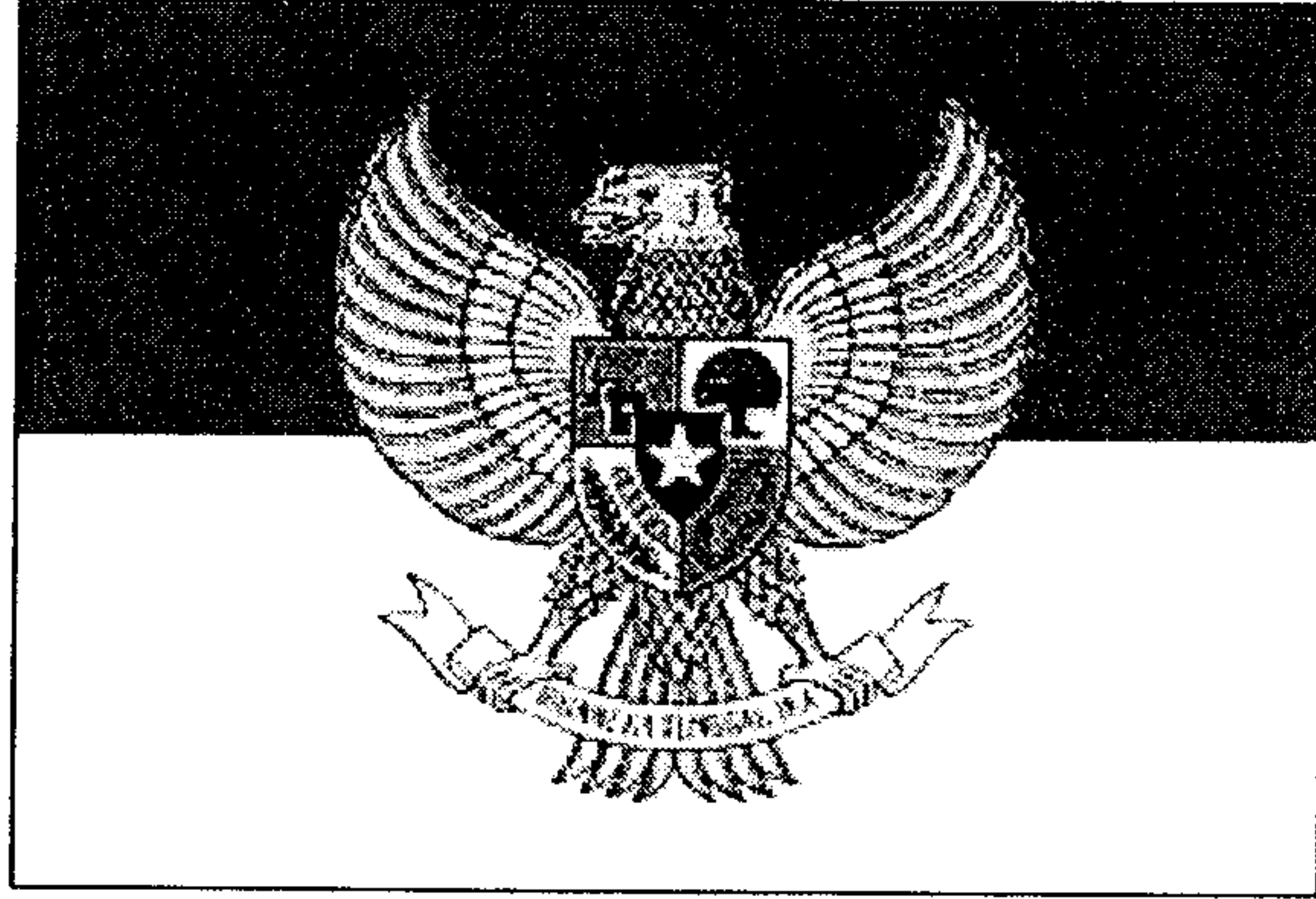


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Statement by

H.E. Mrs. Nahari Agustini
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of Turkey

at the Plenary Meeting
the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May, 2011

Mr. President,

First of all, on behalf of Indonesian Delegation, I would like to congratulate the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent organization of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Please also accept our gratitude for warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation during our stay in this historic city of Istanbul.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States for the substantive preparation of this conference.

