



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

KEY ELEMENTS

Cross Pillar Discussion

Current Conditions & Challenges

During the Cross Pillar Discussion, representatives from the Government, Civil Society and Media, Youth and Economic Pillars expressed current conditions and challenges, as follow:

- Pandemic affects everyone but the impact's volume is not the same for every country. It delivers worse blow to the global South and to the least developed countries.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed underlying inequality structure in various countries, as there has been a surge of civil society activism at the grassroots level to assist people in vulnerable situations.
- The pandemic has also strained resources and cause imbalance between health, economic, and political priorities. It is imperative to promote global solidarity to create equal access to pharmacy and health facilities, including advocating TRIPs waiver.
- The media faces a lot of pressure during the pandemic, both through digital disruption and on the operational level. The situation presents an existential challenge for the media, it also serves as a momentum for the media to evolve, grow, and innovate.
- Democracy runs healthy when the youths are equipped with the necessary skill and knowledge. However, youths around the world are struggling to gain the proper access to adequate quality of education.
- Economic growth and cultural progress will always be influenced by democracy. Contemporary, creative economy is an integral part of world's civilization, since it has become a solid bridge between economy and democracy. Creative economy empowers people and contributes to the promotion of the universal values of democracy, human rights, freedom, and inclusivity

Way Forward and Recommendations:

To address the challenges, the Pillars offer ways forward and recommendations, as follow:

- Gender perspective must be at the center of economic policies that will fundamentally bring a better and more sustainable development outcomes for all.

- Also, it is important to build broad alliances for transformation in recovery, while policies need to be compromised and radical agenda need to be rejected.
- The main prescription to enable democracy for humanity is by providing a stronger and bigger inclusive participation, including the youth.
- There is a critical need for countries to reform their education system so that the curricula are equipped with the 21st centuries' needs of skills.
- Policies and institution-building within the creative ecosystem should be integrated to be able to connect all actors and economic players inclusively, harnessing the liaison between culture and digital technology.
- Pushing forward the agenda of digital literacy and digital access not only related to business, but also social and health services is important to close the gap of digital divide, especially during the pandemic.

Conclusion:

It is concluded that the speakers in Cross Pillar Discussion conveyed messages, as follow:

- CSOs involvement in the pandemic is by any means not intended to replace the Government's duty, but rather to make sure that there is a strong presence of public inputs and insights in the policy made by the government through an inclusive process. Meanwhile, the media should monitor the government to prevent misinformation surrounding the pandemic situation.
- State should have a closer cooperation with the media and consider assisting the media with some incentives to ensure media sustainability. However, this should not interfere with press criticism and media independency.
- The life blood of democracy and the core engine of recovery is justice. Ensuring and upholding equality that is stipulated in economic and social policies.
- Creative economy sectors are not yet in their full potential as new sources of economic growth and diversification. On that note, digital and ecological strategies must be applied in creating and implementing economic policies.
- Enabling participation from all elements of society will ensure inclusivity in the process of democracy. Synergy between all pillars, namely government, civil society and media, youth, and the private sector is the utmost importance to deliver democracy for humanity.