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Statement by

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**At the General Debate of the 68th Session
Of the United Nations General Assembly**

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Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating H.E. Ambassador John W. Ashe for the presidency of the 68th Session of the General Assembly. May I also take this opportunity to commend His Excellency Vuc Jeremić, for his skillful stewardship of the 67th Session. Our profound appreciation, of course, also goes to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his inspirational leadership of our organization.

Mr. President,

The theme of this Session, “Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage”, is timely and well chosen.

For we are now making that final push toward the fulfillment of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. And, simultaneously, work has begun on framing the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

A global development agenda to end extreme poverty and ensure sustainable growth with equity; one that must be anchored by a new global partnership.

A vision reflected in President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s role as one of the three Co-chairs to the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

A recognition that the success of the forthcoming intergovernmental process requires a capacity to forge a global consensus; to identify and build on common interests.

Mr. President,

Indonesia has an enduring belief in the efficacy and effectiveness of diplomacy.

In maintaining peace and security.

In advancing social progress and economic prosperity.

And in promoting democracy, human rights and tolerance.

Mr. President,

The conflict in Syria has long demand such political and diplomatic solution.

For amidst the undoubted complexity of the situation – three key points remain compelling; halt the violence; facilitate humanitarian relief; and begin an inclusive political process reflecting the wishes of the Syrian people.

The recent breakthrough on the issue of chemical weapons in Syria is clear evidence that diplomacy works.

Further diplomatic momentum must be build – the Security Council must be one in forcefully making the case for peaceful settlement. To get the parties to the negotiating table. The Geneva II Conference must be convened at the earliest opportunity.

On the issue of Palestine, the full weight of diplomatic pressure must similarly be brought to bear. Resolutions of our General Assembly and the Security Council implemented.

The historic injustice that the Palestinian people have suffered for so long must be ended.

We are encouraged by, and welcome, therefore, the resumption of the direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel – a result, no less, of a painstaking and relentless diplomatic efforts.

Revival of the long stalled nuclear disarmament agenda is also key. In particular, as Co-Presidents of Article 14 Conference on CTBT, we call for the early entry into force of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

The same relentless diplomatic pursuit must be applied on what is manifestly in the common interest of all: the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development and inclusive finance, as well as overcoming the challenge of climate change.

For we have in ourselves the wherewithal to address the development challenges of our time. For example, to work for an early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda, and a new climate change regime by 2015.

Key to this, however, must be a strong commitment to the spirit of partnership and an unshakeable belief in the power of multilateralism.

Cooperation and collaboration; rather than discord and division.

The development agenda must work for all countries – large or small, developed or developing,

Each of us must share responsibility. The developed countries must take the lead. The developing countries must do more.

Mr. President,

The pursuit of a diplomatic path becomes fraught with challenges in a complex and fast changing world where the issues of governance, human rights violations, extremism and intolerance within countries can quickly obtain inter-state dimensions.

To ensure that the institutions of our United Nations are readied to address such contemporary challenges.

Thus, as countries embark on a process of democratization as well as promotion and protection of human rights; as they draw a line against intolerance and extremism - the international community, the United Nations, must contribute to conducive atmosphere for their peaceful transformation. One which reflects the wishes of the peoples concerned.

Together with its partners in ASEAN, Indonesia is steadily developing a regional architecture conducive for the peaceful promotion of human rights and democracy – we call it the ASEAN Political-Security Community. And together with the Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community pillars – it makes up the ASEAN Community we are to achieve by 2015.

Through a process of sharing lessons learnt derived from our respective successes and setbacks, we provide mutual encouragement and support in our promotion of the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter.

Beyond Southeast Asia – Indonesia is pursuing the same positive and constructive approach through what is called the Bali Democracy Forum. A platform for countries in the wider region to share one another's experiences.

At all levels: national, regional and global - we remain steadfast in promoting tolerance and religious freedom. Pushing back against prejudice and intolerance.

Building partnerships, harmony and mutual respect.

Indonesia recognizes, therefore, the special responsibility upon it as host of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum in 2014. One which aims to promote "unity in diversity".

Mr. President,

The primacy of diplomacy and of peaceful settlement of disputes over war and conflict is none more evident than in the quiet and yet fundamental transformations that have been taken place in our region, Southeast Asia.

Notwithstanding continuing challenges – Indonesia believes that the dividends of peace and stability are self-evident: economic and social progress.

The continued stability and security of the region is therefore key to secure our prosperity. Peace and development are indivisible.

With other ASEAN nations, Indonesia has worked constantly to develop the region's capacity to manage and overcome any potential for conflict.

To ensure that Southeast Asia remains a net contributor to international peace and security.

Indeed, to extend the "arc of stability" beyond Southeast Asia to the Asia-Pacific at large.

Promoting common security, common prosperity and common stability for all in the region.

A commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, and renunciation of the use of, and threat of use of force.

A region that places diplomacy at the forefront.

Mr. President,

Indonesia will be unrelenting and untiring in ensuring the primacy of diplomacy.

In its conviction in the noble goals of the United Nations.

Thank you.

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