The Conference is of great importance to promote the development progress of the least-developed countries for the next decade and it is a great honor for Indonesia to be part of this endeavor.

Mr. President,

In the last decade, we have been witnessing multiple challenges ranging from food and energy price hike, climate change to global financial breakdown that have put at risk the development process in the LDCs:

- A record level of food price hike in recent years have trapped millions more people below poverty line.
- Climate change constitutes a major threat to achieving sustainable development and poses catastrophic risk especially to small island countries.
- Economic and financial crisis have significantly evaporated trade financing essential for the least-developed countries to boost their income from export.

It is without doubt that the least-developed countries are the hardest hit by such crises.

While the LDCs still face structural challenges such as poverty and social issues, these multiple crises have seriously jeopardized the development progress that has been made to date including in the achievement of MDGs.

On another note, the global political and economic landscape is also changing. Emerging economies have shown remarkable economic performance and play more important role in the recovery process.

Against this background, we are gathering today to assess what we have achieved since the Brussels Program of Action for 2001-2010 (BPoA) and striving to chart a new course for the next decade.

Mr. President,

In the last decade, through the BPoA, the least developed countries with the support of their development partners have worked hard to overcome many of their developmental and structural challenges. Several LDCs have been able to harness their potential and are in a good position to move towards a high-growth path and reduce absolute poverty.

However as a heterogeneous group, there are also a large number of LDCs that have yet to make much development progress, including in the attainment of the MDGs. Their national economic and political environment remains fragile unable to induce businesses and the market to play their part in economic development.

This mixed result of the BPoA has been the defining story from the last decade for the LDCs as group. Here in Istanbul, as we close the chapter on the BPoA, we have an opportunity re-write the fate of the LDCs. It is our hope that the new Plan of Action will finally enable the LDCs to be on path of development to complete their journey to graduation.

Mr. President,

The development challenges we are facing at this juncture are enormous.

Structural challenges and recent development facing the LDCs should be taken into account when we are discussing a new strategy for the LDCs for 2011-2020.

Let me highlight several important points:

- First, there should be a concerted effort at both global and regional level in supporting the development process in the LDCs. Regional initiatives to support the LDCs should be strengthened and be connected to the global efforts so as to ensure that both mechanisms will reinforce each other.
- Second, the objective for LDCs, their development partners and the international community in the coming decade should be to strengthening the productive capacities of the LDCs.

- Third, ownership of the LDCs to their-own development should be strengthened. The LDCs is in the best position to determine the most optimal means for their growth and development. National level actions remain the corner stone for the success of LDCs.
- Fourth, innovative financing should be explored further. Diversification of financing sources will complement the ODA commitments from developed countries. Debt swap, public-private partnership, and social corporate responsibility are among these alternatives.
- Fifth, market access for products originating from the LDCs should be opened including through Duty Free Quota Free Market Access with preferential rules of origin. Early conclusion of the Doha Round which lives up to the development mandate is also essential in this regard.
- Sixth, we do believe that effective follow-up and monitoring mechanisms should be a prominent feature of the future PoA so as to review its implementation.
- Seventh, given the change of the global political and economic landscape, south-south cooperation including south-south economic relations should be further enhanced.

Mr. President,

Like the LDCs, Indonesia is not immune to the development challenges. The persistence of poverty and social challenges cannot be taken for granted. Limited financing capacity and lack of infrastructure still poses a major development bottleneck for us.

However, these challenges will not retreat us from our commitment to support the LDCs. On the contrary, we will enhance the cooperation with the LDCs which commensurate with our level of development.

For our part, Indonesia has undertaken various South-South Cooperation programmes. Indonesia views that South-South Cooperation is one of our contributions to development process in other developing countries including the LDCs. Our vision is ***“Better Partnership for Prosperity”***.

Mr. President,

In closing, let me reiterate Indonesia’s unwavering commitment to support the development process in the LDCs. We hope that the outcome of our Conference, the Istanbul Programme of Action, will generate strong momentum and concrete actions to

strengthening global partnership aimed at overcoming multiple development challenges being faced by LDCs.

This time, we can make a difference. And it is up to us to seize the opportunity.

10 years after now, we will be judged by history whether the Istanbul Programme of Action will bring meaningful results for the LDCs.

I thank you.