



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

INDONESIAN REGIONAL HEAD ELECTIONS 2017 REPORT OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM ELECTION OBSERVER TEAM

INTRODUCTION

At the invitation of the Chairman for The General Elections Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, the Pacific Islands Forum deployed a Forum Election Observer Team to Indonesia from 13 – 16 February to observe the 2017 Indonesian Regional Head Elections in the provinces of Papua and West Papua on 15 February 2017.

2. Since 2004, Indonesian regional heads have been elected by their constituents through popular vote. The 2017 elections took place in 101 regions consisting the election of governors for seven provinces (including West Papua), regents and mayors for 18 municipalities (including Jayapura, Papua), and local leaders for 76 districts. There will be further regional head elections for other regions in 2018 and the Presidential and Legislative elections are scheduled for 2019.

3. The Forum Election Observer Team (the Forum Team) comprised Mr Sumbue Antas for Vanuatu's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Team Leader), Ms Fetogi Vaai of the Samoa Office of the Electoral Commissioner, and two Forum Secretariat staff. The Forum Team was divided into two teams to cover the two provinces of Papua and West Papua. Each team was attached to the national teams assigned to the respective provinces by the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of the Republic of Indonesia.

4. The national teams were two of 29 teams assigned by the Coordinating Ministry to watch over the peaceful conduct of the elections in the 101 regions. The Team Leader and a Secretariat staff were attached to Team No 2 for the Province of West Papua and they were based in West Papua's capital of Manokwari. Ms Vaai and another Secretariat staff were attached to Team No 23 for the Province of Papua and were based in Papua's capital of Jayapura. The team lists are attached at **Annex 1**.

5. A list of other officials consulted during the Team's deployment is attached at **Annex 2**. The Forum Team arrived in Jayapura and Manokwari on Sunday 12 February 2017 and departed on Thursday 16 February 2017. Due to time constraints, the teams were unable to meet with other key stakeholders such as election candidates, senior Government representatives, civil society (including youth and women groups) and faith-based organisations, private sector representatives, and Pacific Islands Forum diplomatic missions in Jakarta.

6. On Election Day, Wednesday 15 February 2017, the teams observed certain aspects of the elections – the casting of votes, closing of polling, and the counting of votes – in the coastal areas of Manokwari and Jayapura. This report contains the Forum Team's observations and assessments of the conduct of the 2017 Indonesian Regional Head Elections in Papua and West Papua and the legal and institutional frameworks which guide the conduct of these elections. The views and experiences of stakeholders consulted were also taken into consideration.

CONTEXT

Indonesia

7. The State of Indonesia is a Unitary State, having the form of Republic (Article 1(1), Constitution). It is divided into provinces and those provinces are divided into regencies and municipalities, each of which have regional authorities regulated by law (Article 18(1), Constitution). With a population of over 250 million (fourth largest in the world), Indonesia currently has 34 provinces across seven regions – Sumatra Island, Java Island, Lesser Sunda Islands, Kalimantan Island, Sulawesi Island, Maluku Island, and Western New Guinea. The provinces are subdivided into regencies and cities, which are further subdivided into districts, and again into administrative villages.

8. Indonesia is a presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President of Indonesia is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system. From 2004, the President and Vice President have been directly elected as a pair for a five year term, with the possibility of a single re-election (Article 7, Constitution). Election is by a two round system, with a second round being required if no candidate pair wins at least 50 percent of the national vote and 20 percent of the vote in at least half of the provinces (Article 6A, Constitution).

9. The People's Consultative Assembly (*Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat, MPR*) is the legislative branch in Indonesia's political system. Following elections in 2004, the MPR became a bicameral parliament, with the creation of the Regional Representatives Council (*Dewan Perwakilan Daerah, DPD*) as its second chamber in an effort to increase regional representation. The DPD is the upper house of the MPR. The lower house is the People's Representative Council (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, DPR*), sometimes referred to as the House of Representatives, which has 560 members, elected for a five-year term by proportional representation in multi-member constituencies.

