

**ANNUAL PRESS STATEMENT
OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS 2023
“LEADERSHIP IN A CHALLENGING WORLD”
11 JANUARY 2023**

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
May peace be upon us all,
Om Swastiastu,
Namo Buddhaya,
Salam Kebajikan,
Rahayu,*

**Honorable Mr. Utut Adianto, Head of Commission I of the Indonesia House of Representatives,
His Excellency Mr. Alwi Shihab, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia 1999-2001,
His Excellency Ambassador Triyono Wibowo, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia 2008-2011,
His Excellency Ambassador A.M. Fachir, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia 2014-2019,
Madame Juliani Malik,
Excellencies,
Ambassadors,
Colleagues from the media,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,**

Just this morning we received a sad news of the passing of Madame Yunisa Ali Alatas. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un*. Our deep condolences to the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Happy New Year 2023. Let us make 2023 a more peaceful and prosperous year for all.

We had just come out of a challenging year. The question is always how do we respond to these challenges?

Do we want to be part of the problem? Or become part of the solution. It is Indonesia's commitment to always be part of the solution.

Following the G20 Summit, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, and I quote: “I think in a very difficult context in which geopolitical divides have reached a climax, Indonesia has demonstrated an enormous capacity to bring parties together to promote dialogue and to try to push for solutions”.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia’s G20 presidency was carried out amidst a challenging global environment. Almost everyone doubts if the G20 will work, if the G20 will yield meaningful outcome to the world.

Alhamdulillah, these concerns do not materialize.

Indonesia’s leadership was able to keep the G20 intact, to work and produce concrete collaborations that are beneficial for the world, including developing countries.

The G20 Summit also produced a Declaration, a substantive Bali Declaration.

Without sacrificing the principles of the UN Charter, the Bali Declaration delivered commitment for concrete cooperation.

During its Presidency, Indonesia managed to achieve a number of breakthroughs, among others:

- The establishment of a Pandemic Fund;
- Bali Compact and Bali Energy Transition Roadmap;
- Digital Innovation Network; and
- Operationalization of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust to assist the fiscal space of developing countries.

The Bali Declaration comes with an Annex of 361 cooperation projects and programs between the G20 and partner countries for the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia had successfully accomplished one major responsibility as President of the G20.

While we lead, we unite. While we lead, we deliver.

I wish to convey, once again, my appreciation to those who have supported Indonesia's G20 presidency.

Indonesia has proven that friendship and collaboration can benefit the world.

I wish India all the best for the G20 Presidency and Indonesia will render its full support to India.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

In addition to the G20 Presidency, throughout 2022, Indonesian diplomacy continue to actively carry out:

First, diplomacy to protect our sovereignty.

Last year, a number of maritime boundary negotiations were conducted with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Palau. Among the progress achieved is the signing of the Indonesia-Vietnam EEZ delimitation agreement after 12 years of negotiations.

All maritime boundary negotiations are conducted in full respect to UNCLOS 1982.

Meanwhile, on land boundaries, a number of negotiations with Malaysia and Timor Leste were intensified. Indonesia and Malaysia have also concluded negotiations to revise the Border Crossing Agreement and Border Trade Agreement that will be signed this year.

Second, diplomacy to protect Indonesian citizens.

Throughout 2022, we have settled more than 30 thousand cases concerning the protection of Indonesian citizens, which includes:

- Repatriation of 422 Indonesians, victims of online scam syndicates from Cambodia;
- Release of 22 Indonesians from death penalty;
- Evacuation of 133 Indonesians from Ukraine; and
- Facilitation for the fulfilment of financial rights of Indonesians abroad with a value of more than 120.7 billion rupiah.

Prevention measures were also strengthened through bilateral agreements with Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, two countries with the highest concentration of Indonesian migrant workers.

At the multilateral level, Indonesia also promotes the establishment of international norms on the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers in various sectors both for domestic workers as well as professional workers.

