



**STATEMENT
BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA**

H. E. Setya Novanto

At the General Debate of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

United Nations Headquarters, New York

31 August – 2 September 2015

Agenda 3 General Debate:

Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development:

Building the World the People Want

Your Excellency IPU President, Mr. Saber Chowdury

Your Excellency Parliamentary Speakers of IPU Member Countries,

Honorable delegations and ladies and gentlemen,

Today's World Conference of Speakers of Parliament coincides with the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. During this important observance, we are reminded that the world's situation is still far from ideal for all nations.

For seventy years we have been sitting here talking about peace. However, conflicts are still rampant in different parts of the world. Wars, invasions, ethnic and religious related conflicts, refugees, and oppression still exist. As I stand here addressing you, millions fall victim to violence and war everywhere.

This is the right moment to evaluate our measures to peace. Have they been appropriate and have we walked the talk. We need to honestly evaluate whether our actions have reflected our words.

Honorable parliamentarians,

In the current era of globalization, the rules of globalization are dictated by stronger countries. In the asymmetry, those who are strong will always win while the weaker will be marginalized. The imbalance in globalization only brings benefit to a few strong developed countries, and marginalizes weaker developing countries.

Peace and security are still a distant dream for some of the world's population. The occupation of Israel in Palestine; conflict in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Libya; and the issue of the Korean Peninsula remain unresolved. Not to mention the problems of the Rohingya refugees and other ongoing tensions in different parts of the world.

Conflicts will always generate misery and poverty, which particularly affect children, women and the elderly. Development will not be able to exist without peace. Peace could not be achieved without democracy and justice.

Democracy is often manifested in an uncoordinated way, stuck in democratic procedures and insufficient in translating the outcomes of those procedures to materialize people's aspiration. Democracy should be able to serve and protect all: minority as well as majority. Democracy should be implemented consistently not only within our respective countries but also in international relations - including at the UN. Regrettably, democracy is not yet the tradition of this organization.

The UN's role will only be relevant if democracy is also exercised in this organization, especially in the UN Security Council.

In the Parliamentary Conference to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of The Asian African Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia on April 2015, we agreed that UN Reform is an absolute necessity. The UN at 70 needs systemic evaluation through concrete UN reform, which will review its organizational governance so each country can be equal in the truest sense.

Honorable parliamentarians, members of IPU,

As a democracy of 260 million people, Indonesia has been firmly committed to achieve sustainable development. Within the MDGs framework, some of the results include basic education for all, reduction of poverty, and gender equality. The Indonesian House of Representatives prepares the supporting regulations, budget, and has also established an MDGs task force, which is now an SDGs task force.

We also hosted an Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum on the acceleration of MDGs and post-2015 global development agenda. The said forum produced a recommendation, which underlined the need for cooperation between government and parliament, the importance of good governance, equality in economic growth and the strategic role of women and youth.

Honorable Delegates,

In the upcoming 70th session of the UN General Assembly, a document titled *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* will be adopted by the UN. There will be 17 SDGs and 169 targets that have been pre-agreed to be implemented in the next 15 years. We support the commitment to achieve SDGs. We have urged our government to include the SDGs principles in our national development plan.

We also call upon the developed countries to stay loyal to their commitment to achieve the SDGs through partnership, including their commitment to assist the developing and least-developed countries.

In conclusion, we are of the view that democracy opens the door to achieve lasting peace, which enables sustainable development to be carried-out.

We have a sacred duty to carry out democracy and change the dreary face of the world so it can shine brighter in common prosperity.

Thank you.

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