10. Following the implementation of regional autonomy measures in 2001, the regencies and cities have become the key administrative units, responsible for providing most government services. The provincial, regency and municipal governments regulate and administer their own affairs according to the principles of autonomy and duty of assistance (Article 18(2), Constitution). They each have a Regional House of Representatives (legislature) whose members are elected through general elections (Article 18(3), Constitution). Governors, regents and mayors, respectively as head of provincial, regency, and municipal governments, are elected democratically (Article 18(4), Constitution). From 2005, provincial governors and municipal mayors have been directly elected every five years, whenever their terms end, by a two round election system.

11. Regional governments exercise wide-ranging autonomy, except in matters specified by law to be the affairs of the central government (Article 18(5), Constitution). This autonomy includes power to make regulations to implement autonomy and the duty of assistance (Article 18(6), Constitution).

Papua and West Papua provinces

12. The region of Western New Guinea is the Indonesian part of the island of New Guinea, lying to the west of the nation of Papua New Guinea. The region is 1,200 kilometres (750 miles) from east to west and 736 kilometres (457 miles) from north to south. It has an area of 420,540 square kilometres (162,371 square miles), which equates to approximately 22% of Indonesia's land area. The border with Papua New Guinea mostly follows the 141st

meridian east, with one section defined by the Fly River of Papua New Guinea. The official and most commonly spoken language is Bahasa Indonesia. The predominant religion is Christianity (often combined with traditional beliefs) followed by Islam. The main industries include agriculture, fishing, oil production, and mining.

13. The region has been part of Indonesia since May 1963. Following the 1998 commencement of reforms across Indonesia (following the resignation of President Suharto, ending three decades of the New Order period), the region's single province of Papua and other Indonesian provinces received greater autonomy. In 2001, the passage of *Law No. 21 of 2001 on Special Autonomy for Papua Province* granted Special Autonomy status to Papua province. In 2003, the region was split into two provinces: the province of Papua on the east, and the province of West Papua on the west. Latest official estimates show a population of over four million for the two provinces, with over three million living in the Papua province.

14. Papua (formerly called Irian Jaya) is the largest and easternmost province of Indonesia, comprising most of Western New Guinea. Papua is bordered by the nation of Papua New Guinea to the east and by West Papua province to the west. Papua province consists 28 regencies and one autonomous city, Jayapura, which is also its capital and the largest city in the region. West Papua (Papua Barat) was created in 2003 from western parts of Papua. West Papua consists 12 regencies and one autonomous city, Sorong. Its capital is Manokwari.

15. Indonesian sovereignty over Papua dates back to 1969, when Indonesia conducted a referendum – referred to as the Act of Free Choice – on the self-determination of the peoples of Papua under an agreement with the United Nations to respect any result. Despite a highly controversial referendum, the agreement with the UN was nominally upheld, and was recognised by the international community in spite of protests. This intensified the independence movement among indigenous West Papuans, deepening the Papua conflict, which began when the Dutch withdrew from the East Indies in 1963.

16. The Special Autonomy status granted in 2001 recognised, amongst other things, Papua natives as a group of the Melanesian race, which is part of the variety of culture, history, customs, and languages in Indonesia. It considered that 'the administration and development of the Papua province had not complied with the feeling of justification, has not yet achieved prosperity for the whole people, has not yet fully supported legal enforcement and has not yet shown respect to the Human Rights in the Papua Province, in particular the Papuan community'. Special Autonomy therefore enabled the Papua Province to regulate and manage the interests of the local people based on the aspiration and fundamental rights of the people of Papua (Article 1, *Law No. 21 of 2001 on Special Autonomy for Papua Province*). Special Autonomy covers authority within all sectors of administration, except in areas of foreign politics, safety and defence, monetary and fiscal, religion and judicature and other areas prescribed by law (Article 4(1)).

LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CONDUCTING ELECTIONS IN PAPUA AND WEST PAPUA

Electoral legal framework – regional and local elections

17. Elections in Indonesia are governed by the *1945 Constitution of the State of the Republic of Indonesia*, electoral laws agreed by the DPR and the President, and implementing rules and regulations promulgated by the President, the Minister of Home Affairs, and the General Election Commission (KPU), which is the independent election management body created by Article 22E(5) of the Constitution.

18. The Constitution, as amended, contains the basic provisions for Indonesian citizenship, elected offices and terms of office, election participants, the presidential election system, and the election management body (KPU).

19. Specifically, Article 18(4) of the Constitution authorises the democratic election of governors, regents and mayors as the respective heads of provincial, regency and municipal governments. Provincial governors and district heads have five year terms, but the election schedules are varied amongst provinces and districts, despite ongoing proposals to hold those elections at the same time as the legislative elections to cut costs and to streamline management of the process.

20. Other primary laws governing national elections and elections for regional legislatures include *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*, *Law 15 of 2011 on General Election Implementers*, *Law 42 of 2008 on Presidential Elections*, *Law 22 of 2014 on the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors*, and *Law 23 of 2014 on Local Government*. Subsidiary instruments include government regulations and decrees and directions of the national KPU and of the national Election Supervisory Committee (*Panwas*).

21. The right to vote is vested on an Indonesian citizen who, on the voting day, has reached the age of 17 years or more or is married (Article 19, *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*). The qualified voter shall be registered one time by the election implementer in the Voters List (Article 20, *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*).

22. To qualify for election as governor, regent or mayor, Article 13 of *Law 22 of 2014 on the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors* lists the requirements, which include: Indonesian citizenship, high school education, and a minimum age of 30 years old for candidates for governor and 25 years old for candidates for regents and mayors.

23. Special qualifications are stipulated for Papua and West Papua, by virtue of Article 12 of *Law No 21 of 2001 on Special Autonomy for the Papua Province*. Requirements include a person to be an Indonesian citizen, a Papua native, at least 30 years old, hold an academic degree, and be willing to serve the people of Papua. A Papua native is defined in Article 1 as a person originating from the Melanesian race group, comprising native ethnic groups in Papua province, and/or a person accepted and acknowledged as a Papua native by the Papua adat community. Adat refers to hereditary customs acknowledged, adhered to, institutionalised and maintained by the local adat community. The adat community consists members of the Papua natives living in and bound to a certain area and adat with high solidarity among its members.

24. In terms of women's representation, the requirements for political parties contesting elections include 'accommodating at least 30% women's representation in the management of the central chapter of the political party' (Article 8(2)(e), *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*). Nominees for political parties' candidates 'shall contain at least 30% of women's representation' (Article 55, *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*).

25. Article 13 of *Law No 21 of 2001 on Special Autonomy for the Papua Province* states that the requirements and procedures for the preparation and implementation of election and appointment and instalment of the Governor and Deputy Governor shall be further stipulated by statutory regulations. These stages of preparation and implementation, as well as appointment and instalment, are set out in *Law 22 of 2014 on the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors*. The preparation stages involve: preparation of programs, activities and schedules; announcement of the registration of candidates for governor, regent and mayor;

registration of candidates; and a public test undertaken by each candidate. Implementation stages include: the delivery of the vision and mission; voting and counting; and determination of the election results.

26. A governor, regent or mayor holds office for five years and can be re-elected for one more term (Article 37, *Law 22 of 2014 on the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors*).

