



12th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM

Nusa Dua, Bali, 5-6 December 2019

CLOSING REMARKS BY

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*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,
Om Swastiastu,
Salam kebajikan,*

Your Excellencies,
Your Honors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank you for your presence and valuable contribution in this biggest democracy event in the Asia Pacific Region.

As a member of the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to convey our full support for the constructive spirit built on the 12th Bali Democracy Forum, namely "**Democracy and Inclusivity**".

One of the main roles of the People's Representative Council is to guard the pace of democracy in an inclusive manner.

This role is in line with our endeavour towards transparency and accountability, as stated in our commitment for "Parliamentary Openness" in 2018.

The existence of today's Parliament is one proof that democracy works.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The history of modern Indonesian Parliament began on 29 August 1945, when Indonesia's first President, Sukarno, formed the Central Indonesian National Committee. It was the first post-independent parliament which is an indicator of Indonesia as a democratic nation.

Since then, Parliament in Indonesia has gradually become a central institution that is relied on to complete the transition for democracy, especially after the reforms movement in Indonesia, and at the same time, lay the foundation for the process of democratic consolidation.

Parliament, as an institution which carries out people's mandate, also often reforms itself to make changes that lead to more democratic governance and representation.

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,

Indonesia has experienced four periods of the democratization process since independence in 1945.

Indonesia is currently the largest democratic country in the world, in which 82% or about 158 million voters out of a total 199.9 million voters participated in the 2019 elections.

This progress in democracy has long been shared by Indonesia through the Bali Democracy Forum, an inclusive and open inter-governmental forum, where countries and other stakeholders from the Asia Pacific region discuss about the development of democracy, particularly in the region.

BDF was born from a strong belief that the promotion of democracy is an indivisible part of Indonesia's foreign policy.

BDF was created to help build a democratic architecture in the region through sharing of experiences and best practices, by adhering to the principles of equality, mutual understanding and respect.

Distinguished participants,

In the past two days, we have jointly participated the 12th Bali Democracy Forum in Nusa Dua, Bali, with “Democracy and Inclusivity” as its theme. In total, 461 people representing 87 countries and 7 international organization has participated in the 12th Bali Democracy Forum.

This forum was opened with a Welcoming Remarks from the Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno L.P. Marsudi, in which she highlighted some of the challenges of today's democracy

That economic inequality affects public views about democracy.

That political polarization will lead to violations of the principles and norms of democracy.

That manipulation of social media will damage democracy itself.

That there has been democratic setback by a number of democracy bearers.

These challenges were discussed in the BDF's Discussion Panels A, B, C, and D which we attended yesterday.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's Bali Democracy Forum highlights the important role of women as one of the pillars of inclusive democracy.

Recognition of the principle of equality of political rights and equity between women and men begins with the belief that the democratic state needs to facilitate all voices of people from various social backgrounds.

Therefore, the participation of women in decision making processes affecting their lives and communities becomes an important part of democracy.

These women's role supports democratic resilience of the country, especially in the current geopolitical dynamics.

Democratic resilience is needed to strengthen state institutions and promote a culture of inclusiveness as a prerequisite for SDGs.

Therefore, one of the attempts to increase the democratic resilience of one country is to increase women's involvement in the process of democratization towards an inclusiveness democracy. For that, women's perspectives are important requirements.

In this regard, the 12th BDF conducted a special panel for women that focused on the relations and urgency between women's leadership, inclusiveness and democracy. This is in line with SDGs and efforts to preserve the sustainability of gender equality agenda as well as sustainable development.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

In the last two days, we have witnessed various perspectives and insights on the challenges in fostering inclusive democracy and the efforts needed to overcome these challenges.

I sincerely hope all the participants could benefit from this forum with plenty of experiences, lessons learned, and new ideas to contribute to their respective country's democratic ideals.

On behalf of our country, we thank all **delegation** who participated and contributed to the success of this forum.

We also thank **the panelists** for giving us fresh insights, as well as the **facilitators** who helped us expediting our discussion.

We would also like to convey our gratitude to our fellow **journalist** who helped us echoing the messages derived from this forum.

And of course, for the **organizers** of the event, thank you for the hard work and dedication devoted to making the 12th BDF run smoothly.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

Thus, we hereby declare the 12th BDF completed.

I hope the participants can wrap up the democratic inclusiveness messages received in this forum as valuable tokens for their respective countries.

Wishing you a safe flight on your way home.

See you later and goodbye!

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