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## **Sustainable Development: Socio-Economic and Environmental Problems Focused on Indonesian Cases**

**Sustainable Development:  
Socio-Economic and Environmental Problems**

**Focused on Indonesian Cases**



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# Opening Remarks

**H.E. Mr Rahardjo Jamtomo**

Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Federal Republic of Germany  
On the Occasion of the International Seminar and Culture Exhibition

Mr. Dodik Ridho Nurrochmat, Chair Person of the Indonesia Student Union in Göttingen,  
Members of the Organizing and Steering Committee,  
All members of the Indonesian Student Union,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be present at the “Göttingen University” and to address such a distinguished gathering to speak on a topic like “Sustainable Development: Socio Economics and Environmental Problems, Focused on Indonesian Cases”. Let me share with you the following thoughts that may guide the Seminar in looking for a way out to tackle the environmental problems in Indonesia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Permit me first to subscribe the statement of) Prof. Dr. Emil Salim in his speech “Charting Sustainable Development Map Together” said development has been successful in rising material growth, but at the expense of environmental degradation. The exploitation of Indonesia’s natural resources since the 1960’s has brought economic benefit to the country, but it has often damaged the natural environment and society in resource-rich areas in a way that fosters social tensions and has led to violent conflict. Despite the progress achieved over the past ten years, the general economic, social and environment conditions remain alarming. These constraints, in particular those of widespread poverty and the lack of financial resources, have been worsened by a number of developments in the past few years including the financial crisis in 1997, the debt burden of many developing countries and the inadequate institutional and technical capacities that still negatively impact the developing countries. They are also aggravated by the unavailability of an appropriate mechanism for promoting environmentally friendly technologies. In addition, a fragmented approach towards the issues of sustainable development, the lack of progress in ensuring sustainable patterns of consumption and production particularly in the developed countries and the lack of mutually coherent policies or approaches in the areas of finance, trade, investment, technology and sustainable development are also major factors hindering the effective implementation of sustainable development strategies.

For our part in Indonesia, we have developed our national strategy on sustainable development by publishing National Agenda 21 that serves as the general guideline for all stakeholders to develop their respective activities and policies. The National Agenda 21

focuses on the need to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development within a single policy arrangement. In the year 2000, Indonesia also launched its Sectoral Agenda 21 that covers mining, energy, housing, tourism and forestry. Likewise, several local governments have also produced their local Agenda 21 focusing on specific sectors in accordance with their priorities. Indonesia has also ratified a number of important MEA's, enacted a number of national laws and strengthened its institutional capacity both at the national and local levels. These should enable us to cope with the rising amount of critical challenges.

Indonesia needs to engineer a better balance between the claims of the state, private corporations and ordinary citizens to natural wealth, while ensuring that extraction is environmentally and socially more sustainable to reduce the risk conflict and instigate the other destructive effects of resource extraction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia was actively involved in the Rio process in 1992, UNGAS 19 in 1997 as well as in the deliberation on the implementation of sectoral and cross sectoral issues within the framework of the annual sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Beside its national and Sectoral Agenda 21 Indonesia has ratified all of the conventions agreed upon in UNCED 1992 (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD).

Despite various difficulties encountered for the last four years in the field of finance, economics and politics the Indonesian government is committed to implementing sustainable developments stipulated stated in National Guidelines (GBHN). These national programs includes the management of natural resources and support for maintaining and preserving social welfare from generation to generation. This could also be reflected in the six priority areas to be pursued by government in its current program as commitment to solve the multi-dimensional problems encountered as the result of the crisis.

Indonesia's role in the preparatory process for WSSD 2002 will be to seek and secure the momentum and commitment of all member states for the purposes of further cooperating at the regional and international levels in implementing the national guidelines (GBHN) and putting into practice other legislative and executive laws.

The efforts to secure the post of Minister for Environment in the Gotong Royong Cabinet (August 9 2001) has also been viewed as strong commitment by Indonesia to implement its sustainable development programmes. The government's programme which is coordinated by the office of the Ministry of Environment includes 7 main activities, earth conservation; natural resources conservation, clean stream water programmes, blue sky programme, adipura award; sea and coast conservation and environment management. All these require the support of the whole community and relevant institutions and stakeholder s as well as the international community. In the area of compliance and enforcement, the establishment of the civil servant official investigator for environment matters in the office of BAPEDAL has demonstrated its reliability and strong commitment of the government.

