

*Human Rights Council – 34th session
Item 4 – General Debate*

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

Wednesday 15 March 2017



Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance draws attention to the situation of minorities at every Human Rights Council. A sustainable, developed state is not possible without equal rights of all citizens. Political diversity is not a threat but a necessity for reaching SDG16, the call to peaceful and democratic governance. The treatment of minorities by the authorities is the litmus test. That warrants constant attention to the subject.

One nation that has a keen understanding of including minorities is Indonesia. Moreover Indonesia is one of the biggest nations worldwide. So far it defies xenophobic misconceptions that Muslim majority countries are unstable in their efforts to allow for equal citizenship of non-Muslim communities. This is a notable achievement. But a Litmus test is looming here too. On April 19 the second round of the elections for Governor of Jakarta is scheduled. In the build-up the candidate of double minority descent faces opposition from fundamentalist groups that might affect his chances to be re-elected. Will this be a major stumbling block? That would be a loss for the flourishing of society. If not, then Indonesia again shows the way for the freedom of its citizens. A combination of rule of law and successful integration of minority communities is the way ahead for peace and prosperity.

We thank you Mr. President.