

Dynamics of Indonesian Foreign Policy at the United Nations General Assembly

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Abstract:

Indonesia's foreign policy in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly mirrors the intricate nature of the country's challenges and prospects in global diplomacy. Indonesia, being the largest democratic nation in the world and having the largest Muslim population, has a crucial role in promoting peace, justice, and sustainable development at the global level. Nevertheless, while evolving geopolitical dynamics, Indonesia encounters numerous impediments that hinder its ability to influence international policy. This article aims to analyze the concepts of sovereignty, territorial integrity, human rights, peace and security, and sustainable development to determine how Indonesia might capitalize on current opportunities and overcome the challenges it encounters, thus attaining a more influential role in the global forum. This essay will thoroughly examine the intricacies of Indonesia's foreign policy at the United Nations.

Keywords: Foreign policy; Multilateral relations; United Nations

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A. PROLOG

Indonesia has emerged as a prominent and influential participant in global diplomacy. The island nation's voice frequently resonates worldwide, highlighting its remarkable accomplishments and contributions. Amidst the busy and complex world of international collaboration and conflicting interests, the Dynamics of Indonesia's Foreign Policy at the UN General Assembly is a captivating story highlighting the challenges and opportunities that influence Indonesia's global role.¹

Indonesia has a significant historical presence in global diplomacy at the United Nations. Its participation in the UN General Assembly is driven by its core objective of fostering



peace, justice, and international collaboration. Indonesia considers this position a duty and a profound dedication to global concerns. Nevertheless, beneath this dazzling display of magnificence exist intricate obstacles. When implementing its foreign policy at the UN General Assembly, Indonesia encounters several challenges, such as conflicting

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 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Yadav, A. S. (2022). Indo-Pasifik: sebuah konstruksi geopolitik. Elex Media Komputindo.

interests, geopolitical difficulties, and ideological disagreements.²

Nevertheless, in the middle of these problems, tremendous opportunities are ready to be investigated and taken advantage of. Equipped with a robust historical background and unwavering resolve, Indonesia is confidently progressing in confronting obstacles and capitalizing on possibilities to shape its position on the global diplomatic platform. Indonesia's foreign policy at the UN General Assembly is not merely a trip narrative but a manifestation of its unwavering dedication to worldwide peace and advancement.³

B. DISCUSSION

1. History and Context of Indonesian Diplomacy at the United Nations

The origin of Indonesian diplomacy at the United Nations (UN) may be traced back to Indonesia's fight for independence from the Netherlands. In 1945, Indonesia declared its independence, but the Netherlands did not promptly acknowledge this declaration. The Dutch deployed the Netherlands Indies Civil Administration (NICA) alongside Allied forces to restore authority over

² Yeremia, A. E., Anggitta, M., Candra, D. S., Kusumasomantri, A. R., Sabana, D., Athallah, A. K. M., & Pangastuti, I. (2021). Skenario Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia 2045.

³ Shekhar, V. (2018). Indonesia's foreign policy and grand strategy in the 21st century: Rise of an Indo-Pacific power. Routledge.

Indonesia. When the war erupted, several Indonesian diplomats at the United Nations strengthened their efforts to help resolve the Indonesian-Dutch conflict.⁴

Indonesia became the 60th member of the United Nations (UN) in 1950, as it was officially recognised. Indonesia and the Netherlands engaged

in negotiations, and ultimately, the UN facilitated the resolution of the issue by creating the Roem-Royen accord. The UN assists Indonesia and the Netherlands



make decisions and implement UN Security Council resolutions.⁵

Indonesia was initially chosen as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from 1974-1975. This accomplishment was replicated during the 1995-1996 timeframe and once more for the third instance during the 2007-2009 tenure. Nugroho Wisnumurti, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia, served as the President of the UN Security Council for two consecutive terms.⁶

⁴ Hutabarat, L. F. (2016). Diplomasi Indonesia dalam Misi Pemeliharaan Perdamaian PBB. Jurnal Pertahanan dan Bela Negara, 6(2), 75-96.

⁵ Noor, B. A. Alasan Indonesia Terpilih Menjadi Anggota Tidak Tetap Dewan Keamanan PBB Periode 2019-2020 (Bachelor's thesis, FISIP UIN Jakarta).

⁶ Widodo, P. J., di Dewan Keamanan, M. K. P. I., Geopolitik, N., Kini, B. M., di Pulau Terluar, P. L. K., & Baru, S. K. M. P. Meningkatkan

Indonesia also makes a significant contribution at the commission level. Mochtar Kusuma Atmadja, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, was elected a member of the UN International Law Commission from 1992 to 2001. Ambassador Nugroho Wisnumurti was elected from 2007 to 2011.

