



12th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM

Nusa Dua, Bali, 5-6 December 2019

OPENING STATEMENT BY

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**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all,... allow me to warmly welcome you all to Bali... to Indonesia.

Thank you very much for attending this Bali Democracy Forum... a Forum established since 2008.

This year we would like to start a new tradition... a more straightforward BDF... Less ceremonial... Thus providing more room for substantive discussions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

BDF was designed to promote and foster progressive democratic values in the Asia Pacific region.

BDF has become the premier platform to share experiences and best practices in:

- encouraging equality, mutual understanding and inclusivity;
- managing diversity;
- including in the implementation of democracy

There is “no one size fits all” in democracy.

While humanity provides us with a common value in human civilization. Democracy, as a tool of governance, will find its strength in relevance, when it is in synergy with local wisdom.

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen..

Democracy is a tool... it is not an end to itself... it is a tool to create peace... stability... and prosperity for all.

Allow me to share with you a research undertaken by my Ministry... involving 209 states/entities... to measure the correlation between the quality of freedom (democracy)... inclusivity... and the level of fragility.

The basic assumption... is that the three concepts are intertwined...

State tends to be less fragile... if they have more freedom and inclusivity. And vice versa... state tends to be more fragile... if they have less freedom and inclusivity.

The results of the research:

49%... shows an inclination toward correlation between freedom... inclusivity... and level of fragility.

10%... shows an inconsistent linkage.

41%... shows unaccounted linkage due to the lack of data

Should the data be more complete, I do believe that the number of those who are consistent will be more than 49%

This research shows that countries with more inclusivity will experience less fragility.

In the last 2 year... we witness local discontents in many countries... Discontent are even taking place in countries that have open elections... democratically elected leaders.

The majority of the countries in turmoil... show again... low level of freedom and inclusiveness... lead to higher fragility.

Therefore... the success of democracy is strongly linked by the extent of inclusiveness, to which:

Every person has the opportunity to contribute to democratic process

Every person can benefit from the fruits of democracy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen...

Let me now share with you... Indonesia's thoughts on how to ensure more inclusive democracy.

First... the people's trust toward democracy must be maintained.

In the midst of decline in confidence towards democratic institutions... it is our collective duty to restore people's trust in democracy.

This can be achieved by ensuring that democratic institutions fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people.

We must also work to ensure that sufficient space remains available for all voices to be heard.

Moreover... if views that democracy has failed arise,... it must be addressed democratically... and not through actions that are in contradiction to democratic values.

Second... **we must involve women**. To make democracy more inclusive, we must start with women.

We are pleased to note that EIU's Democracy Index 2018 found **women's political participation made the most significant advances in the past decade**.

In Indonesia's case.... the Indonesian Parliament has just elected a female Speaker, the first in the history of our Parliament.

The Global Women, Peace, Security (WPS) index measures three different dimensions of women's well-being, namely the level of inclusion, justice and security. The conclusion drawn... is that countries are more peaceful and prosperous... when women are accorded equal rights and opportunities.

I am very happy... that we have a number of female Foreign Ministers... who will share with us their thoughts and experience on women's role in advancing democracy.

Looking forward to hearing their views on how women can be empowered,... can fully participate... and be included in all activities... and decision making process.

Allow me to share with you also... that just last week... Indonesia hosted a Dialogue Forum between Indonesia and Afghan women.

The participants... came from both urban... and rural areas.. including areas affected by war and conflict.

At the end of the meeting... the participants agreed to have concrete follow-ups to the meeting, including the establishment of a network between Indonesian and Afghan women.

Indonesia's Foreign Policy will continue to give attention to women issue... as part of our commitment to implement Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Third, we must involve and empower our Millennial and Generation Z. The future of our democracy depends on you.

Political apathy is not an option, and we must guide our youths to channel their energy and creativity to spur innovation in democracy.

A part of our commitment to fully inclusive in building a stronger democracy ... in BDF... alongside the discussion held at the government level... we also conduct discussions among business, media... and the youth.

Ladies and Gentlemen...

All of us have a collective duty.

Our collective duty is to ensure that the positive development of democracy in the Asia-Pacific continues to grow.

Despite the many challenges, The Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index notes that for the past ten years the average score of democracy in Asia has increased from 5,4 in 2006 to 5,74 in 2016.

Let us work together:

to ensure that democracy delivers...

to ensure that democracy and its benefit are as inclusive as possible...

for it is an inclusive democracy... that can unite, provide hope and empower.

Thank you.

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