

Statement by H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi Minister for Foreign Affairs Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 23 September 2023

Mr. President,

The world now is at a strategic crossroad.

Global solidarity and collective responsibility are the only answer to address trust deficit and global inequality.

This is the main essence transpired from Bandung Conference or Asia Africa Conference in 1955.

Through the Ten Principles of Bandung we called for respect towards human rights and the UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality of all races and all nations, peaceful settlement of disputes and promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.

The Bandung Conference reminded every country of their equal rights and responsibility in maintaining peace and stability, mainstreaming win-win cooperation and championing solidarity.

Indonesia brought along the Bandung spirit when we presided the G20 last year, Chairmanship of ASEAN this year, during President Jokowi's visit to Africa last month and we will bring the spirit everywhere we go including to this UNGA.

The Bandung spirit enable Indonesia to listen and become part of solution.

For Indonesia global leadership should not only be about power or about the influence to dictate others. Instead, Global leadership should be about listening to others, building bridges, respecting international laws consistently, putting all nations equally.

Mr. President Excellencies,

Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity is the theme for this year's UNGA.

This theme is timely and on point.

We are again at a strategic crossroad as in 1955. Trust deficit reappears. Lack of solidarity resurfaces. These situations have hampered the attainment of SDGs, especially for countries in the Global South.

The question is do we really have the commitment to rebuild trust, reignite global solidarity to attain the SDGs target together?

Will our presence today at the UNGA really bring commitment and show readiness towards a global unity and collective responsibility?

Standing before this esteemed assembly of the UN we said a lot of good words and promises.

Let us now be honest with ourselves, do we do what we said we would do?

If all of us are committed to do what we said and say what we do, I am sure the current world situation ill not be like, what we see right now.

Where trust deficit is running deep.

Where differences are soaring high and sharp.

Where wars and conflicts are tearing us apart.

The problem is that we do differently than what we said. We say differently about what we did

We do not walk the talk.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Against this backdrop, I would like to share some thoughts on how we can rebuild trust and reignite global solidarity, in line with what we envisioned through the Bandung Spirit.

First, forging collective global leadership.

The fate of the world cannot be defined by the mighty few.

A peaceful, stable, and prosperous world is a collective rights and responsibility of all countries, big and small, North and South, developed and developing.

We all must do our part and work together towards this common goal.

And this can only be achieved if all of us adhere to the same rules of the game.

We must uphold respect for international law, particularly the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This will ensure that disputes would be settled on the negotiating table rather than at the battlefield.

A collective responsibility is especially needed to save the people of Palestine and Afghanistan.

For far too long we have allowed our Palestinian brothers and sisters to suffer.

Indonesia will not back an inch in our support for Palestinian statehood.

In Afghanistan, Indonesia would do its utmost to help the Afghan people and ensure the rights of women and girls are respected, including their rights to education.

Second, advocating development for all.

Every country has the same right to develop and grow. But the global architecture of today only benefits the selected few.

Trade discrimination against developing countries continues to take place.

Global supply chain is being monopolized by certain countries.

Many developing countries may not meet the SDGs by 2030. They also struggle with foreign debts and development financing.

All of this would contribute to eroding trust and solidarity.

Therefore, it is time for us to make a real change.

Industrial down-streaming must not be an exclusive call of developing countries. Developed countries should also support this call to build a stronger future together.

The same ideals are applicable in our fight against climate change and safeguarding biodiversity.

Indonesia has led by example by fulfilling its international obligation, including being among early signatories of the BBNJ Agreement.

But developing countries cannot do this by themselves.

We need developed countries also to fulfil their responsibility including on climate financing, green investment and transfer of technology.

Technology and innovation should not be exclusive for the selected few.

Access to safe and secure digital technology for developing countries on AI is crucial for future sustainable growth.

This is time to practice what we have preached.

Third, reinforcing regional cooperation.

Regional institutions should be net contributors and building blocks for global peace and prosperity.

As the ASEAN Chair this year, Indonesia had to navigate ASEAN through such geopolitical dynamics in the region.

ASEAN has already managed to do this for the last five decades.

We sent a clear message that we will not let our region to be a pawn of rivalries. Instead, South East Asia must be an Epicentrum of Growth, where all countries can benefit meaningfully.

Inclusivity will forever be the pillar for our region's architecture building.

It suffices to say, we managed to pull through.

We have maintained ASEAN's unity and established a long-term vision for ASEAN 2045.

We have reinforced ASEAN's centrality in strengthening regional resilience and preparing for economy of the future.

Please check against delivery

We have initiated closer partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for a stable and peaceful Indo Pacific.

We have translated the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific into concrete and inclusive cooperation.

On Myanmar, implementation of the Five-Point Consensus remains the main reference.

ASEAN continues to urge the military junta to implement it.

ASEAN will spare no effort to ensure the people of Myanmar are not left behind.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I wish to underline a point on the reform of our multilateral system.

Many proposals have been produced throughout the years but we are still far from getting anywhere.

The best time for actions may have already passed.

But the second-best time is now.

Let us translate our commitment into actions.

The 2024 Summit of the Future cannot fail.

Trust and solidarity must be part of these efforts.

Our people and the world awaits and we must deliver.

Thank you.

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