



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Geneva, 21 January 2013

**Mr. Anand Grover**

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment  
of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

**Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana**

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination  
against women in law and in practice

**Ms. Rashida Manjoo**

Special Rapporteur on violence against women,  
its causes and consequences

**Mr. Juan E. Mendez**

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading  
treatment or punishment

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I wish to refer to your letter No. OL Health (2002-7) G/SO 214 (53/24) G/SO (89-15) IDN (12/2012) dated 9 November 2012 concerning a regulation on female genital mutilation in Indonesia. I hereby have the honour to convey the following information:

1. The government would like to reemphasize that the sole purpose of the Ministry of Health regulation number 1636 of 2010 is to protect women and girls from unsafe and harmful procedures of female circumcision, with an end goal to mitigate the harmful effects of such practices throughout the country. Hence, by any means, the regulation shall not be construed as encouraging or promoting the practice of female circumcision.
2. In line with its commitment toward international human rights norms and standards, including those concerning female genital mutilation (FGM), the Government is establishing a cross-sectoral team at the national level on the issue of Female Genital Mutilation in Indonesia, aiming at developing common perception towards the issue of FGM to mitigate the prevalence of this practice in Indonesia. The Team is coordinated by the Ministry of Health and consists of representatives from Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Ministry of Law and Human Rights. In the future, the team will continue working under the coordination of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and will also involve representatives from other ministries, national human rights institutions, civil society, religious community, and international organization, in the process.

I sincerely hope that the above-mentioned information will assist you in considering the issue from a more comprehensive angle. Rest assured that I will be glad to provide you with further information whenever any new material becomes available.

Please accept, Madams and Sirs, the assurances of my highest considerations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Triyono Wibowo', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Triyono Wibowo