



14th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM

Nusa Dua, Bali, 9 December 2021

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

**Om Swastiastu,
Assalamu'alaikum wr.wb.,
May Peace with us all,
Good afternoon,**

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

1. It is a privilege for me to convey the closing remarks of the 14th Bali Democracy Forum.
2. Allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation to all speakers and participants for your active and invaluable contributions.
3. I believe that we had a fruitful and constructive discussion in today's Forum.
4. Prior to the discussion today, the Road to the 14th BDF began in October 2021 with a series of activities in three main pillars, namely:
 - The Bali Civil Society and Media Forum
 - The Bali Democratic Student Conference; and
 - The Economic Pillar or the Panel of Inclusive Economy.
5. We have heard opinions, insights and recommendations from the government and various elements of the society, particularly civil society, media, students, and the private sector.
6. The previous BDF has discussed the way we govern to find the correct balance between protecting democratic values and introducing emergency measures to mitigate the pandemic.
7. This means that this year's BDF has advanced in finding concrete avenues and ideas to further promote and strengthen democracy, while rebuild better, together and stronger in the new normal.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

8. A stronger democratic architecture is indispensable in the region while promoting social and economic justice for all in navigating our way of this pandemic and building sustainable recovery.
9. In that direction, let me share with you some of the takeaways from the Road to 14th BDF and today's discussion.
10. **First**, equality is mandatory for the recovery process.
11. We have to encourage that all elements of society work together while upholding democratic norms and values, in addressing the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. The utmost importance is to ensure equal access to vaccines to combat the growing global vaccination gap.
13. In addition to that, we need to revisit and improve the global value chain effectiveness of many products and services, particularly health related. Putting all eggs in one basket has been considered not only unacceptable risk for humanity, but also from business and investment proposition as non-sustainable.
14. The various measures against the COVID-19 teach us very good humbling lesson: recovery must be based on the principle of humanity, which emphasized inclusive policy, involving everyone and benefiting all.
15. **Second**, sustainable and inclusive recovery policies can only be achieved if we successfully empower and promote equal opportunities for women, youth, and people with disabilities.
 - This includes access to education for all such as literacy and know-how on finance, digital world and entrepreneurship.
 - Mainstreaming of gender perspective shall be the heart of the overall policies and decision-making processes.
16. In striving to achieve social recovery and empowerment of the these elements of society, we need to provide social protection measures to achieve a more resilient post-pandemic society.
17. **Third**, we have to work together to expedite our economic recovery... and build a stronger economic resilience.
18. At the regional level, our priority is to reactivate the region's economy.
19. We must jump-start regional connectivity and promote safe movement of people in the region.
20. At the same time, we have to identify ways to better integrate our economies into the global supply chain.
21. **Lastly**, let us go beyond the horizon and look at **the way forward** for promoting democracy in the post-pandemic era.
22. We should continue building a strong synergy and concerted efforts between state and civil society including media, students and the private sector, in complementing

and reinforcing each other.

23. This social capital will consequently mobilize resources to deliver services to the people.
24. Let me close the forum by bringing us back to the situation of Bali. The reality of challenges that Bali is still very much facing today, as a real test case for sustainable recovery in the new normal.
25. The vaccination rate of the island has reached 70 percent, much higher than the rest of the country which is still around 40 percent.
26. However, Bali economy experienced minus 2.9 percent in the third quarter of this year. That added to minus 12 percent in the same quarter last year, which means Bali economy today is almost 15 percent smaller this year than in 2019. Certainly one of the worst provinces, if not the worst performance in Indonesia. While the whole Indonesia economy is already 2 to 3 percent larger than the pre pandemic level of 2019.
27. Therefore, while it is considered that high vaccination rates are a prerequisite for recovery, coupled with social-welfare programs, as well as equal, inclusive, creative and innovative implementation, these are clearly not sufficient in themselves, despite almost 2 years after the pandemic hit us.
28. If you ask a hypothetical question to common Balinese: what would they choose between their life and livelihood? As religious person, many would answer that death is part of a normal cycle of life. There's nothing extraordinary about it. But without livelihood, the whole family, the whole village, the whole society would lose a true meaning of "real life".

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Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

29. There is a saying "**where there's a will there's a way**".
30. Your participation in Bali Democracy Forum today describes our 'collective will' to find 'ways' to uphold democracy and overcome our common challenges in promoting this value.
31. Our discussion to confront the challenges of the pandemic and its adverse impact is a reflection of our determination to not giving up and looking transformative ways to better prepare for our future.
32. I thank you for all your constructive and active engagement.
33. I hope to see you again at the next Bali Democracy Forum.
34. Thank you.