Indonesia also has a vital role in diplomacy at the UN forum. Indonesia's diplomatic struggle at the UN began with its struggle for independence from the Netherlands and continued with its struggle to improve its position in international organisations.⁷

During President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's administration (2004-2014), Indonesia took a more prominent position and showed more fantastic initiative in participating in UN Peacekeeping Force missions. This is in line with Indonesia's free and active foreign policy.⁸

Indonesia must formulate a national policy that advances its national interests in global peacekeeping missions as it seeks to expand its involvement and leadership in such operations. The Indonesian government should prioritise its constitutional obligation and endeavour to uphold international peace and security. These two

⁷ Palestina, K. (2018). Diplomasi politik Indonesia terhadap kemerdekaan Palestina. Jurnal PIR Vol, 2(2).

Pemahaman Diaspora tentang Wawasan Nusantara sebagai Upaya untuk Menyukseskan Pemilihan Umum 2019.

⁸ Hutabarat, L. F. (2016). Diplomasi Indonesia dalam Misi Pemeliharaan Perdamaian PBB. Jurnal Pertahanan dan Bela Negara, 6(2), 75-96.

considerations demonstrate the significance and value of Indonesia's involvement in peacekeeping operations, particularly under the United Nations auspices. Diplomacy is the practice of advocating for a nation's interests by engaging in peaceful negotiations, which is the ultimate objective of diplomacy.⁹

2. Latest Challenges in Indonesia's Contribution to the Global Stage

Indonesia's foreign policy obstacles at the United Nations General Assembly encompass a number of intricate concerns that reflect the world's geopolitical dynamics.

Some of the challenges faced by Indonesia in the forum:

First: Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity Issues. Over time, Indonesia has been a staunch advocate for the fundamental principles underpinning the United Nations (UN), which include sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, difficulties arise when topics concerning regional conflicts, such as Papua and the South China Sea, are presented before the General Assembly. These disputes are examples of such challenges. When dealing with these challenges, Indonesia must

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⁹ Susetyo, B. (2020). Strategi Diplomasi Indonesia dalam Pembebasan Papua Tahun 1949-1963. Ishlah: Jurnal Ilmu Ushuluddin, Adab dan Dakwah, 2(1), 113-127.

ensure that its viewpoint is recognised and accepted by other group members while ensuring the area remains stable.¹⁰

Second: Humanity and Human Rights Issues. Indonesia has a mixed track record regarding humanity and human rights, which could be a topic of discussion at the United Nations General Assembly. To address the criticism and requests that have been voiced on issues such as the rights of minorities, the treatment of refugees, and freedom of expression, Indonesia must address these issues while also preserving its sovereignty and national interests.

Indonesia has taken several different approaches to strengthen the protection of minority instance, Indonesia has rights. For actively several international participated in initiatives relevant to the rights of minority groups. These initiatives include the International Convention on Eliminating Racial and Religious Discrimination (CERD) and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).¹¹

Indonesia has also produced national laws that are more inclusive and focus on preserving the rights of minority groups. For example, Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 39

¹⁰ Elisabeth, A. (Ed.). (2016). Grand Design: Kebijakan Luar Negeri Indonesia (2015-2025). Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

¹¹ Rachmawati, I., Dewi, Y. T. N., & Hartanto, H. (2023). Fulfillment of the Right to Health Through Screening for Reproductive Tract Infection Diseases (Prevention of Transmission from Mother to Child at the Pati District Health Center). SOEPRA, 9(1), 102-115.

of 1999 about Human Rights are examples of domestic laws that have been developed.¹²

Indonesia has taken several different approaches to enhancing the protection of refugees. For example, Indonesia has actively participated in various international initiatives of refugees, such as the Geneva Protocol (1967) and the International Convention on Refugees (1951). Indonesia has also produced national laws that are more comprehensive and focus on refugee protection. These laws include Law Number 12 of 1999 about Refugees and Law Number 21 of 2011 concerning Refugees and Regional Development. In addition to this, Indonesia has also developed more inclusive laws.¹³

Using various strategies, Indonesia has tried expanding the scope of freedom of expression. For instance, Indonesia has actively participated in several international projects on freedom of expression. These initiatives include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Furthermore, Indonesia has also produced national laws that are more inclusive and focus on freedom of expression. These laws include Law

¹² Ligua, H., Nawi, S., & Arif, M. (2024). Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Undang-Undang Nomor 39 Tahun 1999 Tentang Hak Asasi Manusia Terhadap Hak Memperoleh Keadilan. Journal of Lex Theory (JLT), 5(1), 337-358.