Third, diplomacy for our economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Amidst a challenging global situation, economic diplomacy must continue to be strengthened.

In a bilateral context, throughout the G20 Presidency, we have concluded around 140 cooperation projects, valued at more than USD 71 billion or more than 1.100 trillion Rupiah.

Just Energy Transition Partnership with a value of USD 20 billion or more than Rp. 312 trillion was also agreed.

Efforts to increase market access are also carried out through the acceleration of bilateral trade agreements, with Chile, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Japan, and Mauritius.

At the regional level, the ratification of the RCEP was concluded. We have also conducted negotiations to upgrade ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA, ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA and provided support to Indonesia Expo 2022 which have resulted in recorded transactions of more than US\$ 15 billion or Rp. 233 Trillion.

Business meetings with countries from Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Eastern Europe were reignited last year, estimated to worth around hundreds of millions USD.

Fourth, diplomacy for health.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the pandemic, diplomacy works to support national and global health recovery.

516 million vaccines have been obtained, 137 million doses of which were obtained through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. 412 million doses of vaccines have been delivered to the people of Indonesia.

Indonesia continues to fight for the access of vaccines for all through our co-chairmanship at the *COVAX AMC Engagement Group*. By December 2022, COVAX has delivered 1,88 billion doses of vaccines to 146 countries, including 103 millions doses to Indonesia.

Indonesia has also become one of the hosts of ACHPEED, host of the AIDHM, and taken active part in the development of a new Pandemic Treaty.

Financial contributions to the global health sector have also been delivered through a US\$ 50 million grant for the Pandemic Fund, US\$ 5 million to CEPI; US\$ 15,5 million commitment to the Global Fund and US\$ 5 million for the Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies.

To strengthen national health resilience, diplomacy was carried out to make Indonesia a regional hub for research and vaccine production. Indonesia was selected as recipient of the mRNA vaccine technology from the WHO.

Last October, the President has launched the IndoVac, a domestically-produced COVID-19 vaccine, the result of collaboration between Bio Farma and the Baylor College of Medicine from the United States.

Fifth, Indonesia's contribution to the region and the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The pandemic and other global crisis do not diminish Indonesia's global contribution.

Throughout the past year, global attention was fixed on the war in Ukraine. Indonesia has consistently conveyed the importance of respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of other countries.

Indonesia has consistently called for relevant parties to initiate peace talks and to stop the war.

Indonesia strives for a swift reintegration of grain export from Ukraine and wheat as well as fertilizer from Russia.

In this context, the President has visited Kyiv and Moscow in July last year.

Reflecting our commitments to humanitarian cause, Indonesia has also provided grants, medicines and medical supplies as well as commitment for hospital reconstruction in Ukraine.

On Afghanistan, apart from humanitarian assistance, Indonesia continues to actively support the people of Afghanistan, particularly women, including through:

- Trilateral Ulema Dialogue Afghanistan-Indonesia-Qatar in Doha;
- Active participation in OIC's ulema mission to Kabul;
- Signing of Letter of Intent with Qatar to strengthen humanitarian assistance and capacity development for Afghanistan; and
- Organizing the International Conference on Afghan Women's Education on December 2022 which produced commitments and pledges to promote women education in Afghanistan

On Palestine, support for the struggle of the Palestinian people continue to be made.

Humanitarian assistance through grants have been delivered in the amount of Rp. 14,4 billion to address the impact of the pandemic, Rp. 7,2 billion rupiah through the ICRC, Rp. 3 billion rupiah annual allocation to the UNRWA for Palestinian refugees.

Indonesia will also maintain its presence, in solidarity with partner countries, among others in the provision of humanitarian assistance for flood mitigation in Pakistan, addressing the impact of economic crisis in Sri Lanka, pandemic mitigation in a number of Pacific countries, including in Solomon Islands, PNG and Fiji.