27. Considering the large number and volume of electoral laws, Indonesia itself has recognised the need to review and combine the various election laws to avoid inconsistencies and issues that have been frequently faced with implementation.¹ In 2016, an Election Bill was submitted by Government to the House of Representatives seeking to merge *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*, *Law 15 of 2011 on General Election Implementers*, and *Law 42 of 2008 on Presidential Elections*. The merge aims to substantially simplify and harmonise these three separate laws. Current President Joko Widodo has said that Indonesia needs to set up a new regulatory framework to enable the next election to produce more effective and accountable governance by simplifying the political party system and strengthening the presidential system.² Reforms will also accommodate Decision Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 of the Constitutional Court of Indonesia calling for legislative elections and presidential elections to be held simultaneously, starting in 2019.³

28. With the limited time in-country, the Forum Team faced difficulties in accessing official, updated and English copies of legislation, as well as difficulties with verifying copies obtained. The Team therefore relied on translated copies available from various online sources, including Indonesian Government and Legislative websites and the website of the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL).

The General Election Implementers

29. Under *Law Number 15 of 2011 on The General Election Implementers*, the responsibilities for national, provincial, regency, municipal, district and village elections are as follows:

National Election Commission	KPU	An Election Implementing Institution which is national, permanent and independent in nature.
Provincial Election Commission	Provincial KPU	An Election Implementing Institution at province level.
Regency / Municipality Election Commission	Regency / Municipality KPU	An Election Implementing Institution at the level of Regency/Municipality.
Sub-District Election Committee	PPK	Established by regency/municipality KPU to organise election at the level of sub-district in other names.
Polling Committee	PPS	A committee established by regency/municipality KPU to organise election at the level of village or in other name/township.
Overseas Election Committee	PPLN	A committee established by KPU to organise election abroad.
Polling Organizer Group	KPPS	A group established by PPS to organise election in a polling station.
Overseas Polling Organiser Group	KPPSLN	A group established by PPLN to conduct election in an overseas polling station.

¹ <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/09/13/bill-to-merge-three-election-laws.html>

² Ibid

³ <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/01/24/court-rules-one-voting-day-2019.html>

Election Supervisory Body	Bawaslu	An election implementing institution that has the duty to supervise the implementation of election in all the territories of Indonesia.
Provincial Election Supervisory Body	Provincial Bawaslu	A body established by the Bawaslu to supervise the implementation of election in provinces.
Regency / Municipality Election Supervisory Committee	Regency / Municipality Panwaslu	A committee established by Provincial Bawaslu to supervise implementation of Election in regencies/municipalities.
Sub-District Election Supervisory Committee	Sub-District Panswalu	A committee established by regency/municipality panswalu to supervise the implementation of election in sub-districts or in other names.
Election Field Supervisors		Are officers appointed by sub-district Panswalu to supervise the implementation of election in a village or in other names/township.
Overseas Election Supervisors		Are officers established by Bawaslu to supervise implementation of election overseas.
Election Implementers Honorary Council	DKPP	An institution with the function to manage violations of the code of ethics of Election Implementation and becomes part of the whole election implementation function.

30. Article 22E(5) of the Constitution rules that the Election Commission (KPU) is national, permanent, and independent. It is mandated by law to implement elections according to the functions, duties and authority of each institution. *Law Number 15 of 2011 on The General Election Implementers* comprehensively sets out the principles of the implementation of elections, the operation and management of the KPU and all other implementers listed above, their duties, authorities, powers and obligations.

31. The Forum Team believes that a fundamental component of protecting the individual's democratic right to representation (whether in national, provincial or municipal government) is the independent conduct of free and fair elections. The institution responsible for the conduct of elections should therefore be empowered to work free of any external influence, including the perception of external influence, and be adequately resourced in both funding and personnel, to ensure its independent operations.

32. The Forum Team noted the various levels and functions of election implementers and commends the provincial, regency and municipality KPUs on the conduct of the elections, which on the basis of the Team's observations, appeared free and fair as well as peaceful and orderly.