¹³ Krustiyati, J. M. (2012). Kebijakan Penanganan Pengungsi di Indonesia: Kajian dari Konvensi Pengungsi 1951 dan Protokol 1967. Law Review, 12(2), 171-192.

Number 21 of 2011 about Refugees and Regional Development and Law Number 40 of 1999 concerning Human Rights. Both of these laws highlight the importance of freedom of expression.¹⁴

Third: Climate Change and Environment. As a nation susceptible to climate change's effects, Indonesia is interested in the environmental agenda discussed at the United Nations headquarters. The primary task is to consider the requirements of domestic economic and social growth while simultaneously fighting for proper global policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience.

Fourth: International Peace and Safety. Indonesia has contributed significantly to United Nations peace operations in different world regions on multiple occasions. These contributions have included involvement in peacekeeping forces and efforts to mediate conflicts. Indonesia is faced with the problem of fostering conversation and collaboration amongst nations while also advocating for the values of non-intervention and peaceful diplomacy.¹⁵

¹⁴ Maramis, A. (2009). Instrumen Internasional Terkait Hak Asasi Orang dengan Masalah Kejiwaan. Jurnal Hak Asasi Manusia, 5(5), 67-80.

¹⁵ Saudia, R. R. (2016). Upaya Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Right (AICHR) atas Pelanggaran Ham Terhadap Etnis Rohingya di Myanmar 2012-2015 (Bachelor's thesis, FISIP UIN Jakarta).

Sustainable development issues. Fifth: Sustainable development is a significant focal point within the global development agenda. The Indonesian government is obligated to ensure that the country's national development needs and aspirations following are the international sustainable development goals. These goals include eliminating poverty inequality and protecting and environment.16

It reflects the complexity and dynamism of the contemporary global geopolitics that Indonesia faces obstacles in its foreign policy in the United Nations General Assembly. Maintaining its position as an active and prominent member of the forum while continuing to fight for national interests and the fundamental ideals of the United Nations is something that Indonesia must be able to achieve to be able to confront these issues appropriately.¹⁷



¹⁶ Hapsoro, N. A., & Bangun, K. (2020). Perkembangan pembangunan berkelanjutan dilihat dari aspek ekonomi di indonesia. Lakar: Jurnal Arsitektur, 3(2), 88-96.

¹⁷ Chauvel, R., & Mar'iyah, C. (2005). Indonesia-Australia: tantangan dan kesempatan dalam hubungan politik bilateral. Yayasan Obor Indonesia.

3. The Role of Indonesia in Global Issues

Since it became a member of the United Nations (UN) on September 28, 1950, Indonesia has been actively contributing to discussions regarding various global issues this international body addresses. Throughout its history, Indonesia has demonstrated a deep dedication to the preservation of global peace, the provision of assistance to those in need, and the facilitation of the resolution of conflicts in many different nations. Several United Nations efforts that are concerned with global concerns have been participated in by Indonesia. One of these initiatives is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals), centring on achieving global goals related to developing social, economic, and environmental conditions.

Indonesia has demonstrated a significant commitment to expanding its position in the discussion of strategic issues, particularly within the Special Agencies that fall under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In addition, Indonesia has been involved in several programs concerned United **Nations** international law and security. As an illustration, Indonesia has served as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on multiple occasions, including as a member from 1973 to 1974, 1995 to 1996, and 2007 to 2008. By prioritizing a constructive approach and becoming a liaison for member countries of the Security Council on sensitive topics, Indonesia has fulfilled its campaign commitment to become a true partner for world peace. This was accomplished in this position.

During several different periods, including 2006, 2007-2010, 2011-2014, and 2015-2017, Indonesia has actively participated in the Human Rights Council of the United Nations (UN). Within this capacity, Indonesia has exhibited a solid commitment to implementing global Human Rights (HAM) norms not only at the international level but also at the regional and national levels. This commitment has expanded beyond the worldwide level. Indonesia has made significant contributions to the expansion of human rights awareness and knowledge and to the expansion of its role and influence in fulfilling human rights objectives worldwide. In addition, Indonesia has made efforts to strengthen its collaboration with other organizations concerned with human rights, as the United Nations Human such Commission, to improve the efficacy and efficiency of its efforts to put human rights into practice.18

MUNA, I. A. (2023). Perlindungan Hukum Dewan Hak Asasi Manusia Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa Terhadap Pengungsi Akibat Perubahan Iklim: Mekanisme Berdasarkan Piagam.

