

**CHAIR'S STATEMENT
OF THE FOURTH BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM
Nusa Dua, Bali, 8-9 December 2011**

I. OPENING

1. The Fourth Bali Democracy Forum (BDF IV) was held on 8 and 9 December 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, delivered the inaugural speech and officially opened the BDF IV. During the Leaders' Session, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, served as Co-chair and His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar; H.E. Mr. Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; H.E. Mr. Sukhbaatar Batbold, Prime Minister of Mongolia; H.E. Mr. Jejomar Binay, Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines; and H.E. Mr. Bulent Arinc, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, made statements.
2. The BDF IV was attended by representatives from 40 countries namely: Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, People's Republic of China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.
3. In addition, representatives of 42 countries from other regions, namely: Austria, Algeria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Ukraine and Venezuela, as well as representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Delegation of the European Union in Jakarta, the ICRC, UNDP Asia-Pacific, UNDP Indonesia and World Bank Indonesia, were also present as observers.
4. H.E. Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia reported on the preparations for the BDF IV and also on the progress of the Forum since the BDF III, including the activities of the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD). He explained the rationale for the theme of the BDF IV, "*Enhancing Democratic Participation in a Changing World: Responding to the Democratic Voices*". He also commented on sub-themes to be discussed during the Interactive Sessions, namely "*The Ability of State to Respond to the Voices of*

Democracy” and “*Ensuring Democratic Space for Civil Society Participation*”. He said that the BDF had developed into a consistent, substantial and strategic platform for partnership in the promotion of democracy and political development in Asia in the face of formidable global challenges. He also stressed that the Forum had been consolidated as part of the democratic architecture in the Asia-Pacific region and had gained a strong foothold and wide recognition. Its contributions to the promotion of democracy had not been limited to the region but extended well beyond it.

5. Minister Natalegawa reported that through its implementing agency, the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD), the BDF had organized and contributed to various regional and international activities, including Election Visit Programs in Japan and Thailand and a series of workshops in cooperation with stakeholders in Egypt on nurturing and consolidating democracy.
6. In his opening statement, President Yudhoyono focused on what could be expected of democracy. He said that democracy must bring greater freedom, peace, moderation, progress and equality. However, he also acknowledged that democracy all over the world is not without challenges.
7. President Yudhoyono emphasized the growing significance of the BDF in the light of momentous democratic developments unfolding in Myanmar, North Africa, and the Middle East. He referred to Indonesia’s own experience, in which success had to be built, earned and improvised every step of the way.
8. President Yudhoyono acknowledged that the 21st century had been marked by the phenomenal growth of social media, which meant that the views and aspirations of citizens had become more potent than they had ever been.
9. The President stressed that democracy must include efforts to systematically provide built-in protection of human rights that must be coupled with tolerance and rule of law. Furthermore, he said, as people demand more political space and greater participation in the determination of their future, effective governance needs the support of civil society.
10. In the face of the challenges and difficulties in developing and sustaining democracy and its values, the President called upon all participants to always keep strong faith in democracy and to relentlessly nurture it.
11. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, as Co-chair, related the history of democracy of Bangladesh, stressing that it was reinstated by a free and fair nationwide election on 29 December 2008. She acknowledged that globalization, driven by the will of the majority in all parts of the world, released the forces of democracy and freedom. She also expressed the view that democracy and freedom could empower people, ensure

progress and development, and establish an impartial system of justice. She emphasized that true democracy would be the best means of establishing an equitable society, as it required the undivided and committed attention of national Leaders. The Prime Minister commended the BDF as the emerging regional platform for the sharing, discussion and exchange of views on the experiences of societies in democracy and development. She also pointed out the importance of enhancing democratic strength and participation at all levels, thereby ensuring a safer world for the future generations.

II. LEADERS' SESSION AND GENERAL DEBATE

12. In his remarks, His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam stated that since ASEAN was established by its founding foreign ministers in 1967, it had given due emphasis to democratic participation. He said that in the face of the challenges of food security, energy security, climate change, epidemics as well as regional security threats, ASEAN needed to further develop its skills and confidence in facing these challenges. The Sultan further emphasized the urgent need to translate the vision of a regional community into a reality that protects the people and fulfils their hopes and dreams.
13. The President of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, underlined the need for continuously ensuring that the practice of democracy is responsive to the priorities and aspirations of the people, so as to maintain the people's confidence in democracy. Hence, it was important that the mechanism of government was at work at the grassroots level so that it could address issues that had direct impact on the people's lives. The President also emphasized that democracy should be rooted to the people's culture and values and that education is the key to social development.
14. In his remarks, H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, commented extensively on current developments in the Arab region. He said these developments reflected the need to promote democratic participation, which would require comprehensive political reform. The Prime Minister further emphasized the need to develop human knowledge of how to enhance the people's political participation. He acknowledged that to achieve successful coexistence among various Arab ethnic groups, religions, sects and parties, his region needed to learn from the Asian experience of democratization and reform.
15. The Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, H.E Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao stated that although democratic values are universal, the development of such values should be initiated from within any given society rather than from outside. Strategic cooperation is therefore needed to support such a positive development, he said. He also cited challenges in developing countries, which include the need to enhance public understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens

