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PRESS RELEASE

GERMANY APPRECIATES RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND PEACEFUL COHABITATION IN INDONESIA AND SEES A MODEL FOR RELIGIOUS LIFE IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD

The Head of Division for Intercultural Dialogue – Dialogue with the Islamic World at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Gabriela Linda Guellil, expressed her admiration over the successfully conducted elections in Indonesia. During a meeting with the Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Andri Hadi, conducted on 09 April 2009 in Berlin, Dr. Guellil also said that the attention of the German Government was focused on the tolerant and peaceful coexistence among different religious groups in Indonesia and that it could be a model for other regions in the world.

Andri Hadi, who was in Berlin from 08 – 09 April 2009 after attending the 2nd Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations held in Turkey to explore cooperation in the field of *interfaith dialogue* with the German government, elaborated during this meeting the different measures in intra- and interfaith dialogues Indonesia has taken so far with friendly countries such as Australia, Austria, Italy, the Vatican and Russia. On the same occasion, he announced to his German counterpart that the Indonesian government is planning to conduct a *Global Interfaith Dialogue* in 2010 in Indonesia and expressed his hope that Germany could be one of the participants.

During the meeting, the participants also discussed possibilities for future cooperation between Germany and Indonesia. In this vein, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Berlin, Eddy Pratomo, who also participated in the meeting, offered support by the Indonesian Embassy in Berlin to enhance this cooperation.

With respect to the preliminary results of the elections, Dr. Guellil extended her congratulations and said that the results of every general elections reflect the genuine wishes of the people of Indonesia which warrants respect by the international community. She also lauded the efficient conducting of the elections despite of geographic vastness and the large number of voters, and expressed her admiration for the advancement of democratic life in Indonesia.

Berlin, 15 April 2009