



**CHAIR'S STATEMENT
THE NINTH BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM
BALI, 8-9 DECEMBER 2016**

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Ninth Bali Democracy Forum (BDF IX) was held in Bali, Indonesia on 8 and 9 December 2016. The Forum was attended by 26 ministers and/or vice-ministerial level officials, and around 200 representatives from 45 participant countries and 50 countries and 6 international organizations as observer. (list of participants and observers appears as Annex)
2. The theme of this year's Forum is "Religion, Democracy and Pluralism".
3. In her report, Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Retno L. P. Marsudi emphasized the importance of the forum as a platform for learning and sharing on democracy and other related issues through discussion and dialogue. The Minister pointed out that in many democratic nations that are becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-religious and values, horizontal tension is a constant reality. Tolerance, pluralism, and moderation are imperative in addressing that challenge. She also underlined that in Indonesia, Islam, democracy and pluralism can co-exist in harmony that required continuous nurturing.
4. In his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Kofi Annan foundation stated that religion, pluralism, and democracy are mutually reinforcing foundations of a healthy, stable, and prosperous society. While acknowledging the role of religion in pursuing progress, he reminded that religion has also been used to exclude, persecute or kill others. He therefore argued that religion should be tempered by pluralism, and that democracy is the best system to secure pluralism. On this particular issue, he praised Indonesia for he believes Indonesia showcases the success of pluralism.
5. As diversity is on threat and the confidence in democracy is declining, Mr. Annan urged the return to common values of all religions, which are compassion, solidarity, and respect for human. He also emphasized the importance of revitalizing democracy, as diversity is only possible in a democratic government. Democracy is not just about election but is also about law and institutions to protect the rights of all citizens. He underlined the importance of an inclusive leadership to govern in a multicultural setting, and that democratic pluralism demands the commitment of all relevant stakeholders. Democracy is also a habit that needs to be cultivated.
6. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, officially opened the Forum. In his remarks, the President pointed out on the state of global anxiety as a result of several challenges such as new and unresolved conflicts, including the Palestine issue; the rise of violent extremism and radicalism; economic uncertainty; and the rise of intolerance and xenophobic attitudes. This year theme of BDF fits into such situation as it facilitated discussion on the interconnectedness of religion, democracy, and pluralism in



fostering peace and prosperity. President Joko Widodo underlined the critical role of governments in building synergy among religion, democracy, and pluralism. Good governance and public participation in the political process were identified as among the key elements for democratic government.

7. The President emphasized that democracy is a process and that learning from other countries' experiences is important. BDF therefore aims at facilitating the sharing of experiences and challenges in the process of democracy and development of relevant cooperation, by avoiding the practice of pointing finger. He also reemphasized the readiness of Indonesia and the Institute for Peace and Democracy to develop concrete cooperation in strengthening democracy and peace.

II. GENERAL DEBATE

8. The General Debate was preceded by the presentation of a report of the Bali Civil Society and Media Forum (BCSMF) as well as video messages by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General and President of the 71st UN General Assembly.
9. The BCSMF's report, which was presented by Ms. Yuli Ismartono and Mr. Noel Morada, highlighted the rise of a new kind of identity politics, which certain religious and ethnic groups have become more active and focal in claiming and reclaiming spaces in politics and democracy. The Report underlined the necessity of unity between the state and civil society to preserve diversity. Social media has contributed to undermine tolerance, pluralism, and democracy. There is a need of better education and media awareness to public, to develop media and digital literacy. There is also a need to better understand Islam, notably Islam Nusantara, or Islam of the Archipelago, which emphasis on moderation and tolerance.
10. UN Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon stated that diversity of cultures and religions is one of humanity's greatest strength. However, the rise of identity politics, hate speech and violence have caused instability. With the current trends in migration, globalization, and force displacement, diversity will increasingly define societies around the world. He emphasized that the reduction of inequalities and the development of more inclusive democratic societies are prerequisite to achieve sustainable development goals.
11. President of the 71st UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, stated that democratic principles are reflected as cross cutting priorities throughout the 2030 agenda and are given a standalone goal, the SDG 16. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is central to realize the BDF's objectives. He mentioned three complementary actions to foster interreligious harmony in pluralistic societies namely; (i) respecting human rights of all people where human rights, peace and security and sustainable development are interconnected and mutually reinforcing; (ii) good governance and building effective accountable and transparent institutions must be prioritized; and (iii) encouraging dialogue between people of different



background, faiths, culture, creeds and other differences to promote mutual understanding and respect, and foster peaceful coexistence.

12. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia chaired the General Debate. During this session, 39 Heads of Delegations and two representatives of International Organizations shared their respective views and experiences on the theme, which underpinned the following key points:
 - a. The important contribution of BDF in the process of institutionalization of democracy through developing dialogues and sharing best practices and lesson learned among the participating countries in strengthening democracy and pluralism; and cooperation among States.
 - b. The world has been facing the rise of religious political identity and intolerance as well as violent extremism as result of misused interpretation of religious teachings. There is a tendency of certain religious groups to claim and reclaim political arena. Tolerance and diversity have been encroached by religious political identity where solidarity of groups surpasses national solidarity.
 - c. Religions that have provided values, ethics and power to attain distinct goals in life have been frequently hijacked by religious fundamentalist groups. Extremism and fundamentalism have also contributed to the world’s security destabilization and intolerance.
 - d. Aside from the rise of religious identities, Islamophobia is also on the rise where many people have connected their hatred to the ISIS effect. Dialogues, the rule of law, and the promotion of pluralism and diversity will significantly contribute to the reduction of Islamophobia and religious extremism and radicalism.
 - e. Even though democracy is not only about election, popular election is a substantial requirement for democratic system. Strengthening democracy and pluralism can also be pushed, among others, through the dissemination of the values of tolerance, respect, and the culture of peace; the promotion of human rights; the provision of government services equally among citizens; as well as the facilitation of dialogue between government and community at large. Further, bringing people, notably grass root people and the minorities, into political process is also deemed as beneficial for strengthening democracy.
 - f. Good governance is a key foundation for a democratic government. Countries are also encouraged to observe the principles of transparency and accountability, as well as separation of powers.
 - g. Pluralism as an integral component of democracy has proven to help address global problems. In relation to this, Islam entails the values of pluralism and democracy.



- h. Recognition on the concept of home-grown democracy in which there is no one size fits all in democracy, and that democracy is essentially a continuous process. In this regard, learning from other's experiences remains important and should be further reemphasized in promoting democracy as well as addressing its challenges.
- i. The roles of dialogue and education in strengthening democracy and pluralism are very crucial. Inter-religious dialogue is particularly important to foster inter-religious understanding and moderation. Meanwhile, education serves as a platform to introduce, instil, and transfer the principles of democracy and pluralism to the wider society and next generations.

III. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

A. Panel Discussion I on " Promoting Democracy and Religious Harmony in Responding to the Challenges of Pluralism"

13. The Panel I Session was chaired by H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in 2001-2009. The session discussed best practices in the promotion of democracy and religious harmony to respond to the challenges to pluralism.
14. The panelists for this session were:
 - a. **Dr. Siti Ruhaini Dzuhayatin**, Commissioner of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Presentation: "Promoting Democracy and Religious Harmony in Plural Society"
 - b. **Mdm. Ouided Bouchamaoui**, Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts
Presentation: "Rebuilding Society and Promoting Religious Harmony: Democratic Responses"
 - c. **Mr. Charles Powell**, Director of Elcano Royal Institute
Presentation: "Managing the Change of Social Contours in Europe"
15. The Chair began the discussion by highlighting the fact that all democracies in the world both established and developing, are facing challenges and difficulties in reconciling democratic principle, religion and pluralism. Globalization, the rise of populist politics and large scale of migration have increased identity politics, narrow cultural and ethnic nationalism, xenophobia and islamophobia at the expense pluralism. The challenge for established democracies is how to reconcile the democratic principles with respect for differences of belief, ethnic and culture. In developing democracies, particularly countries with muslim majority, questions arised whether Islam and democracy are compatible. It is proven compatible in Indonesia, Tunisia and some other countries. The other question is how established democracies can accommodate Islam.