CONDUCT OF THE INDONESIAN REGIONAL HEADS ELECTION

33. Both teams arrived in the provinces during the 'cooling off period', which is the period when campaign activities are no longer allowed. This period begins three days prior to the voting date (Article 83(3), *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*). The team therefore could not observe the important campaigning and the pre-polling environment. However, the general environment in and around the provinces appeared to be free and peaceful and the Team did not witness any disruptions or public disorder relating to elections.

34. Candidates for the gubernatorial elections in West Papua consist three pairs of candidates, including the incumbent Governor. One of the pairs included a woman, and the team was pleased to note this considering structural, cultural and institutional factors affecting women's representation in Indonesian governance at the national and provincial levels. The Team commended Indonesia's strong commitment to increasing women's representation in national and regional parliaments and governments, including the statutory

gender quota of 30% of candidates. The creation of an enabling environment for women would help maintain a minimum number of women representatives in decision making.

35. Being the first opportunity for the Forum to observe Indonesian elections, the Forum Team familiarised themselves with the electoral process and learnt and valued the complexities involved in the conduct of elections in a country much larger and with a more complex electoral system than in most Forum members.

36. The Team also learnt the value of having an understanding (even a basic one) of the Bahasa language, considering the limited use of the English language. The Team were very thankful to national counterparts for facilitating communication throughout the mission, in particular on Election Day.

The poll

37. The official opening hours for the election was from 7.00am to 1.00pm on Wednesday 15 February 2017, which was a national public holiday. The Forum Team observed the conduct and closing of polling across 9 polling stations in Jayapura and surrounding areas, including Sikou at the border with Papua New Guinea, and 8 polling stations in the coastal areas of Manokwari.

38. In Manokwari, a meeting was held at 9.00am at the Office of the Police Commissioner of West Papua with the Acting Governor of West Papua, heads of security services, including the Commissioner of Police and Military Commander for West Papua, and the KPU. The Acting Governor was briefed about Election Day arrangements, in particular the security situation. The Police Commissioner advised that there were 2,857 polling stations in West Papua, 400 of which were in the Manokwari regency, include 100 in Manokwari city. A police officer was assigned to every polling booth. It was expected that remote areas would take up to two days to vote.

39. It was also an opportunity to discuss the Forum's visit. The Team Leader expressed the Forum's appreciation to the Acting Governor who was keen for future Forum visits, including to the upcoming Presidential and Legislative elections in 2019. The Team then accompanied the Acting Governor and his entourage of security officials to visit four polling stations from 9.30am – 11.30am.

40. At polling stations visited, the Forum Team observed the consistent layout of two polling booths (with screens), a single ballot box, a clearly marked area for the processing of voters, and a space for polling officials and security personnel to work in. The first station visited was a special polling station for persons with disabilities, which was situated in the front yard of the office of the KPU for West Papua. The polling station was entirely operated by persons with disabilities representing the various election implementers. The KPU had arranged for transportation for persons with disabilities. The Team was pleased to observe this station and commended efforts to facilitate accessible voting for persons with disabilities, which demonstrated Indonesia's commitment to respecting the rights of persons with disabilities to enjoy political rights on an equal basis with others. The Team noted special rules allowing assistance for physically impaired voters (e.g. Articles 157 and 165 of *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*). And further noted that Indonesia acceded to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in February 2006 and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in November 2011.

41. The second station visited was another special polling station located inside the Manokwari prison. Although the military cannot vote in Indonesia, Indonesia grants

extraordinary suffrage to its far-flung citizens, including inmates in prisons who are serving fewer than five years.⁴ The conduct of the voting appeared to be open for viewing by all inmates and seemed orderly, although those who were not eligible to vote began shouting in the local language, creating quite a commotion, in seeing the Acting Governor and his entourage enter the station.

42. The Team then went on to accompany two more visits of the Acting Governor to polling stations in certain districts of Manokwari. Overall, the Team noted the strong emphasis on security and public order. It was difficult for the Team to have comprehensively observe the polls while accompanying the Acting Governor and his team, because the voting process would halt while officials and voters greeted and chatted with the Acting Governor and his team. After which there were several photo and media sessions that took place before the Team had to quickly move on to the next station.