Throughout the past year, Indonesia continues to focus on the promotion of human rights at the regional and global level, through the 4th cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Regional Seminar UN Convention against Torture, Regional Conversation on Human Rights and ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue 2022.

Last year, Indonesia also hosted the 15th Bali Democracy Forum.

Indonesia has also put forward our candidature as member of the UN Human Rights Commission for 2024 - 2026. Indonesia looks forward for the support of all UN member countries for this candidature.

On ASEAN, a high appreciation goes to Cambodia for the excellent Chairmanship, including in encouraging the implementation of the 5PC in Myanmar.

Indonesia continues to promote the implementation of the 5PC, among others through initiating Foreign Ministers Meeting, in Jakarta as well as Phnom Penh; and Leaders Meeting in Phnom Penh in November 2022.

ASEAN is disappointed. Regardless of the efforts by the Chair and all ASEAN Member States, there is no significant progress in the implementation of the 5PC by the Myanmar military junta.

There was also no progress in the resolution of the Rohingya issue. Within the past three months, Indonesia received 644 Rohingya refugees. This brings the total of Rohingya ethnic migrants registered in Indonesia to 1,500 people.

The issue of Rohingya will be more difficult to resolve with the current situation in Myanmar. The Rohingya issue cannot be resolved if the root causes of the problem are left unaddressed.

Still concerning ASEAN, Indonesia has also initiated:

- Recommendations of the ASEAN High Level Task Force...on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness;
- Establishment of Core Elements of ASEAN Vision post-2025; and
- Elevation of ASEAN-United States partnership to a comprehensive strategic level.

Indonesia welcomes the in-principle admission of Timor-Leste as member of ASEAN.

On Indo Pacific, Indonesia continues to encourage concrete and inclusive cooperation in implementing the AOIP. The implementation of the AOIP should be mainstreamed in all ASEAN activities.

It is in this context that based on Indonesia's initiative, **the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) within ASEAN-led Mechanisms** was agreed upon.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As part of the Pacific nation, various efforts to increase cooperation with the South Pacific Countries continue to be exercised. Last September, I visited Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

Development cooperation was strengthened, among others through development of a Regional Agriculture Training Center in Fiji to strengthen food security in the Pacific, handover of multipurpose futsal court in the Solomon Islands to support the Pacific Games; and commencement of a hospital construction in the Solomon Islands.

Last December, Indonesia hosted the Archipelagic and Island States Ministerial Forum; and the Indonesia-Pacific Forum for Development (IPFD). IPFD will be a platform to institutionalize development cooperation in the Pacific Region.

Indonesia also seeks to bring the Pacific closer to the world. For the first time, under the Indonesian presidency representatives from the Pacific Island Forum were invited to series of G20 events.

There were 10 cooperation projects specifically dedicated to South Pacific countries two of which were initiated by Indonesia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Global challenges in 2023 will be more difficult. Global uncertainties and dynamic geopolitical situation will continue to characterize the world. Major power rivalries will become more intensified.

IMF predicts a slowdown in global economic growth from 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023.

The IMF Managing Director said that: "a third of the world economy to be in recession. Even in countries that are not in recession, it would feel like recession for hundreds of millions of people".

The WFP estimates that at least 50 million people will start 2023 at the brink of famine.

The UN GCRG warns that the food access crisis we are facing today could turn into a food availability crisis in 2023, especially if the fertilizer crisis at the global level continue to persist.

Climate change will continue to be a global concern.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the time of complex global challenges, a positive outlook, cooperation, and optimism are even more necessary.

These perspectives will guide Indonesia as it takes up the ASEAN Chairmanship this year.

Indonesia wants to see a resilient ASEAN and become a barometer for cooperation that would contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

With this spirit, the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023 theme will be "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth".

With ASEAN Matters, Indonesia is determined to make ASEAN important and relevant for the people of ASEAN and beyond.