Indonesia's participation in the United Nations' global issues demonstrates a solid commitment to the preservation of world peace, the provision of humanitarian assistance, and aid in the resolution of conflicts in various nations. As a result, Indonesia has demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding its participation in discussing strategic issues, implementing global human rights norms, and actively contributing to various United Nations programs relevant to global challenges.

4. Indonesian Diplomatic Strategy

"Values-Based Diplomacy" is the first Diplomacy Strategy that Indonesia has implemented. This strategy emphasizes the principles of progress, stability, and security that Indonesia stands for. In the context of this policy, Indonesia intends to demonstrate its commitment to these values by various measures, including but not limited to conducting meetings with other nations, delivering humanitarian relief, and engaging in different international activities. By doing so, Indonesia can demonstrate its dedication to the principles that it upholds, which in turn allows it to expand its role and influence on a worldwide scale.¹⁹

¹⁹ Zattullah, N., Malik, I., & Hidayat, E. R. (2022). Analisis Kebijakan Keamanan Nasional Indonesia Ditinjau Dari Kelembagaan dan Perkembangan Ancaman. Jurnal Ilmiah Universitas Batanghari Jambi, 22(1), 120-125.

The "Partnership-Based Diplomacy" approach is Indonesia's second diplomatic strategy, and its primary objective is to establish robust partnerships with other nations. This strategy emphasizes establishing robust partnerships with other nations to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development objectives. Through partnership-based diplomacy, Indonesia has exhibited a strong commitment to increasing its level of collaboration with other nations, particularly in maritime, technological, and spacecraft cooperation.

Through partnership-based diplomacy, Indonesia has made efforts to expand its cooperation with other nations through various channels. These channels include conducting meetings with other nations, sending delegations to other nations, and participating in various international initiatives. Because of this, Indonesia has the potential to expand its position and impact on a global scale by boosting its level of cooperation with governments from other nations.

Indonesia's cooperation with Vietnam in the maritime industry is an example of the partnership-based diplomacy that Indonesia employs. Over the year 2021, the value of maritime economic transactions between Indonesia and Vietnam has increased, demonstrating the significant potential of the bilateral partnership. Indonesia's partnership-based diplomacy has facilitated increasing maritime economic cooperation for sustainable development in

both nations, which has contributed to this development. In addition, Indonesia's partnership-based diplomacy has also made an effort to enhance collaborative efforts with other countries in the technology field.²⁰

For instance, Indonesia has participated in a number of international technology projects, such as programs for remote sensing, to boost its presence on the international stage and improve its technological skills. In general, Indonesia's partnership-based diplomacy has shown that it is strongly committed to raising its level of collaboration with other nations to accomplish its goals of sustainable development.²¹

Technology-based diplomacy" is the third diplomatic strategy that Indonesia employs. This approach focuses on the utilization of technology to enhance Indonesia's role and influence on a worldwide scale. As part of this policy, Indonesia intends to boost its utilization of technology in various ways. These include the utilization of information technology to enhance communication with other nations, the utilization of technology to enhance military capabilities, and participation in different international technology initiatives. Because of this,

²⁰ Ahadin, M. Kepentingan Pemerintah Indonesia Mendukung Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Laut Yang Berkelanjutan Dalam Kerja Sama Indian Ocean Rim Assosiation (Iora) Periode 2015-2019 (Bachelor's thesis, Fisip UIN Jakarta).

²¹ Jauh-LAPAN, P. P. P. (2014). Menentukan Spesifikasi Sensor Satelit Penginderaan Jauh Nasional Berdasarkan Informasi Kebutuhan Pengguna. In Seminar Nasional Penginderaan Jauh (p. 33).

Indonesia can expand its role and impact worldwide by increasing the amount of technology it employs.²²

The country's diplomatic policy is a significant factor contributing to its growing presence and influence on the international stage. As a result, Indonesia has the potential to develop into a more powerful nation and play a more significant role on the international stage.

C. EPILOG

In order to strengthen its standing in the international arena, Indonesia must adjust to the rapid changes occurring in the global political and economic landscape and contend with pressure from various parties with diverse interests. Nevertheless, Indonesia can enhance its position in the United Nations General Assembly's negotiations about foreign policy if it increases its cooperation with other nations that have goals comparable to its own and increases its engagement with other international organizations.

Indonesia, as a nation dedicated to the principles of the United Nations, bears a significant responsibility in fostering peace, justice, and prosperity worldwide. Indonesia is committed to being a good change agent by actively participating in various United Nations forums and projects. This is

 $^{^{22}}$ Wangke, H. (2021). Diplomasi digital dan kebijakan luar negeri Indonesia. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

part of the country's ongoing efforts to realize the admirable objectives that the organization has established.

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