



**Remarks by
The Speaker of the House of Representatives of
the Republic of Indonesia, in the event of
“Bali Session of the Parliamentary Conference
on the WTO”**

Bali - Indonesia, 2 December 2013

Bismillahirrohmanirrohim.

Your Excellency Mr. Vital Moreira, President of the Committee on International Trade, the European Parliament,

Your Excellency Mr. Karl-Ernst Brauner, WTO Deputy Director – General,

Honourable Mr. Phairoj Tanbanjong, Member of Executive Committee of IPU,

Honourable Members of Parliaments,

Honourable Government Officials,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu’alaikum warohmatullahi wabarakaatuh.

It is a great honor for me to attend this important forum, ***Bali Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO***, an event that encourages the roles of parliaments in achieving free, fair, and beneficial global trade, which has been a tremendous mandate for the World Trade Organization (WTO).

As the people’s representatives, we certainly observe, acknowledge, and listen to various developing criticisms and aspirations from different parties, with regard to the dynamics and challenges on different schemes of trade cooperation and agreement at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels. Among the big questions is whether or not free trade would be effective in creating prosperity and eradicating poverty, as well as accommodating the aspirations and needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The second question is its ability to effectively distribute assets to marginalized groups, who are not part of the mainstream development at the local, national, and international levels. The last one, regarding free trade, is something to do with its compatibility with the spirit of nationalism and sustainable development, particularly in accordance with developing issues in different parts of the world.

In this regard, all parliamentarians in their respective countries should play their roles in responding to those questions and building people’s trusts towards WTO and all of its achievements in the past. We believe the convergence of free trade issues with other issues that result in criticisms as well as empowerment is something normal, considering the differing interests of countries. Global free trade is just the means of achieving basic goals that any nation has, such as the achievement of social welfare, education for all, promotion of the state’s dignity and sovereignty, as well as achieving world order and world peace.

In the era of information openness and technological advancement, parliamentarians are truly aware of the importance of cooperation in international trade. Accelerated development and rapid progress in different areas of a country have called upon other countries to replicate and conduct transfers of know-how to also benefit from the globalization era.

The acceleration and competition that have become more competitive, while seen as a sign of improvement, also potentially worsen the gap between countries in every possible aspect. Consequently, they will spawn domination on the economic, trade, and investment cooperation, while also raising distrust over international free trade among the countries involved.

For this reason, we truly welcome all forms of principles and instruments that promote justice in free trade cooperation between developed, developing, and least developed countries, such as the special and differential treatment (S&D), principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and flexibility and reciprocity relation, etc.

These challenges, among other things, become our concern as the people's representatives who are mandated by people to guard national development from the negative impacts of free trade, which would hurt the national economic resilience of each country. This equilibrium would divide states into blocks, and therefore it is important to develop international trade on the foundation of national economic resilience. We certainly support all efforts to strengthen multilateral trade system and the completion of Doha Development Agenda (DDA), including the main issues of Bali Package, which comprises trade facilitation, agriculture, and development. In addition, we also see the importance in setting up a **roadmap** to guarantee the future of Doha Development Agenda, as well as the Post-Bali Agenda, as a follow-up to all the achievements that have been made so far.

To conclude my remarks, as the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, I would like to underline the roles of parliaments in international trade, not only to encourage international cooperation in the sector of trade and investment. Moreover, the parliament, as the representation of the people of a nation, that determine its own existence, economic cooperation, and other things, is expected to draw the **lifeline** and historical path of the nation. Hopefully, this Bali Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO would yield a variety of strategic, effective, and beneficial outcomes that give concrete benefits to the lives of peoples all over the world.

Thank you.

Wassalamualaikum warohmatullahi wabarokatuh.