



14th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM

Nusa Dua, Bali, 9 December 2021

KEY ELEMENTS

Panel Discussion 1: Democracy for Humanity: Addressing Poverty

Current Conditions & Challenges

During Panel Discussion 1, countries and experts highlighted some related issues on ways democracy address poverty, as follows:

- The pandemic has put pressure on most countries' health, socio, and economic development and eroded democracy.
- The socio-economic impacts of the pandemics have caused global poverty to rise, creating more significant impediments on the fulfillment of fundamental human rights and exacerbating inequality.
- The impact of the pandemic adds to the challenges faced by democracies in the past few years, such as the rise of populism.
- Signs of eroding upholding democratic principles include the reduction of the practice of good governance, freedom of expression, the resurgence of discrimination and racism, and minimal participatory policymaking.
- Vulnerable groups, including those in conflict areas, are the most affected, with limited access to essential services such as health care and vaccines.
- The collapse of infrastructure in conflict areas also endangers the fulfillment of essential services, and without supports from the international community, the system will be on the brink of collapse.

Way Forward and Recommendations:

The Panelists and discussants shared some common experiences, way forwards, and recommendations to tackle the challenges, as follow:

- Strengthening good governance and the rule of law shall be the key to reviving the democratic principles in the post-pandemic era, including ensuring equal opportunity and public participation.
- Effective policymaking in recovery relies on the ability of all segments of society to participate equally. Women and girls should also be at the center of global recovery by allowing them to access economic opportunity and decision-making.

- Upholding democratic principles in governing shall contribute to the development and ensure stability.
- Promoting global democratic governance should include upholding free and fairer trade and strengthening connectivity between countries.
- Strengthening international cooperation through dialogue and financing is essential to address the deepening inequality and assure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- There is a need to bring together development financing and private financing to scale up responses, primarily for providing critical infrastructures that fulfill fundamental rights.
- Promoting human rights must involve sustaining dialogue and the contribution of civil society.
- There is a need to tap more digital ways and new technologies to solve the poverty crisis, especially new tools to leverage fundamental access to the most vulnerable.

Conclusion:

It is concluded that Panel Discussion 1 conveys messages as follow:

- Democracy is a powerful vehicle to advance socio and economic development that is equal and inclusive.
- Continue upholding good governance must be the key to promoting democracy, especially during the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government and private sector must continue cooperation and find innovative ways to pool and disburse resources needed to fulfill fundamental rights.
- Governments must ensure the rights of those most vulnerable for access and opportunity in socio-economic and political development.