In this regard, ASEAN must be prepared for ASEAN 2045, the centrality of ASEAN must be reinforced in order to maintain peace and stability in Southeast Asia and Indo Pacific, cooperation in tackling cross border crimes must be strengthened. The same goes with the ASEAN Human Rights dialogue.

On the sub-theme of Epicentrum of Growth, Indonesia is determined to make Southeast Asia the center for regional economic growth. The history and story of ASEAN is always related to economy.

Amidst the threats of recession, Southeast Asia's economy is projected to perform better than global average economic growth. Economists say that South East Asia is likely to stay a bright spot on a world edging toward a recession.

ADB predicts that ASEAN's economic growth would reach 4.7% in 2023.

Under the sub-theme of *epicentrum of growth*, a number of cooperations that will be strengthened includes food security, energy security, health and financial stability.

An Indo-Pacific region that is peaceful, stable, respecting international law and prioritizing inclusive cooperation is key for ASEAN to become the Epicentrum of Growth in the region and the world.

Therefore, the implementation of the AOIP will be the spirit of Indonesia's Chairmanship priorities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Many countries adopt their own Indo Pacific concept. Therefore, synergy is required so that these concepts do not exacerbate rivalry.

A paradigm of collaboration will be Indonesia's approach in the Indo Pacific.

Indonesia will continue to emphasize that the Indo Pacific Region must be approached not only from a security aspect but also from the aspect of inclusive economic development.

Indonesia will hold flagship events, that is the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum which will focus on Creative Economy, Youth Conference on Digital Economy for SDGs, Infrastructure Forum and Business and Investment Summit.

During the course of the Chairmanship, Indonesia will also continue to strengthen ASEAN relations with the Pacific Island States (PIF).

On Myanmar, as Chair and in accordance with the mandate of the 5PC, Indonesia will make every effort to help Myanmar exit from the political crisis.

The Office of Special Envoy will be established and led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Measures that will be taken by Indonesia will be entirely based on the 5PC and the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter in its entirety, among others adherence to the rule of law, good governance, the principle of democracy and constitutional government.

In accordance with the 5PC and the decisions of the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh last November, Indonesia will engage with all stakeholders.

Only through engagement with all stakeholders can the 5PC's mandate on facilitating the creation of a national dialogue be carried out.

Collaboration with the UN Secretary General Special Envoy will be continued.

Indonesia requests that the ASEAN Secretary General and the AHA Center to be given access to all stakeholders so that they can continue their mission to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The Indonesian chairmanship will also ensure that the development of the ASEAN community shall remain the priority focus.

The issue of Myanmar must not hold the ASEAN community development process to hostage.

ASEAN Summit will be held in two separate occasions, each in May and September.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition to the ASEAN Chairmanship, in 2023 Indonesia's diplomacy will also take priorities on several issues:

First, strengthening sovereignty diplomacy.

Maritime boundary negotiations priorities, include:

- Finalization of the Agreement on the Territorial Sea Delimitation with Malaysia in the Sulawesi Sea segment and Southern Part of Malacca Strait. The President and PM of Malaysia have committed to sign the document this year;
- Negotiations on the Continental Shelf delimitation with the Philippines; and
- Technical negotiation with Palau to reach partial agreement on the boundary line of the EEZ in certain segments.

Priorities on land boundary negotiation, include:

- Negotiation on land boundary demarcation on remaining unresolved segments with Timor-Leste i.e. Noel Besi/Citrana and Bijae Sunan/Oben;
- Resolving Outstanding Boundary Problem in confirming the Indonesia-Malaysia land boundary in the Eastern sector particularly on Sebatik Island and the Sinapad-Sesai river;
- Reactivating the Indonesia-Papua New Guinea Joint Border Committee (JBC) forum.

Second, strengthening protection diplomacy.

The Indonesian citizens protection internet portal version 2.0 and its mobile app will be reinforced to enhance service provision to the public.

