POSITION PAPER OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES, AND THAILAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE ASEAN CHARTER

In its meeting of 26 June 2007 held in Bali, the national human rights institutions of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, unanimously agreed to recommend to the High Level Task Force for the drafting of the ASEAN Charter the following:

1. The four NHRIs express their appreciation to the High Level Task Force on the drafting of the ASEAN Charter for having extended an invitation to the NHRIs of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand for consultation.

2. The four NHRIs request the High Level Task Force to inform the former on the development of the drafting of the ASEAN Charter.

3. The four NHRIs welcome the decision taken by ASEAN Member States to strengthen their association through the adoption of a legally binding regional instrument, i.e. an ASEAN Charter.

4. The four NHRIs urge the High Level Task Force to ensure that the principles and objectives of the ASEAN Charter should include the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. The four NHRIs further urge that the Charter includes a provision on the importance of the role of NHRIs in the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and should therefore be engaged in the realization of such principles.

6. In the light of para 5 above, the four NHRIs also urge that the ASEAN Charter includes a provision on the importance of the establishment of NHRIs in Member States of ASEAN, which have not done so.
7. In the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in South East Asia, the four NHRIIs emphasized the importance of the establishment of an appropriate ASEAN human rights mechanism and therefore appeal for support on these matters by the Eminent Persons Group through the High Level Task Force.

Bali, Indonesia, 26 June 2007

[Signature]
Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara, Chairperson
National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia
Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia (Komnas HAM)

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Tunku Datuk Nazihah Tun Dr. Mohd. Rus, Commissioner
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia
Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

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Purificacion C. Valera Quimbabing, Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
Komisyon ng Karapatan Pantao ng Pilipinas

[Signature]
Khunying (Lady) Anbhorn Meesook, Commissioner
The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand

Attested by:

[Signature]
Enny Soeprapto, Chairperson of the Third Working Session of the ASEAN National Human Rights Institutions Consultation Mechanism