



14th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM
Nusa Dua, Bali, 9 December 2021

**OPENING REMARKS
BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.,
Selamat pagi, salam sejahtera bagi kita semua,
Om swastiastu, Namo buddhaya, Salam kebajikan,**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Welcome to the 14th Bali Democracy Forum.
2. This is the second year we gather here in a hybrid format.
3. We have yet to return to normal life.
4. But the world is indeed slowly getting back on its feet.
5. The global economy is showing signs of life and projected to grow 5.9% in 2021.
6. In some countries, pandemic restrictions have loosened.
7. Borders are reopening and international travel have gradually resumed.
8. **Our mindset has changed from survival to recovery.**
9. There is no doubt that the road to recovery is going to be a long one with many twists and turns.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

10. The pandemic comes at **a very bad time for democracy**.
11. According to the 2021 Report by Freedom House
 - ➔ global freedom **has been declining for 15 consecutive years**
 - ➔ and nearly 75% of the world's population live in countries that faced democratic backsliding last year.
12. The pandemic **has exacerbated this trend** including in established democracies.
13. In last year's Forum, we deliberated on how the pandemic forced us to **change the way we govern**.
14. One of the challenges identified by participants was **finding the right balance**
 - ➔ between upholding democratic values
 - ➔ and introducing temporary measures to manage the pandemic.
15. Many countries went through the process of trial and error and **the result has varied**.
16. The 2021 Report by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) pointed out that
 - ➔ some countries perform-exceptionally well
 - ➔ while others struggle significantly to maintain democracy during the pandemic.
17. Nevertheless, the fact stands that some of the best performers in pandemic response are democracies.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

18. If during the pandemic, we have to make some adjustment in our democratic governance, **in the course of recovery, we have to embrace core democratic values**.
19. The 2021 Democracy Perception Index Poll reveals that **people around the world actually preferred democracy even more**.
20. This opportunity must be seized and this Forum is our opportunity to discuss how democracy could
 - ➔ **improve the quality** of our recovery

- **ensure no one is left behind** in our recovery
- and **strengthen international enabling environment** for sustainable recovery.

21. Today I would like to underline **three important points** in this regard.
22. **FIRST, we must uphold EQUALITY to ensure swift recovery.**
23. In democracy, **equality is about fairness.**
24. Upholding equality means **affording the same conditions or opportunities** for everyone.
25. In the context of the pandemic, this means **giving everyone an equal chance to win this battle against COVID-19.**
26. With 28 vaccines currently approved for use, we now have a safe and effective weapon to end this pandemic and accelerate our recovery.
27. But our hope for smooth and sustainable recovery will depend on our ability to **ensure equal access** to vaccines for all.
28. Unfortunately, right now global vaccination gap remains wide as ever.
29. More than 8.2 billion doses have been administered globally.
30. But 80% of them have gone to G-20 countries compared to 0.4% to low-income countries.
31. 64.94% of people in high-income countries have been vaccinated with at least one dose compared to 8.06% in low-income countries.
32. We have no other option but to **democratize vaccine distribution** to all countries with a strong focus on those that have not received their primary dose.
33. In Indonesia, **we guarantee** that all citizens, rich or poor, urban dwellers or those in villages, have equal access to vaccines.
34. To date, we have vaccinated more than 142 million people well on track to meet the WHO's 40% vaccination target by the end of this year.
35. This is a very huge undertaking, but our commitment is unwavering.
36. We **trim bureaucratic red tapes** to make it easier for people to access vaccines
37. We also **involve a wide range of actors as vaccinators** to speed up our vaccination campaign.
38. At the global level, we also contribute to vaccine equity including through our role as Co-Chair of COVAX AMC Engagement Group.

39. The issue of **strengthening global health architecture** will also be brought up by Indonesia **during our Presidency in G20**, to make sure all countries can cope with any future pandemics.
40. **SECOND, we must promote INCLUSIVE policies to secure recovery for all.**
41. In democracy, **inclusivity means participation** of all citizens in all aspects of governance.
42. No one should be left behind, no voice should be left unheard, and no concerns should be left unaddressed.
43. In the context of the pandemic, this means the impacts of our recovery **must be felt by all citizens**.
 - ➔ especially **the poorest and the most vulnerables**
 - ➔ and those **hit hardest by this pandemic**
 - ➔ such as women, the youths, informal workers, persons with disabilities, and local communities.
44. **We have to democratize opportunity for recovery.**
45. Democracy will provide a meaningful space of dialogue to ensure our recovery addresses **specific challenges** faced by these groups.
46. By ensuring inclusivity, we can build **a more resilient post-pandemic society**.
47. The Indonesian Government is already on the right track.
48. We continue to renew our commitment to roll out **social protection programs**.
49. **Rice packages** have been distributed to 28.8 million beneficiary families.
50. **Social cash assistance** has reached 9.9 million beneficiary families.
51. And **Family Hope Program assistance** has been extended to 10 million underprivileged families to access basic social services.
52. In the meantime, we have been implementing **National Economic Recovery Programs** which focuses on business incentives and support for MSMEs.
53. **THIRD, we must create a JUST global economic architecture to accelerate our recovery.**
54. In democracy, **justice means anyone can exercise their rights and prosper** in the society.

55. In the context of the pandemic, this means every country should have equal opportunity to recover.
56. Reports from the UN and the international financial institutions have warned us about **lopsided economic recovery prospects** between countries.
57. About 90% of advanced economies are expected to regain their pre-pandemic per-capita income levels by 2022.
58. Meanwhile, the same strides would take many more years for most LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and middle-income countries.
59. A supportive international environment is required to enable countries to recover meaningfully.
60. Let us be honest with ourselves for a while
 - ➔ whether international economic norms and regulations were developed in a democratic manner in the interest of all countries?
 - ➔ and whether decision-making process in global financial system have always been democratic and inclusive?
61. The answers are a **resounding NO**.
62. We **cannot allow unjust actions or policies** that hinder others' pathway towards recovery.
63. It is about time we **democratize global economic architecture**.
64. No more monopoly in participation in the global supply chain ecosystem.
65. And no more rule by the strong in global economic governance.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

66. Democracy is a catalyst for positive change.
67. And we need democracy to recover from this pandemic.
68. I hope today we can learn many lessons from each other on how democratic values of EQUALITY, INCLUSIVITY, and JUSTICE could help us recover together and recover stronger.
69. Tonight, I will also accompany my President at President Biden's Summit for Democracy to share our experiences in nurturing and protecting our democracy.

70. On that note, I am honored to declare the 14th Bali Democracy Forum officially open.
71. May we all have a fruitful discussion.
72. I thank you.