We will also:

- accelerate the development of migration corridors for workers in the formal sector in a safe and orderly manner;
- expand cooperation in combating Human Trafficking, particularly against cyber crimes and online scams; and
- strengthen the role of ASEAN in the protection of Indonesian migrant workers.

To support the 2024 General Election, we will continue to update the database of overseas Indonesian citizens both within the Ministry and in overseas missions.

The task of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is clear: To ensure the fulfilment of political rights of Indonesians overseas, and data accountability of overseas voters.

Third, advancing economic cooperation.

This year we will focus on the acceleration of national economic recovery and the development of green economy.

Indonesia will accelerate the completion of mutually beneficial bilateral negotiations, including:

- CEPA with Canada dan Turkiye;
- PTA with Bangladesh, Djibouti, Fiji, Iran and Mauritius as well as Trade in Goods Agreement with Pakistan;
- BIT with Timor Leste; and
- Increasing investments from various countries to industrial parks in Indonesia.

At the regional level, Indonesia will intensify efforts to conclude the CEPA with MERCOSUR; the European Union and ASEAN-Canada CEPA.

For the African region, we will start initiating PTAs with a number of country groups, including SACU, ECOWAS and EAC.

A number of business forums will also be held, including the Indonesia-Europe Business Forum (IEBF).

Diplomacy to support the BUMN Go Global program will also continue.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support the Bali and Beyond Travel Fair 2023, as the largest travel exhibition in Indonesia.

In April, Indonesia will become the official partner country at the Hannover Messe in Germany.

Economic diplomacy will also be focused on strengthening green economy and fighting against discrimination in international trade.

Diplomacy will also protect Indonesia's economic sovereignty to manage its natural resources for the welfare of the people.

Therefore, Indonesia will continue to strengthen its downstream industries. Without boosting its downstream industry, developing countries such as Indonesia will not be able to make a leap in development. Welfare is the right of all nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The next priority, is to actively carry out peace and humanitarian diplomacy.

As mandated by the Consitution, Indonesia will remain steadfast in its support to the Palestinian struggle for independence.

Indonesia will continue to assist the people of Afghanistan, especially women, in gaining access to education.

Support for the implementation of the intra-Afghan Dialogue and cooperation among Ulemas, including the Indonesia-Qatar-Afghanistan Trilateral Ulemas Dialogue will continue.

Indonesia will encourage the OIC to play a more active role in resolving the issues of Palestine and Afghanistan.

Indonesia will continue to support efforts for peace between Ukraine and Russia.

In 2023, Indonesia will also chair the MIKTA. Indonesia's chairmanship will push forward three major priorities: Strengthening multilateralism, inclusive recovery and digital transformation.

Indonesia will seek to increase MIKTA's visibility as bridge builder in addressing global issues.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Given Indonesia's role and active global contribution, Indonesia has decided to put forward our candidature as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2029-2030.

The preparations will begin today. Indonesia looks forward for the support of all UN member countries for this candidature.

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen,

Going forward, the tests for Indonesia's diplomatic machinery will be increasingly challenging.

Creating a conducive working environment and commitment for bureaucratic reform to achieve the Corruption-Free Area (WBK)/ Clean and Serving Bureacracy (WBBM) qualifications will continue to be strengthened.

Gender mainstreaming and gender equality will continue to be integral part of programs at home and overseas missions.

We will continue to strengthen the organization to make it adaptive to the dynamics and challenges on the ground.

Last but not least, efforts to increase welfare will continue to be pursued.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, allow me to convey my highest appreciation to Commission I of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the media, relevant stakeholders, everyone and especially to all Indonesian diplomats, wherever you are.

Thank you for your support and cooperation toward Indonesia's diplomacy.

Indonesia will continue to contribute and play its leadership amidst a world full of challenges.

Leadership in a challenging world.

Thank you.

Wassalamualaikum Wr. Wb.