as well as of the state-building process. He emphasized that fighting poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance is a way of promoting democracy. The Prime Minister also informed the Forum about his country's efforts at leading the 'g7+', which promotes "Peace Building" and "State Building".

16. In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Sukhbaatar Batbold, Prime Minister of Mongolia, explained Mongolia's efforts as Chairman of the Community of Democracies, which focused on education for democracy, regional cooperation, civil society enhancement, and exchange of experiences. The Prime Minister expressed the view that the people's demands for justice must be met with understanding and willingness to dialogue. He acknowledged that the BDF is an important event that brings together nations that respect and nurture democratic values and human rights. He related Mongolia's experience in the promotion of democracy, which included the strengthening of civil society as an important partner of government in the policy making process and legislation and regulations that enhance citizens' access to information and policy documents. In line with Mongolia's focus on cooperation and coordination within the region in the promotion of democracy and democratic values, the Prime Minister expressed high commitment to encouraging policies aimed at openness and democratic transformation.
17. The Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Jejomar Binay, stressed that democracy offers virtually unlimited possibilities and ample room to address seemingly intractable global problems. He further pointed out that by definition, democracy is a complex of rules concerned with the mechanism of elections, the maintenance or change of government, and the political conduct of the state. However, the democratic narrative must not speak to our political beliefs and practices alone; it must speak to the wholeness of our being to confirm the validity of democratic existence. The Vice President also expressed the views that the strongest structures of democracy offer to the people at the grassroots the fullest opportunity to preside over their own destinies. He underlined the need to increase and sustain investment in education so as to propagate the ideals and values of democracy all over the world.
18. In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Bulent Arinc, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, stated that democracy should not be regarded as a mere exercise in voting. He stressed that democracy is a set of institutions that covers a wide spectrum ranging from education to human rights, from rule of law to freedom of expression and of the press. He expressed the view that efforts to build a living democratic system could only be possible if it were inclusive. Furthermore, he emphasized that democratization is a continuous process that should be constantly maintained. Hence, in this era of rapid global changes, countries must act on the basis of clear vision and strong principles. The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted his country's guiding principles, which reflect the essential conditions of democracy, including the values of pluralism, equality, and inclusive participation.

19. During the General Debate, the meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Dr. (Mrs.) Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
20. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation agreed that democracy could survive and flourish where it is based on the rule of law and good governance and the media enjoy freedom and civil society is empowered and have access to information. They cited free and responsible media as an important factor in the achievement of sustainable democracy and public accountability.
21. Considering that civil society represents the diverse voices of the people, the Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation acknowledged the growing importance of encouraging and empowering civil society in the face of current global developments. Enhancing the democratic environment, they said, would be conducive to the work of civil society and would encourage their participation in the policy-making process. They maintained that citizens' active participation in the decision-making processes as well as openness and transparency on the part of the authorities are pre-requisites of a functioning democracy that is able to deliver good governance to the people.
22. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation accepted that since the growth of democracy in the region stemmed from local and traditional wisdom, values and practices, no single model of democracy would fit all societies. Democracy must grow from its own grassroots through a gradual and incremental process that enhances the political system. But while a democratic system should not be imposed from outside, it must remain in harmony with the universal values of democracy. It must be understood that copying the way others underwent the democratization process might not always lead to the acceptance of democracy itself.
23. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation acknowledged the importance of protecting pluralism and diversity if democracy is to grow in strength. They stressed that the approach towards democracy should vary according to the political, economic and social backgrounds of the countries in which it is cultivated. However, in spite of the variations in approaches, they are all firmly committed to the promotion of democratic values and principles, and united in their determination to share best practices and experiences in the process of fostering democracy.
24. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation maintained that respect for diversity and co-existence of different norms, beliefs and cultures constitute the strength of democracy. For democracy to work, they said, it is imperative that democracy recognize the need to carefully manage the diversity of ethnicity, culture and identity and to strike a balance between tradition and modernisation.

25. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation stated that democracy could be sustained only if there were an environment conducive to its development. They pointed out that some countries had managed to deepen their democracy through, among others, a peaceful change of government by way of democratic elections. However, it was stressed that regular elections do not constitute the only factor in the achievement of democracy. Other significant factors include good governance, respect for human rights and rule of law. No democratic society matures overnight, as this can only be achieved through a process involving a series of approaches, dialogue and careful planning.
26. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated that democracy should not merely represent the will of the majority. It should be complemented by measures to build consensus, so that it would be inclusive, responsive to the people's aspirations and regarded by the people with a feeling of ownership. For this to be possible, democracy should be nurtured in an environment of transparency, respect for human rights and rule of law.
27. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation asserted that efforts to encourage democratic participation are not without challenges. Hence, it is essential, they said, that these challenges be managed in an open and democratic manner.
28. The Leaders, Ministers and Heads of Delegation pointed out that a strong and beneficial democracy enables a nation to overcome the problems and challenges of the time. Democracy, they stressed, not only reduces poverty, economic deprivation and marginalization, it also opens up opportunities for economic, social and political development.

III. INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

Interactive Session I: "The Ability of State to Respond to the Voice of Democracy"

29. The Interactive Session I was chaired by H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, the Patron of the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD). The Hon. Ano Pala, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, as Special Envoy of the Government of Papua New Guinea at the 4th Bali Democracy Forum, and Hon. Dr. Jonathan Coleman, Minister of Immigration of New Zealand, served as the panellists.
30. In his introductory remarks, H.E. Dr. Wirajuda pointed out the challenges to building an accountable state that is responsive to the voices of democracy. They include the need to improve the capacity of state agencies, to ensure respect for human rights and to redress social injustice, as well as to strengthen the actualization of democracy in local communities. As democracy is a continuous work in progress, it is imperative that states continuously reform and enhance democracy through free and regular elections in order to meet the people's

aspirations. Democracy and freedom, he added, must be supported by strong rule of law, a credible electoral process, responsive local government, competent public officers, pro-democracy military, education on democracy, a vibrant and strong civil society and courageous and independent media.

31. Hon. Dr. Jonathan Coleman, Minister of Immigration of New Zealand, highlighted the rise of social media and the challenges that governments must contend with in responding to the public's aspirations. There is, he said, a need for the state to adapt quickly in order to effectively meet public concerns and needs. States must find ways to respond to public criticism, and take follow up actions accordingly. In addition to that, states must be accessible to the citizens, more skilful in the use of technology, and continuously monitor and review the progress of democracy and its implementing institutions.
32. The Hon. Ano Pala, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, as Special Envoy of the Government of Papua New Guinea, stressed the importance of education as the key to the implementation of democracy. Just as important, he said, are free mass media, an independent judiciary and credible electoral system as well as an effective public service system. Public education on the importance of the constitution and the democratic system is indispensable to the efforts of a state to face the challenges of cultural diversity and local values as well as the societal structure of remote rural communities. To enhance the capability of society to overcome these challenges, he said, sufficient resources must be made available.
33. The session exchanged views and ideas on the importance of building democratic discipline. The participants agreed that democratic society would mature only by accepting the results of elections, while strengthening the role of the opposition. They also suggested that the Institute of Peace and Democracy formulate templates for election debates. In addition to that, the session also cited the existence of flaws in democratic systems. For instance, governments without parliamentary support would find it difficult to deliver public services effectively.
34. The participants agreed that democracy is a dynamic process and that there is a need to rectify its imperfections in the face of the current global situation, which is characterized by the widespread use of communication technology through which people can instantly and massively exchange information. They also reiterated that democracy needs to be promoted at the global level, which will require fairness and strong political will.
35. During the session, the participants also expressed support for the growth of democracy on the Asian continent, as exemplified by the Arab Spring. The situation, they said, calls for a peace solution leading to a more stable regional situation, since regional peace and stability are essential to the democratic process.

Interactive Session II: “Ensuring Democratic Space for Civil Society Participation”