43. However, following the government programme, the Team received authorisation to observe other stations on their own. The Forum Team observed voting, counting and closing in an additional two polling stations.

Voting

44. Article 169 of *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections* provides that the Polling Organiser Group (KPPS/KPPSLN) is responsible for organised and smooth voting implementation. It also requires voters to cast their votes in an orderly and responsible manner, scrutineers to conduct their duties in a similar manner, and polling officials in charge of order, peace, and security to keep the polling environment in a clean, orderly, peaceful and secure condition. Field election supervisors are also required to supervise the implementation of voting. The Team noted that KPU and KPPS officials were clearly recognisable with their name tags and similar uniform.

45. The Forum Team noted the voting process was transparent, with polling officials trying their best to ensure voters were able to exercise their right to vote. For all the stations observed, the Team noted a consistent 'one way' internal set-up of polling stations. The set-up involved a single line and direction from the beginning when the voter entered, was issued the ballot paper and up to the final process of having their thumb inked after which they exited the polling station. This one way process resulted in an efficient and orderly fashion of processing voters.

46. The Forum Team was in agreement that although there were minor procedural issues witnessed across the various polling stations, these should not affect the validity or legality of votes cast. The Forum Team noted that all polling stations observed had specially allocated areas for scrutineers and observers that allowed a clear view of the process (except for the actual voting). Observers were informed of any electoral issues that arose.

47. The Forum Team commends the polling officials and security personnel for their professionalism and competence in facilitating polling in the stations observed. As a result, the Team did not witness any queues outside polling stations during voting. The Forum Team also commends the patience, dedication and compassion shown by all polling officials and voters alike, toward elderly voters, voters with disabilities, and people with young children.

Closing

⁴ <http://www.voanews.com/a/jakarta-prisoners-eager-to-vote-in-local-elections/3726881.html>

48. The Team observed closing in one polling station each in Manokwari and in Sikou on the border with Papua New Guinea. In Manokwari, Article 168 of *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections* requires the conduct of vote counting only after the voting period ends (Sub-Article (1)). Provisions concerning the ending of voting period are stipulated in KPU regulations (Sub-Article (2)). The Forum Team has no reason to suspect anything untoward as the entire process was undertaken in full view of all observers and the public.

The count

49. The Forum Team observed the opening and conduct of the preliminary count in one polling station and the sealing of a ballot box in another polling station. The counting of votes was done in a highly transparent manner with the polling official emptying the contents of each envelope and clearly counting out each vote that each candidate received. The Forum Team noted that witnesses for each candidate were present throughout the voting process in all the stations observed. It was clear that there was no intention or attempt to obscure the transparency of the process in any of the stations observed.

50. *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections* states that vote counting by the Polling Organiser Group (KPPS) must not be conducted before the voting period ends (Article 168). As mentioned above, in the station where the preliminary count was observed, the poll was closed about 30 minutes after the scheduled closing time. Afterwards, the KPPS organised the counting process and started by explaining the process to viewers and witnesses before opening the ballot box and counting out each ballot paper to ascertain the number of voters. Once this was done, the polling officer then read out the vote of each ballot paper, then handed it to another officer who sorted the votes while another officer tallied the votes on a large white board. The Team noticed that the papers read out were not placed into separate envelopes for each candidate, rather they were stacked separately on a desk and a chair where the counting was taking place. This made it difficult to track. At one polling station, the Forum Team observed government officials advising polling officials on how to conduct the counting. After the votes were read out, the tallied votes were compared with those tallied by each witness with one witness resulting with a different vote count. This resulted in a re-count.