16. Some important issues were raised by the panelists, as follows:
 - a. Democracy and pluralism are threatened by the emergence of homogenous sentiment, particularly ethnic-religious centrism. States must defeat this challenge by transforming themselves into “modern civic nations” that put emphasis on citizenship bond.
 - b. Pluralism, in terms of religion, ethnicity, gender, ideology, political and other social affiliations, is a shift from peaceful co-existence to the engagement of pro-existence in addressing potential root-causes of intolerance, prejudice and discrimination.
 - c. Healthy democracy can only develop where there is religious, social and cultural harmony. In Tunisia, for example, Islam is the State religion but religious minorities are protected and provided room to flourish. In Indonesia, pluralism in terms of ethnicity, culture, tradition, as well as religions and belief (*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*) is an important foundation of the State guaranteed by the Constitution.
 - d. The promotion of religious harmony has to go through a workable pluralism. This is not only knowing and understanding the others but more addressing the root of causes of intolerance and also creates a mechanism of dialog and reconciliation of differences or conflicts.
 - e. Institution of democracy is threatened by the growing distrust to the establishment or the elites, which are being seen as unable to address the concern of ordinary people. This situation was cleverly exploited by populist politics as reflected by the rise of populism in the US and Europe which often bring the rightist group to power.
 - f. Established democracies which developed in the span of more than 300 years, where secularism flourished, but still it cannot guarantee tolerance of difference religious belief, culture and ethnic when facing major influx of migrants.
 - g. The exclusionist approach widens the cultural and religious diversity and therefore disturbing and threatening to the very core values and traditions. There is a need for the governments to create politics of inclusion, including social integration, starting at the local level, by promoting among others integrated education, integrated housing and investing in local economies.
 17. Problems of developing harmonious relationship between democracy, religion and pluralism are part and parcel of the continuous process of nation and state building. Both developed and developing countries face these problems. International cooperation and adequate national policies are needed to address the complexity of this challenge.
- B. Panel Discussion II** on “Sharing Best Practices and Key Lessons in Fostering Religious Harmony and Countering Violent Extremism and Discrimination through Democratic Responses”



18. Chaired by Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, former Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Panel Discussion II presented three panellists, namely: Lieutenant General (Ret.) Agus Widjojo, Chairman of Institute for Peace and Democracy Foundation; H.E. Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Chair of International IDEA Board of Advisers/ASEAN Secretary General of 2008 – 2012; and H.E. Moazzam Malik, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Indonesia. The session discussed various best practices and key lessons in fostering religious harmony and countering violent extremism and discrimination through democratic responses.
19. In opening the second panel, the Chair underlined ways for state actors in fostering moderation and promoting public civility amid the demographics change and increasing trends in public religiosity that have prompted renewed concerns about religious freedom and the role of the state. He mentioned the key issue of fostering democratic responses in countering violent extremism. He also highlighted some challenges in countering violent extremism and ways to engage religious communities and explore the role of regional cooperation to counter violent extremists.
20. During the discussion, the following key points were highlighted:
 - a. Multiculturalism and democracy is something that cannot be taken for granted.
 - b. It is important to strongly advance multiculturalism, pluralism, tolerance, religious freedom, and democracy.
 - c. Strong leadership and effective education are required to ensure such values will be passed on to the next generation, since the current and future setting at national and global level prevent those values to grow and be respected.
 - d. Democracy in a pluralistic society needs to manage religious and ethnic relations, which determines the quality of their democracy.
 - e. Religious and ethnic leaders and their communities need to have democratic mind-set, which means accepting difference and living in pluralistic society.
 - f. Best way to manage diversity is by way of pluralism, but not only recognizing differences, acknowledging and values as political assets.
 - g. In regard to Islam and democracy, Muslim should be part of the solution in terms of the problems faced, such as islamophobia. Muslim needs to be able to change the narrative on how Islam is being spoken at public forum, mosque and at grass root level, as well as how Islam is perceived by others. Self-reflection and criticism is needed to change the narrative.



- h. The need for institutional approach, especially rule of law and a systematic mechanism, is essential in order to ensure freedom of speech, pluralism, and protection of minorities.

IV. FIELD VISIT

21. On 9 December morning, the participants visited Bali Bina Insani Islamic Boarding School. This Islamic school is unique for it is situated in the Hindu majority province of Bali. Yet, there has been a long tradition of cordial relations between the school and the Hindu people. The participants praised this positive relations, and engaged in discussions with the school’s teachers and students on how best to manage social relations in a multicultural setting. The participants were explained that interactions in a multicultural setting require first and foremost sense of unity and solidarity as human beings. This sense will then surpass any narrow identity, which is always detrimental to the development of tolerance and harmony.

