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 centris. 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 flourished. 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 extremisms.

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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PARTICIPANTS

1. Afghanistan
   H.E. Mr. Faiz Mohammad Osmani
   Minister for Religious Affairs and Haj
   Ms. Roya Rahmani
   Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
   Mr. Abdullah Omari
   Official

2. Armenia
   H.E. Mr. Armen Papikyan
   Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
   H.E. Ms. Anna Aghadjanian
   Ambassador of Armenia to the Republic of Indonesia
   Mr. Vardan Sargsyan
   Third Secretary

3. Australia
   Dr. Justin Lee
   Deputy Head of Mission
   Dr. Helena Studdert
   Consul General in Bali
   Mr. Aron Corbett
   Consul, Australian Consulate General in Bali
   Ms. Natasa Nadjovski
   Second Secretary, Political, Australian Embassy in Bali

4. Azerbaijan
   H.E. Dr. Tamerlan Garayev
   Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Indonesia

5. Bahrain
   H.E. Mr. Adel Yousir Sater
   Ambassador of Bahrain to the Republic of Indonesia
6. **Bangladesh**
   H.E. Mr. Kazi Ahmed MP  
   Honorable Member of Bangladesh Parliament/leader of Bangladesh delegation

   Ms. Sehell Sabrin  
   CDA a.i & Counsellor, Bangladesh Embassy in Jakarta

7. **Brunei Darussalam**
   H.E Y.M Dato Paduka Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pikerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof  
   Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs

   Ms. Hajah Mardiana Haji Omar  
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. DK Noradillah PG Abd Malik  
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Mohammad Dani Adenan  
   Member of Delegation

8. **Cambodia**
   H.E Norng Sakal  
   Ambassador of Cambodia to the Republic of Indonesia

   Mr. Bun Sokhen  
   Third Secretary

9. **China**
   H.E. Mr. Lu Shumin  
   Executive Vice President of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

   Ms. Zhang Ling  
   Deputy Division Director, Asian Department

   Ms. Du Min  
   Researcher, Asian Department

   Ms. Xiao Li Xian  
   Vice Consul

10. **Fiji**
   H.E Mr. Seremaia Cavuilati  
   Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Pauliasi Tokasaya  
First Secretary-Fiji Embassy  

**11. Georgia**  
H.E. Mr. Zurab Aleksidze  
Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Indonesia  

**12. India**  
Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu  
Consulate General of India  

Ms. Trishla Kumari  
Official of the Consulate General of India in Denpasar  

Ms. Wulan Widiasari  
Official of the Consulate General of India in Denpasar  

Mr. Subrata Sarkar  
Official of the Consulate General of India in Denpasar  

**13. Indonesia**  
H.E. Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia  

H.E. Mr. A.M. Fachir  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia  

H.E. Esti Andayani  
Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy  

H.E. Hasan Kleib  
Director General for Multilateral Affairs  

Mr. Feri Meldi  
Head of the Center for Interreligious Harmony, Ministry of Religious Affairs  

Dr. Azyumardi Azra  
Former Rector of State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta  

**14. Iran**  
H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Rahimpour  
Deputy for Asia & Pacific Affairs
H.E. Valiollah Mohammadi  
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Indonesia

Mr. Mohammad Javad Hemmatpanah  
Director for South Asian Pacific, MoFA of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Ali Mohammad Ramezan Zadeh  
Expert in International Affairs, MoFA of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Amir Rostam Dokht  
Interpreter and Administrative Staff of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Indonesia

15. Iraq  
H.E. Mr. Abdullah Hasan Sali  
Ambassador of Iraq to the Republic of Indonesia

16. Japan  
H.E. Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Hirotaka Matsuo  
Director Second Southeast Asia Division, MOFA

Mr. Takumi Kawano  
Secretary to Vice-Minister Odawara, MOFA

Mr. Masatake Ito  
Indonesian Desk Officer, Second Southeast Asia Division, MOFA

Ms. Mariko Watanabe  
Officer, Second Southeast Asia Division, MOFA

Mr. Kouzou Honsei  
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia

Ms. Yuko Sunohara  
Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia

Mr. Hirohisa Chiba  
Consul-General, Consulate General of Japan in Denpasar

Mr. Koichi Ohashi  
Deputy Consul-General, Consulate General of Japan in Denpasar
Mr. Yuto Koizumi
Consul-General, Consulate General of Japan in Denpasar