Environmental programmes in the post crisis era faces various challenges particularly in the areas of financial and human resources, as well as institutional capacities including that of public knowledge and civil society supportive of the programmes. New challenges have also been raised following the adoption of Law No. 22 in 1999 on Decentralization (Autonomy). These challenges must be addressed through bilateral, regional and global cooperation.

In a national seminar held in Jakarta on 9 February 2001, the UNDP Administrator, Malloch Brown said that the endorsement by the UN General Assembly on Indonesia as host for the Ministerial Level Meeting PrepCom on WSSD was entirely appropriate and will have positive impact on the preparatory deliberations. This is based on two main reasons, he continued, Indonesia is a personification between development and environment and that Indonesia's leadership as chairman of the PrepCom and host for the ministerial level meeting denotes that Indonesia has passed its crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sustainable Development arose from the need to answer global challenges in the field of economy, social and environment through seeking synergy of these three components of development. The concept encompasses the quality of growth not just the quantity. Thus, sustainable development reflects the effort to achieve economic growth and social development without harming the environment, which is of essential important to present and future generations. Thus, sustainable development depicts 3 main pillars, which interact and supports each other: economic growth, social development and environment protection.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The principle of sustainable development is in tandem with the concept of decentralization development process in Indonesia: a process that supports the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making in its planning, implementation and monitoring.

Therefore, applying, implementation and adopting the concept of sustainable development can help to nurture social welfare, equality and combating poverty. The least developed areas of Indonesia are still considered to be as critical that need to be addressed so as to ensure the objective of sustainable development.

It is necessary for Agenda 21 to take course in the main stream of the national development plan strategy. In formulating a development strategy to synergies between sectoral and regional interest in order to optimize potentials and minimize any conflict occurrences.

Agenda 21 must be incorporated into the main stream of development through effective development plans and strategy. In formulating a development strategy, to capitalize on the synergy between sectoral and regional interests to optimize the potential and minimize any conflict occurrences.

Sustainable development planning criteria could include: limited use of finite resources, sustainable consumption pattern and use of renewable alternative energy resources, production of more goods and services with less use of natural resources. Orientation planning for long term interest and distribution of economic opportunity implement the various endeavor programmes effectively and efficiency.

I hope that with this opening remarks I could share some basic elements of the important issues treated in this forum and could moreover help smoothen your valuable deliberation.

Thank you.

## **Keynote Speech**

### **Indonesia, Economic Crisis, and Sustainable Development**

**H. E. Mr. Sulaiman Abdulmanan**

Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Belgium and Luxembourg

Let me say, it is not just a pleasure but a great honor for me to be here this morning. I wish to appreciate the Indonesian Students for their initiative to hold this seminar. They show a strong sense of engagement on problems faced by their country, although they are living far away from home. From the letter of invitation sent to me a few weeks ago, I understand that the seminar will discuss social conflicts in Indonesia from different perspectives. That's, of course, a good point because without a broad, comprehensive understanding of the background of the conflicts, it will be difficult to find the best solution to the multidimensional crisis which confronts Indonesia today.

Unfortunately, the focal theme of the seminar has changed to give more emphasis to problem of environment and sustainable development. I will not discuss the issue because I don't have much knowledge about it. Nevertheless, whatever the problem we will discuss, I am sure that we might be able to have deeper understanding, more or less, on the latest political and socio-economic development in Indonesia. From time to time, we have seen many seminars had been organized, both in Indonesia and abroad, discussing about "Indonesian crisis" and how the country could overcome the magnitude of problems it is facing. Regrettably, almost none of the proposals and recommendations made in the seminars are heard and the crisis continues to go on unabated.

It is not my intention to discourage the students who have been working hard in organizing this seminar. I deeply respect and congratulate them for their strong commitment. What I want to say is: I come here with no new ideas to propose since there are already hundreds of analyses and commentaries of one kind or another, either in the media or in the academic circles, about the current crisis. Therefore, it is not impossible that the exposure of my propositions, if any, will be something like a repetition of the previous analyses and opinions.

I must say that whatever the results we will achieve during the course of the day, they will be important since this seminar, like the ones held in many places, is a forum of self-reflection and enlightenment. We badly need self-reflection and enlightenment in time of crisis. I believe that there is almost no one who would disagree with the proposition that Indonesia today is in need of strong leadership with a clear vision of the future to formulate policy priorities that could give the country new hope to get rid of the present crises.