

As of 3 September, 2014

**Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia,
Special Envoy, H.E. Dr. Gary R Jusuf,
at the Plenary Meeting
The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
“The Sustainable Development of Small Island States through Genuine
and Durable Partnership”
Apia, Samoa, 1 September 2014**

Your Honour, Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, and the President of the Third International Conference on SIDS,

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

His Excellency Mr. John Ashe, President of the UN General Assembly

His Excellency Mr. Wung Hongbo, Secretary General for the Third International Conference on SIDS,

Heads of State

Heads of Government

Ministers

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to express my congratulations to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and to your Government for hosting the important event of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Government and the People of Samoa to Indonesian Delegation during our stay in the beautiful city of Apia.

Mr. President,

The theme of this conference “The Sustainable Development of Small Island States through Genuine and Durable Partnership” is indeed very timely. This marks an important milestone for the global development agenda. To the same extent, this year is also a crucial period to build pathway toward the new global climate change agreement in 2015.

Since the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, SIDS have taken positive steps and worked tirelessly in achieving SIDS' objectives towards enhancing the livelihood of people living in small island States.

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway represents a monumental effort of Small Island Developing States to overcome their vulnerabilities in partnership with global communities.

However, specific characteristics and vulnerabilities of SIDS have limited the options to implement sustainable development. Hence, SIDS needs broader solutions that can strengthen their efforts in answering their challenges and limitations. This highlights the importance of accelerated global action and fostering international partnership to support SIDS.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia fully comprehends the challenges and obstacles that SIDS face. Indonesia and SIDS have something in common in achieving sustainable development. A significant number of Indonesia's islands and low-laying coastal zones are also highly vulnerable to sea level rise and natural disasters, thus seriously threatening the existence of those islands and the livelihood of millions of its inhabitants.

To this end, we believe Indonesia and SIDS have a strong basis to strengthen relations and partnerships.

Mr. President,

I wish now to share with you four areas in which Indonesia can further enhance cooperation with SIDS:

First, Indonesia shares the same commitment with SIDS to tackle the adverse impacts of climate change. We can work together through global action and cooperation toward a successful outcome at the 2015 climate change conference in Paris.

To show our commitment, Indonesia has voluntarily committed to use its own resources to reduce 26% of its greenhouse gas emission by 2020, and up to 41% with the international support. Climate change is a global problem that demands a global solution. Developed countries must demonstrate their leadership and support. At the same time, developing countries should do their part.

Second, Indonesia is of the same view with SIDS on the importance of maritime and ocean resources.

With over 17,000 islands, Indonesia has always been a maritime nation. Indonesia stands ready to fully explore the potentials of its ocean and coastal areas as carbon sink to address the impact of climate change. Furthermore, we believe that maritime-based development, known as blue economy, should play a more prominent role in the future.

In recognition of the importance of ocean and marine conservation, Indonesia organized the World Coral Reef Conference in Manado in May 2014. This conference reminded us that together we can exchange experiences to manage our marine resources in a sustainable manner.

Third, Indonesia is committed to intensify cooperation with the SIDS, in particular with those in the Pacific region, in areas of common interest.

During the Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF) meeting in June 2014 in Fiji, President of Indonesia, HE Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono stated Indonesia's intention to contribute USD 20 million for various capacity building programmes for Pacific Island Countries. This is part of our effort to enhance South-South Cooperation.

South-South Cooperation is increasingly relevant to strengthen global partnership. It is our common concern to give more attention to address SIDS unique challenges.

Fourth, Indonesia is committed to boost connectivity with Pacific SIDS.

People-to-people contact will be enhanced through better connectivity. Indonesia, as one of the closest neighbour of Pacific SIDS, has committed to strengthening our air and sea linkages. This, at the end will also contribute to stronger economic ties.

Mr. President,

The realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of SIDS needs to be supported by development partners, which includes the mobilization of financial resources for SIDS in a more predictable basis. It is therefore important to ensure the enhancement of the quality and quantity of assistance including from development partners to meet the needs of SIDS.

The colour and tone of partnerships to spur development in SIDS is a moral obligation that everyone involved should support with concrete actions.

And as a final note, Indonesia believes that stronger and more resilient SIDS will contribute to the global peace and prosperity.

In closing, Indonesia as a Pacific Ocean Country would like to, once again, express our strong support to SIDS.

I thank you.