17. Jordan
H.E. Mr. Walid Abdel Rahman Jaffar Al Hadid
Ambassador of Jordan to the Republic of Indonesia

18. Kazakhstan
H.E. Mr. Askhat Orazbay
Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Indonesia

19. Korea
H.E. Mr. Cho Tai-young
Ambassador of Korea to the Republic of Indonesia

Mrs. Song Song-Min
Second Secretary (Political)

Ms. Kim Da Eun
Second Secretary

Ms. Chung Do Dam
Researcher/Interpreter

20. Kuwait
H.E. Mr. Abdulwahab Al-Saquer
Ambassador of Kuwait to the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Awalludin Abutari
Member of Delegation

21. Laos
H.E. Mr. Phongsavath Boupha
Former Minister of the President's Office

22. Malaysia
H.E. Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican
Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Sarah Al Bakri Devadason
Undersecretary of Human Rights and Humanities Division

Mr. James Koh Siaw Heong
Principal Assistant Secretary
23. Maldives
   H.E. Dr. Mohamed Asim
   Minister of Foreign Affairs

   Ms. Aminath Shabeena
   Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

24. Mongolia
   H.E Mr Purevsuren Lundeg
   Foreign Policy and Security Advisor to the President of Mongolia

   Mr. Enkhtaivan Dashnyam
   Counsellor and DCM

   Mr. Nyamrodj Chuluunbaatar
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Tjandra Gozali
   Member of Delegation

25. Myanmar
   H.E. Mr. Aung Htoo
   Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia

   Ms. Lei Yi Win
   Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

26. Nepal
   H.E Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat
   Minister of Foreign Affairs

   Mr. Prakash Adhikari
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Tirta Raj Wagle
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Yek Raj Pathak
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal
   Member of Delegation
27. New Zealand
   H.E Dr. Trevor Matheson
   Ambassador of New Zealand to the Republic of Indonesia

   Mr. Danny Eyre
   Second Secretary (Trade and Economy)

28. Oman
   H.E. Dr. Mohammad bin Awad Al Hassan
   Undersecretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

   Mr. Nazar Al Said
   Member of Delegation

29. Pakistan
   H.E Mohammad Aqil Nadeem
   Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Indonesia

30. Palestine
   H.E Dr. Riad Al Malki
   Minister of Foreign Affairs

   Mr. Taher Ahmad
   Charge d'Affaires of the Palestine Embassy to the Republic of Indonesia

   Ms. Doaa Nafal
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Muammar H.H. Milhem
   Member of Delegation

31. Papua New Guinea
   H.E. Mr. Rimbink Pato
   Minister of Foreign Affairs

   Mr. Terry Injia
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Paul Panoa
   Member of Delegation

   Mr. Peter Hiri Ilau
   Member of Delegation
32. **Philippines**
   H.E Honorable Mr. Ernesto C. Abella  
   Presidential Spokeperson

   H.E. Ms. Maria Lumen B. Isleta  
   Ambassador of Philippines to the Republic of Indonesia

   Ms. Shirlene C. Mananquil  
   First Secretary and Consul

   Mr. Rizaldo Esteban  
   Executive Assistant of the Presidential Spokeperson

   Ms. Nathalie A. Fajardo  
   Attache

   Madame Joy Lao Abella  
   Spouse to Presidential Spokeperson

33. **Qatar**
   H.E. Mr. Sultan Bin Saad Al Muraikh  
   Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

   H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Jassim Al-Hamar  
   Ambassador to the State of Qatar to the Republic of Indonesia

   H. E. Mr. Faris Bin Roumi Al Nuaimi  
   Ambassador at the office of the Minister of State for Foreign Affair

   Mr. Abdulla Yousuf Al-Sai  
   Administrative Researcher

   Mr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Hamar  
   Director for Asian Affairs, MoFA