V. CLOSING

22. The Forum acknowledged the convening of International Seminar on Islam, Democracy, and the Challenges of Pluralism and Security on 6-7 December 2016, as part of the Bali Civil Society Forum and Bali Media Forum. The seminar was hosted by IPD in close cooperation with its partners and Indonesian Press Council.
23. Participating countries expressed satisfaction that the BDF had continued to grow and contributed to the shaping of a better and more democratic world. In this light, participating countries expressed their appreciation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for organizing the BDF IX and looked forward to the continued cooperative process in the future within the BDF framework.
24. Indonesian Government looks forward to welcome delegation to the BDF in 2017 that marks a decade of the initiative.

Nusa Dua – Bali - Indonesia, 9 December 2016

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33. Poland

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Ambassador of Poland to Indonesia

34. Portugal

H.E. Mr. Rui Fernando Sucena do Carmo
Ambassador of Portugal to Indonesia

35. Senegal

H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang
Ambassador of Senegal to Indonesia

36. Serbia

H.E. Mr. Slonbodan Marinkovic
Ambassador of Serbia to Indonesia

37. Slovakia

H.E. Mr. Michal Slivovic
Ambassador of Slovakia to Indonesia

38. Slovenia

H.E Madame Helena Drnovsek Zorko
Ambassador of Slovenia to Indonesia

39. South Africa

H.E. Mr Pakamisa Augustine Sifuba
Ambassador of South Africa to Indonesia

40. Spain

H.E Fransisco Jose Viquira Niel
Ambassador of Spain to Indonesia

Mr. Carlos Entrna Moratiel
Consular

41. Sudan

Mr. Tariq Abdalla Ali
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Sudan to Indonesia

Mr. Abd Alrahim M. Omer
Member of Delegation

42. Suriname

H.E Niermala Badrising
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Elaine H. Woode
Head Asia/Africa and Oceania Division, Ministry of Foreign Affair

43. Sweden

Mr. Joachim Bergström
Special Envoy to Combat Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia

44. Switzerland

H.E Yvonne Baumann
Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia

45. Tunisia

H.E. Mourad Belhassen
Ambassador of Tunisia to the Republic of Indonesia

Mrs. Ouided Bouchamoi
President of the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicraft

46. Ukraine

H.E Mr. Volodymyr Pakhil
Ambassador of Ukraine to Indonesia

47. United Kingdom

H.E Mr. Moazzam Malik
Ambassador of British to the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Harry McDonald
Political Counsellor, British Embassy

Ms. Faye Belnis
Spokeperson/Deputy Chief of Media and Communication

Mrs. Nabilla Sabban
Assistant Political Officer, British Embassy

Mr. Nur Kholis
Close Protection to the British Ambassador, British Embassy

Mr. Agam Sulaksono
Close Protection to the British Ambassador, British Embassy

48. United States

H.E Nina Hachigan
Ambassador of United States to ASEAN

Ms. Christina Li
Special Advisor for Religion and Global Affairs

Mr. Aaron Jansen
Deputy Political Counselor

Ms. Tori Stephens
Political Officer

Ms. Pajj Lintz
Political Officer

49. Venezuela

H.E. Ms. Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Duran
Ambassador of Venezuela to Indonesia

Mr. Julio Cesar Aray Nardella
Second Secretary of the Embassy of Venezuela to Indonesia

50. Zimbabwe

H.E. Mr. Edgar Mbwembwe
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E Alice Mageza
Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Macmillan Moyana
MOFA: Official

Mr. Success Mapanga
MOFA: Official

H.E Alice Mageza
Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Indonesia

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Community of Democracies

H.E Mrs. Maria Leissner

Secretary General of the Community of Democracies

Mr. Matyas Eorsi

Senior Advisor to Secretary General of the Community of Democracies

Mr. Wojciech Solak

Project Officer, PSCD

Ms. Beata Chrostek

Executive Assistant, PSCD

Ms. Alma Strid

Intern, PSCD

2. European Union

H.E Mr. Vincent Guerend

Ambassador of the European Union to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam

3. IDEA

H.E Mr. Surin Pitsuwan

International IDEA Board of Adviser Chair

Ms. Leena Tamang

Regional Director of Asia and Pacific

Mr. Adhy Aman

Senior Programme Officer

Mr. Luis J. Consuegra

Member of Delegation

4. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Mr. Luc Haas

Deputy Head of the ICRC Regional

5. Melanesian Spearhead Group

Ambassador Ms. Amena Yauvoli

Director General for Asia, Pacific and Africa

6. United Nations

Mr. Mark Harris

Liaison officer to ASEAN