



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

KEY ELEMENTS

Opening Session

Current Conditions & Challenges

During the Opening Session, Youth representative, UN Secretary General, and Indonesian Foreign Minister expressed current conditions and challenges, as follow:

Youth Representative

- Youth are disproportionately affected by the multidimensional crises brought by the pandemic such as disruption of education, economic uncertainty, loss of employment opportunity, mental health and domestic abuse.

UN Secretary General

- Pandemic has pushed the agenda of equality farther as it elevates the number of poverty, reduces access to social protection, healthcare, and food. It creates lopsided recovery, where some countries are able to generate quick recovery through vaccination while the others are in debt and struggling to provide vaccines to its people.

Indonesian Foreign Minister

- Countries mindsets are changed from survival to recovery, although the journey would be long with twists and turns. Countries face the challenge of finding the right balance between upholding democratic values and imposing measures to manage the pandemic.

Way Forward and Recommendations:

To address the challenges, the speakers in the Opening Session offer ways forward and recommendations, as follow:

Youth Representative

- Meaningful democracy allows youth participation. Thus, democracy should create enabling space for youth to exchange ideas and concerns and participate in creating solution.

UN Secretary General

- Global community must stand together so that developing countries can support their people. This can be done by providing urgent debt relief to countries in needs, ensuring access to vaccine to everyone and everywhere, investing in universal health coverage, social protection, education, and opportunity to all.

Indonesian Foreign Minister

- Countries must **uphold equality** to ensure swift recovery by democratizing vaccine distribution - focusing on those who have not received the primary dose, trimming bureaucratic red tapes, and involving wide range of actors as vaccinators.
- Countries must **promote inclusive policies** to secure recovery by democratizing opportunity to recovery and providing space of dialogue to ensure specific challenges faced by the vulnerable groups be addressed.
- Countries must **create just global economic architecture** to accelerate recovery by democratizing global economic architecture and other global architecture. More monopoly in participation of the global supply chain ecosystem must not be allowed.

Conclusion:

It is concluded that the speakers in the Opening Session convey messages, as follow:

- Equality is the engineer of recovery. Countries must work together and not letting the developing countries left behind.
- The role of youth is crucial in developing democracy as they serve as the driving force to recovery. Spaces must be made available to ensure the voices, ideas, and concerns of the youth be delivered.
- Democracy is a catalyst for positive changes and countries need democracy to recover. Democratic values of equality, inclusivity and justice could help countries to recover together and recover stronger.