



**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**Focus Group Discussion - The Role of Parliament in
Implementing Sustainable Development Goals
5 February 2020**



The Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, along with the representatives of the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and United Nations Development Programme Indonesia have gathered at the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia on February 5, 2020 to affirm our resolve to work together for the commitment of all relevant stakeholders to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is deeply rooted in 2030 Agenda. To accelerate progress, this consultation engages the aforementioned stakeholders, and examines of the role of Parliament in implementing 17 SDG goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030, as well as information on progress made in the implementation of SDGs.

The Deputy for Maritime and Natural Resources of the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency, Dr. Ir. Arifin Rudiyanto, explored key components of SDGs – people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, which bear relevance to one of the nation’s principles - just and prosperous society (*masyarakat adil dan makmur*), initiated by our founding fathers. On that note, Mr. Rudiyanto stated that SDGs are human rights as well.

There are several steps and measures that need to be implemented to advance SDGs. Mr. Rudiyanto emphasized that political will is one of crucial aspects; hence, relevant stakeholders can analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed plans, and drive their plans into reality.

Strong legal basis is another crucial aspect. Indonesia has adopted certain regulations, including, but not limited to, Presidential Decree 59/2017 as the basis of the formulation of Indonesia’s National Action Plan (RAN) and Regional Action Plan (RAD) on SDGs. In regard to the former, RAN encompasses discussions and aspects of reliable data, and other relevant resources, as envisaged in 2030 Agenda. Implementing and achieving SDGs also requires all plans and actions to be inclusive, inter alia, by considering the needs of all individuals and people, and by also engaging NGOs, civil society, and philanthropic organizations, among others.

Mr. Rudiyanto stated that Indonesia volunteered to present the report of Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) in both 2017 and 2019 United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In addition, Mr. Rudiyanto conveyed that the Government has established ‘One Data Indonesia’ (*Satu Data Indonesia*). The One Data Indonesia is an initiative by the Indonesian government, which seeks to encourage effective policy making, based on data. On that note, the data of SDGs is one of the government’s major priorities, and the data provided will pave the way for more inclusive policies, regulations, and measures.

The Director for Development, Economy and Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Agustaviano Sofjan underlined the importance of multilateral diplomacy. Various multilateral consultations and meetings have taken place, and resulted in the adoption of

resolutions, including but not limited to, G20 Action Plan on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. Indonesia also has a significant role in the Security Council of the United Nations, which can strengthen Indonesia's efforts to mitigate issues concerning the 2030 Agenda.

Through this meeting, Mr. Sofjan also spoke about regional and bilateral diplomacy. Among others, Asia-Pacific cooperation is key and driver of our actions in realizing SDGs. The cooperation can cover aspects of economy, maritime, connectivity and SDGs. Besides, ASEAN – EU cooperation is essential; especially global partnership is deeply rooted in 2030 Agenda. Mr. Sofjan affirmed the Ministry's commitment to support the Parliament's diplomacy measures; especially all relevant stakeholders only have 10 years to transform this world. The Decade of Action, initiated by the United Nations, also calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to resolve global issues, and achieve 2030 Agenda and SDGs.



Furthermore, Mr. Sofjan conveyed an invitation for the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the Indonesian House of Representatives to attend the Development Cooperation Forum in Bali, Indonesia this year. He also appreciated our presence and commitment in international and regional forums to address issues relevant to SDGs, including the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development; especially such forum directly links to SDG 17 on Partnership for the Goals.

Another panelist attended the discussion was Ms. Juliaty Ansye Sopacua from the United Nations Development Programme Indonesia. Ms. Sopacua addressed the interlinkages across SDGs. Achieving one goal may contribute to realizing other goals. For instance, Goal 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation will reinforce Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3).

Ms. Sopacua also emphasized that 'leaving no one behind' means ensuring all individuals and people, including the most marginalized, receive the rights and opportunities outlined in 2030 Agenda, although some consider this as 'mission impossible'. Her presentation also demonstrated that it is expensive to implement and realize these ambitious goals. It requires approximately 4.5 Trillion USD per year. Nonetheless, all people's lives depend on the realization of 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs.

Ms. Sopacua acknowledged the progress of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia towards the attainment of SDGs. The Parliament has a crucial role in the implementation of SDGs through its work on legislation, budgets and oversight. In regard to the former, she affirmed the importance of 'people-centered' policies and regulations, which should also be responsive to the needs of the people.

Subsequently, Ms. Sopacua underlined the essentiality of capacity building to realize these ambitious goals. Capacity building is critical for ensuring that all means and resources to implement SDGs are obtainable, and to fast track progress on the realization of those 17 goals and 169 targets. Through a program entitled SDG Academy Indonesia, launched by The Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency, the Tanoto Foundation and United Nations Development Programme, participants from all industries and backgrounds, can gather knowledge and best practices, and moreover put their knowledge into practice.

In addition, several key points and recommendations were highlighted as well by the leaders and members of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation. One of the Vice Chairmen of the Committee, Mr. Putu Supadma Rudana, proposed an attractive strategy to increase the visibility of Indonesia's SDGs implementation, which is through promoting Balinese culture such as 'A Day of Silence' (*Nyepi*). On the day, individuals who celebrate *Nyepi* are required to turn off the lights, among other practices. It

must also be emphasized that this cultural, religious practice has existed long before MDGs and SDGs eras.

As 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs are guidelines that nations are encouraged to adopt for people, planet and prosperity - the tradition mentioned in the preceding paragraph bears relevance to SDG 13 on Climate Action. It assists in saving energy, and can reduce carbon emission. As well, increasing the visibility of aforementioned tradition can be proposed as a means to promote Balinese culture around the globe whilst curbing environmental damage.

Besides Mr. Putu Supadma Rudana, Mr. Mardani Ali Sera as one of the Vice Chairmen of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation appreciated the efforts made by the government. He also underlined the importance of management and coordination between ministries to realize the SDGs. The Vice Chairman also acknowledged the importance of an inclusive system of the VNR report produced by the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency. In this regard, the Ministry have conducted both online and offline consultations in the preparation process of Indonesia VNR.

Mr. Achmad *Hafisz Tohir*, the Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, stressed the need to conduct palm oil diplomacy. Besides strengthening the production, such concept enables us to further justify the pros and cons of palm oil production in order to ensure long-term sustainability, and mitigate risks that may impede country's efforts to attain SDGs.

Additionally, it is also noteworthy to mention that there is a widespread adoption and promotion of sustainable standards and practices for the production of palm oil. One must not lose sight that palm oil industry can stimulate economic growth, as envisaged in SDG 5. As well, the resources generated from the production can be used to fulfill the economic needs of the people, which will contribute to the realization of other goals outlined in 2030 Agenda, including but not limited to, No Poverty (SDG 1).



The Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation acknowledges the progress and achievements, as outlined above. To accelerate progress towards the achievement of 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the Committee also encourages all relevant stakeholders to ensure all relevant programs, policies and regulations are coherent and aligned with the SDGs, and that decision making progress take into account the needs of the people, including in regard to health and stunting; to have one voice in the Committee despite being from different political parties; and strengthen and support, in coordination with internal and external stakeholders, including international organizations to gather information and promote knowledge on SDGs and their targets.