   Mr. Ali Abdulrazak al-Hashimi  
   Political Researcher at the Directorate of Asian Affairs

   Mr. Imam Byhaqi  
   Member of Delegation

34. **Russia**
   Mr. Anatoly Viktorov  
   Director-General for Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights
Mr. Denis N. Fedorov  
Counsellor of the Embassy of Russian Federation

35. Saudi Arabia  
H.E. Mr. Osamh M. Al-Shuibi  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Indonesia

H.E. Isom A. Bobsaid  
Staff of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to Indonesia

Dr. C.A. Jamaluddin  
Staff of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to Indonesia

36. Singapore  
H.E. Mr. Amrin Amin  
Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Mr Daniel Wang  
Assistant Director (Southeast Asia I)

Mr Isaac Lim  
Assistant Director (Southeast Asia I)

Mr Nicholas Lee  
Counsellor (Political)

Mr Nicholas Koh  
First Secretary (Political)

37. Solomon Islands  
H.E. Mr. Francisco Jose Viquira Niel  
Ambassador of Solomon Islands

38. Srilanka  
H.E. Mr. Dharshana M. Perera  
Ambassador of Srilanka to the Republic of Indonesia

39. Thailand  
H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok  
Deputy Permanent Secretary

Mr. Naruchai Nirmad  
Minister Counsellor Office of the Permanent Secretary
Miss Jitvipa Bejasil  
Counsellor, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, MOFA of Thailand

Mr. Worrawit Pamaranit  
First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy

40. Timor Leste  
H.E Mr. Hernani Coelho  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Alberto Carlos  
Ambassador of Timor Leste to Indonesia

Ms. Maria Teresa Carvalho  
Consul General of Timor Leste in Denpasar

Mr. Marcos Dos Reis Da Silva  
Counsellor, Embassy of Timor Leste to Indonesia

Mr. George Yordan Setiawan  
Member of Delegation

Mr. Benevides Alves Do N.  
Member of Delegation

Ms. Savitri Wulandari  
Member of Delegation

41. Turkmenistan  
H.E Mr. Yagmyr Nuryyev  
Head of the Institute of State and Law

Mr. Baymammet Annamyradov  
Member of Delegation

Mr. Gurban Amanliyev  
Member of Delegation

42. Turkey  
H.E Dr. M.K Sander Gurbuz  
Ambassador of Turkey to the Republic of Indonesia
43. United Arab Emirates  
   H.E Y.M Mohammed Abdulla Al Ghafi  
   Ambassador of UAE to the Republic of Indonesia  
   Mr. Mohammed Abbas Al Khoori  
   Second Secretary  
   Abdurrahman Ali  
   Media and Information Staff  

44. Uzbekistan  
   H.E Shavkat Jamalov  
   Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Indonesia  

45. Vietnam  
   H.E Dr. Hoang Anh Tuan  
   Ambassador of Vietnam to the Republic of Indonesia  
   Mr. Le Duc Manh  
   First Secretary
1. Algeria
   H. E Abdelkader Aziria
   Ambassador of Algeria to the Republic of Indonesia

2. Argentina
   H.E. Ricardo Luis Bocalandro
   Ambassador of Argentina to the Republic of Indonesia

3. Austria
   Mr. Josko Emrich
   Charge D’ Affair of Ambassador of Austrian Embassy to Indonesia
   
   Prof. Rudiger Lohlker
   Delegation from University of Vienna

4. Belarus
   H.E. Mr. Vladimir Lopato-Zagorsky
   Ambassador of Belarus to Indonesia
   
   Mr. Mikalai Dzivakou
   Staff

5. Belgium
   H.E. Mr. Patrick Hermann
   Ambassador of Belgium to Indonesia

6. Bosnia and Herzegovina
   H.E Mr. Muhammed Čengić
   Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Indonesia

7. Brazil
   H.E. Mr. Rubem Correa
   Ambassador of Brazil to the Republic of Indonesia

8. Bulgaria
   H.E. Mr. Sergey Michev
   Ambassador of Bulgaria to the Republic of Indonesia

9. Canada
   Mrs. Helene Viau
   Charge D’ Affair of the Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Indonesia
Kate Chaurchill-Smith  
Second Secretary of Political

