



**Statement by H.E. Sumbue Antas, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
Republic of Vanuatu at the Human Rights Council 45<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Item 3: Interactive dialogue with SR on the right of indigenous peoples**

**25 September 2020**

Madame President

Vanuatu welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur for the discussion on the current efforts towards the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Vanuatu notes that the OHCHR report does not discuss the violence and discrimination of the indigenous people of West Papua provinces of Indonesia, who desire to live free from racial discrimination and dignity like all other human beings.

The rights of the indigenous people of West Papua to freedom is a human right – to live a peaceful life, for their cultures and lands to be respected and for their environment to be protected. Unfortunately, these rights are being threatened by a new wave of violence against West Papuan people during the last few weeks. It was reported a few days ago that a Pastor of a local church, Yeremias Zanambani, was killed in the Province of Intan Jay by the Indonesian Military Unit. Sadly, this is not an isolated case. The world must acknowledge this unacceptable situation and the escalation of military and violent incidents must be condemned

Mme President

In this regard, the Human Rights Committee, under the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights on 2nd September 2020, requested the Indonesian government to provide information on this and other related civil, political and human rights issues.

Additionally as agreed by Pacific Leaders Forum in 2019, Vanuatu requests Indonesia to live up to its international human rights obligations and urgently facilitate the visit by the High Commissioner for Human Rights so she can complete a report to the Council on the situation in West Papua.

We, Vanuatu, are committed to the equality of people and will cooperate with states and stakeholders to promote and protect human rights for all and urge everyone to ensure all human rights violations and abuses against indigenous people are investigated in order to take measures to prevent such incidents.

I thank you, Madam President.