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.

Triyono Wibowo