51. The Team did not observe the re-count but moved on to another station where the preliminary count had ended and ballot papers had been placed in large envelopes for each candidate. The Team observed officials organising the envelopes, sealing and placing them in the ballot box before the box was locked with a single padlock. The ballot box was then transported by a polling official, followed by a police officer, from the polling station to the KPU in Manokwari where the official count would be undertaken. At this station, the Team observed a large number of polling officials handling the ballots, envelopes, and the ballot box. In that situation, it was difficult to count the exact number of polling officials involved in the sorting because there was so much movement of people.

52. At one of the polling stations in Jayapura, the Forum team observed visiting government officials offering advice to polling officials on how to carry out the counting process. This is contrary to a key principle of the implementation of elections, which is the independence of election implementers (Article 2, Chapter II of *Law 15 of 2011 on General Election Implementers*). Adequate training of polling officials would prevent future occurrences of this.

53. The official results were not available until 27 February 2017, after the PIF team had left. To win governorship, a candidate must get 50 percent of the votes required for an

outright win. If that was not achieved a runoff in April between the top two candidates would be held.⁵

CONCLUSIONS

54. The Forum Team is of the view that, from the limited exposure to the electoral process at the provincial level and polling stations observed:

- despite shortcomings, particularly with regard adherence to the Act and the dissemination of information from the Electoral Office and adequate training of polling officials, the Indonesian General Elections Commission should be congratulated for successfully conducting the 2017 Indonesian Regional Head Elections in Manokwari and Jayapura, particularly the facilitation of voting for persons with disabilities;
- polling officials conducted themselves in a professional and impartial manner;
- voters were able to exercise their civic rights freely and in secret; and
- the democratic process in Papua and West Papua would benefit from a consolidation of the various legal frameworks on elections, including *Law 8 of 2012 on Legislative Elections*, *Law 15 of 2011 on General Election Implementers*, *Law 42 of 2008 on Presidential Elections*, *Law 22 of 2014 on the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors*, and *Law 23 of 2014 on Local Government*.

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- the Chairman for The General Elections Commission of the Republic of Indonesia for the invitation to observe the regional elections;
- the Provincial Chairmen of the General Elections Commission in West Papua and Papua;
- the Governors of West Papua and Papua, the Regent and Acting Mayors of Jayapura and Manokwari, and Military and Police Commanders and Officials of West Papua and Papua for their kind hospitality;
- the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of The Republic of Indonesia for arranging and facilitating the Forum Team meetings and visit. In particular, the Forum Team acknowledges Mr Nicholas Simeone Messet, Special Staff for Special Autonomy Desk, for his assistance
- the polling and security officials at all stations visited by Team members for facilitating access to the stations;
- the people of Papua and West Papua.

Pacific Islands Forum Election Observer Team
September 2017

⁵ <http://www.voanews.com/a/all-eyes-on-jakarta-as-indonesia-hold-regional-elections/3725209.html>

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Jayapura, West Papua Province

Team 23 for Jayapura City in the Papua Province, 13 – 17 February 2017

1. The Regent of Jayapura, Matius Awoitauw
2. The Acting Mayor of Jayapura
3. Colonel Sidik, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of The Republic of Indonesia
4. Sri Sunati, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of The Republic of Indonesia
5. Franzalbert Joku, Special Staff for Special Autonomy Desk, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of The Republic of Indonesia
6. Mr Niko Jakarimilena

Manokwari, Papua Province

Team 2 for the West Papua Province, 13 – 17 February 2017

7. Syafiul, Bandep Wantannas, Team Leader
8. Nicholas Simeone Messet, Special Staff for Special Autonomy Desk, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of The Republic of Indonesia
9. Jhon Norotouw, Special Staff for Special Autonomy Desk, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and the Security of The Republic of Indonesia

Other stakeholders

10. Maygen Onesimus Wayangkauw, Commander, Kodam Kasuari, West Papua Province
11. Wahyu Handoyo, Chief of Information, Kodam Kasuari
12. Senior officials of the Government of Indonesia