Mellissa Cardinal  
First Secretary of Economy

10. Chile  
H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Mendoza  
Ambassador of Chile to Indonesia

11. Colombia  
H.E. Mr. Jose Renato Salazar  
Ambassador

12. Czech Republic  
H.E. Mr. Ivan Hotek  
Ambassador of Czech Republic to Indonesia

13. Denmark  
H.E. Mr. Casper Klynge  
Ambassador of Denmark to Indonesia

Mrs. Elsebeh Sondergaard-Krone  
Deputy Chief of Mission to the Ambassador of Denmark to Indonesia

14. Ecuador  
Mrs. Maria Augusta Velasco  
Charge D’ Affair to the Ambassador of Ecuador to Indonesia

15. Ethiopia  
H.E. Mr. Arega Hailu Teffera  
Ambassador of Ethiopia to the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Gisla Sahlemikael Desta  
Minister Counsellor

16. Finland  
H.E Mrs. Paivi Hiltunen-Toivo  
Ambassador of Finland to Indonesia

17. France  
H.E Mr. Jean-Charles Berthonnet  
Ambassador of France to Indonesia
LIST OF DELEGATES
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ANNEX

Mr. Quentin Biehler
First Secretary
Ms. Genevieve Famy
Counsellor

Mr. Jean Christophe P.
Member of Delegation

18. Germany
H.E Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg
Ambassador of Germany to Indonesia

Mr. Jens Hoch
Staff

19. Hungary
H.E Madame Judit Nemeth-Pach
Ambassador of Hungary to the Republic of Indonesia

20. Ireland
H.E. Mr. Kyle O'Sullivan
Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Indonesia

21. Italy
H.E Vittorio Sandali
Ambassador of Italy to Indonesia

Mr. Federico Novellino
Head of Political Section

Mr. Giuseppe Confessa
Honorary Consulate, Bali

22. Lebanon
Mrs. Joanna Azzi
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

23. Libya
HE Mr. Mohamed Attaher Siyala
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Sadegh M. Bensadegh
Ambassador of Libya to Indonesia
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ANNEX

Mr. Lutfi Al Amin Almaghriby
Director for the Minister's Office

Mr. Abdul Qadir Ali Alhamali
Staff of the Minister's Office

Mr. Imad Mohamad Ubud
Security

24. Luxembourg
   Mr. Marc de Bourcy
   Deputy Head of Mission

25. Mexico
   H.E. Federico Salas
   Ambassador of Mexico to Indonesia

26. Morocco
   Mr. Zakaria Rifki
   Deputy Chief of Mission to the Embassy of Morocco to Indonesia

   Mr. Mostafa Nakhlaoui
   Counsellor

27. Mozambique
   H.E Ms. Maria Gustava
   Ambassador of Mozambique to Indonesia

28. Namibia
   H.E. Anne Namakau Mutelo
   Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Indonesia

   Mr. Glynn Denzel Koopman
   First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Namibia to Indonesia

29. Netherlands
   H.E Rob Swartbolt
   Ambassador of Netherlands to Indonesia

   Mr. Felix Sharief
   Senior Policy Advisor of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands
30. Nigeria
   Mr. Ibim Nkem Charles
   Charge D’ Affair of Ambassador of Nigeria to Indonesia
   Mr. Ado Ningi Ibrahim
   Minister (Consular)
   Mrs. Abibmola S. Raji
   Counsellor

31. Norway
   Ms. Hilde Solbakken
   Charge d' Affair
   Ms. Hana Ryba Cervenka
   First Secretary

32. Peru
   H.E. Mr. Roberto Seminario
   Ambassador of Peru to Indonesia

33. Poland
   H.E. Mr. Tadeusz Szumowski
   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 Entra Moratiel
   Consular

41. Sudan
   Mr. Tarig 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. Paij 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