36. The Interactive Session II was chaired by Prof. Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar, a member of the Board of Advisors of the IPD. H.E. Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Hon. Mr. Tim Fischer, Special Representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, served as panellists.
37. In her introductory remarks, Prof. Dr. Anwar stated that it is important to identify the concept of civil society, and how civil society could be more helpful to the government. However, civil society organizations must remain autonomous in setting up their respective agenda. They are not supposed to serve the interest of any donor. In the case of Indonesia, civil society organizations like the Muhammadiyah and the Nahdlatul Ulama have played a pivotal role in providing public services to society such as healthcare and education long before the formation of the Republic of Indonesia.
38. H.E. Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina reminded the forum that the role of civil society is based on the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Civil society, he said, should initiate cooperation and dialogue that promote democracy. Therefore, the role of civil society in democracy should develop beyond national borders, so as to increase their ability to cooperate. Examples of the involvement of civil society in democracy include events in the ‘Arab Spring’ and the reform of Myanmar. In the case of Bosnia Herzegovina, civil society emerged from the ashes of war by taking a role in the elections and in the formulation of laws and regulations. He urged that civil society be provided space to organize and to develop.
39. The Hon. Mr. Tim Fischer, Special Representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, stated that the current era is marked by a strong and vibrant role of civil society. And as such, it provides a channel for democratic participation. For background, he described civil society as a contested concept, which exists in the space between state and the market. It has various forms such as Non-government Organizations, think tanks, media, churches, and religious groups. They are aimed at monitoring government and promoting democratic participation.
40. The session exchanged ideas on the urgent need for civil society organizations to cooperate professionally. The participants agreed that there is need for the consolidation of areas in which civil society is involved and therefore adequate space is required to support it. Further, civil society’s role in monitoring and reviewing government policies helps keep the latter responsive and accountable to the voice of the people. In certain cases, civil society plays an important constructive role in a peace process of a country. It was suggested that states provide legal bases for ensuring the integrity of civil society. With legal bases, civil society will

become more effective in helping state governance. The participants concluded that it is pertinent to strengthen and enhance the capacity of civil society and media to play this role.

IV. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

41. The Forum welcomed the constructive proposals made by participants in priority areas of cooperation within the framework of the BDF, including workshops, seminars, election visits and election training programmes and policy-oriented research and studies concerning this year's theme, "Enhancing Democratic Participation in a Changing World: Responding to the Democratic Voices", both at national and regional levels.
42. The Forum encouraged cooperation between nations in the framework of public official forums and through linkages with civil society institutions and expert communities. Participating countries also urged the involvement of the youth within the framework of BDF, including youth parliamentary organizations.
43. It was agreed that the Forum had made significant progress since its inauguration in 2008 and had built trust and confidence among the participants. To seize this positive momentum, they discussed the preparations for the holding of the BDF Summit in 2012. In this regard, the Government of Indonesia had indicated that it would convene the Summit on 8-9 November 2012. In line with this idea, it was suggested that the Forum develop concrete programs and cooperative undertakings that enhance and strengthen the role of the IPD.
44. The Forum discussed the work programs of the IPD for 2012, which focus on cooperation to enhance the ability of states to respond to the voice of democracy and ensure democratic space for civil society participation. The Forum also encouraged the IPD to continue to implement programs on sharing experiences and lessons learned on democracy in Egypt and other countries, while expediting its own organizational and institutional development. Furthermore, the IPD was called upon to develop programs to foster women's political participation and the role of the media in democracy. The Forum encouraged countries to support such programs and activities in coordination with the IPD.
45. Representatives from the Commonwealth of Australia proposed that the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) maintain democratic discourse in the region through the creation of a concept of debate on democracy, including a non-paper on the concept of election campaign debates and their role in engaging citizens and promoting accountability during election campaigns. The participants requested that the IPD, in consultation with the Co-chairs of the BDF IV, the Patrons and the Board of Advisors of the IPD, implement these proposals.

V. CLOSING

46. Participating countries expressed their appreciation of the BDF IV, as it provided opportunity for exchange of views and experiences as well as for identifying shortcomings and challenges that states have to overcome in responding to democratic voices in the midst of current global changes.
47. They cited the large attendance of countries as strong testimony to the region's great interest in promoting democratic values. It also reveals a high degree of comfort among countries in the region with the Forum process and their confidence in it.
48. The participants thanked the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for organizing this year's Forum and for encouraging the cordial discussions that took place in the Forum. The participants also expressed their gratitude to H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for co-chairing the Forum.
49. The Forum acknowledged the important contributions of H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda and Prof. Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar, the Chairpersons of the interactive sessions. They thanked the panellists for their valuable insights.
50. The Forum also acknowledged the important contributions of participating states, regional/international organizations and individuals to the Bali Democracy Forum as well as to the IPD.
51. The Forum acknowledged two events held on the sidelines of the BDF IV, namely the first BDF workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Civil Society and Social Media in Democratic Participation" held in Bali on 7 December 2011 and the Third Bali Media Forum: "Being Heard: The Role of Ethical Journalism and Media Support in Enhancing Democratic Participation in a Changing Information Environment" held in Bali, on 8-10 December 2011. The two events discussed how the new information technology and social media have increased opportunities for the participation of civil society in promoting the values of democracy.

Bali, 9 December 2011