation of the Helsinki MoU. It is now essential to go the last mile and to successfully cement the peace, the status and the future of Aceh within the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia.

The exchange of views between the parties will continue.

The next COSA meeting will be held on Saturday 22 July 2006 at 14.00.

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