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Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development  
Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

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**DISCUSSION PAPER**

**PRESENTATION**

**BY**

**MS. VIVI YULASWATI**

# POST-PANDEMIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ISLANDS STATES: INDONESIA'S EXPERIENCE

by:

Vivi Yulaswati  
Deputy Minister for Marine and Natural Resources Affair  
Ministry of National Development Planning/  
National Development Planning Agency

## INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals are our key guidelines to guide development efforts. They are wide in scale, ambitious, inclusive and comprehensive, to include financial aspects and tools to track the progress.

However, there is a growing concern that the world has been off track towards the attainment of the 17 Goals.

The 2022 SDGs Report highlights this concern. Crises dominated by Covid-19 and conflicts in different parts of the world, with climate change looming and acting as a "crisis multiplier", as quoted from the UN Secretary General, contribute further to hunger, poverty, instability, and the regress in sectors like education and health.

Against this backdrop, my presentation today will elaborate on Indonesia's SDG policy, particularly in the post-pandemic era. Like other countries, Indonesia has been seriously affected by the pandemic. Many development issues became more complex, such as efforts to localize SDGs, widened SDGs financing gap, and data collection.

Being an archipelagic country, many parts of Indonesia, particularly our small islands, share similar traits with many Non-Self-Governing Territories, as I will elaborate further in my presentation. Indonesia therefore shares the concern of the Territories on how to cope with the post-pandemic challenges, shaped by our unique geographical contours. It is my hope that our experiences can draw inspiration for related policies of the Territories.

Furthermore, we believe partnership is key. To build a resilient and inclusive development with more collaborative actions, to ensure inclusiveness which left no one behind, The South-South and Triangle Cooperation (SSTC) model 'm still can serve as an alternative partnership in strengthening the NSGT's capacity in attaining the SDGs.

## POST-PANDEMIC SDG POLICY

Following the adoption of Agenda 2030, the Indonesian government mainstreamed the SDGs into the development planning, by aligning the Goals' indicators with the strategy and priorities of the national development plan.

The impacts of the pandemic on our SDGs have been identified as:

- ⇒ **Economic risks**, including a decrease in people's purchasing power, increase in poverty rate, increase in employment, and a gap increase of gini ratio.

Some of our small islands have also been impacted due to their limited economic base that focus heavily on a singular economic sector such as tourism, providing less cushion when the pandemic struck. I believe this was also experienced by many NSGTs.

- ⇒ **Social risks**, such as increased risk of malnutrition, constrained essential health services, and distant learning. In some of our small islands, the challenge was further exacerbated by their remote geographical location, similar to many NSGTs.

- ⇒ **Environment risks**, including an increase of waste, increase use of private vehicles, and medical waste.

**To address those risks**, several steps and reforms have been taken, guided by the principles of inclusivity and leaving no one behind. In undertaking the reforms, **integration** of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions is **key**.

→ **Social protection system reform by strengthening the National Social Security System for health and employment**, enhancing integrated services, improving the targeting of poverty alleviation programs, and increasing social welfare for vulnerable groups.

→ **The reform on national health system on eight main aspects**, namely: strengthening health workers' education and placement; strengthening primary health care; improving the capacity of hospitals and health services in isolated, border and small island areas; increasing independence in pharmaceuticals and medical equipment; strengthening health security and resilience; disease control and immunization; increasing the effectiveness of health financing; and advancing information technology, digitization and community empowerment, including through the Healthy Life Style Community Movement.

→ **Strengthening disaster resilience system, including low-carbon development and climate resilience**, with specific strategies for disaster resilience as well as prevention, preparedness and early warning response for communicable diseases.

→ **Economic recovery reform by promoting an inclusive economy through sustainable investment, innovative financing, sustainable tourism, Micro Small Medium Enterprises, digital technology, creative economy**, as well as sustainable production and consumption through circular economy.

Addressing the pandemic impacts on women, Indonesia have taken the following actions:

- a. **Launching Women Friendly Village and Care for Children** that provides training for business women's groups and involves women in village financial budgeting planning and decision making;
- b. **Launching a call center for reporting violence against women and children** who need special protection;
- c. **Developing a system to monitor and track gender responsive budget allocations** to reduce gender gap.

**Green and blue economy is also Indonesia's priority agenda** to accelerate SDGs, in addition to low carbon and climate resilient development agenda. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial ecosystems will support the realization of green and blue economy. This will also expand the economic base of the islands and coastal communities.

In 2021, Indonesian Marine Protected Area has increased to 28.4 million hectares from the targeted 24.2 million hectares. **Sustainable use of fisheries is conducted through: a) marine fishery production that does not exceed Total Allowable Catch and b) combating IUU fishing.** We also protect small-scale fisheries with independent fishers' insurance scheme to more than 40 thousand fishermen.

Indonesia's forest area increased to 50.9% of the total land area and has 24.24 million hectares of High Conservation Value Areas. **Forest Management Units were established to:**

- **safeguard biodiversity**
- **support conservation of 25 priority species population included in the IUCN Red-List Index**
- **safeguard access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits from their use**
- **eradicate Invasive Alien Species**
- **combat illegal poaching and trading of wild species and support achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target.**

**Innovative financial instruments have been manifested by:**

- a. **Operating SDGs Financing Hub** as a platform to facilitate various innovative financing schemes from non-state actors.
- b. **Launching our first SDGs Bonds and SDGs Investor map**, in addition to Green Bond and Green Sukuk.
- c. **Finalizing Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) roadmap** to orchestrate sources.

Indonesia acknowledges that **Debt Suspension Service Initiative** has helped **vulnerable countries** to have **fiscal space** for responding to **COVID-19 pandemic**.

**All efforts are supported by updating the data on SDGs Dashboard** and redesigning inclusive and sustainable economic transformation through digital infrastructure and digital utilization.

### **III. Small Islands Management Policy of Indonesia**

Despite geographically spread in different parts of the globe, **the NSGTs share a few characteristics, namely:**

- **Remote location.** With the exception of Western Sahara and Gibraltar, most of the of the Territories are small islands located far from their closest neighbors. Access and transport options are limited.
- **Small population.**
- **Less diversified economy.** The majority of the Territories rely on certain sectors from a narrow economic base, such as tourism and fisheries.
- In that regard, the Territories are often heavily dependent to external aids, particularly from the Administering powers.
- **Prone to natural disasters**, including earthquakes and storms, thus will face the severe threat of climate change.

Among Indonesia's 17,504 islands, **there are 111 categorized as the outermost small islands (2022)**, with similar characteristics with the NSGTs. A number of policies in promoting development and resilience on the islands:

- **Economic diversification on a small island (ex: Bangka Belitung, Maluku):**
  - The policy direction for economic diversification in **Maluku is the development of fisheries industries and centers as well as the integration of sea connectivity.** At present, Maluku has an Integrated Marine and Fisheries Center to optimize capture fisheries and seafood production, mainly tuna, cobs, and seaweed.

→ **Bangka Belitung** has fewer small islands compared to Maluku. **Special economic zones** (Sadai Industrial Zone and Tanjung Kelayang Special Economic Zone) were built, supported by five passenger ports, one freight port, and three fishing ports. The province is planning to **diversify its economy focusing on its superior commodities such as capture fisheries, pepper, nutmeg, cloves, rubber, and tourism**. Some areas need to be addressed, including equitable basic infrastructure, clean water supply, and gas supply.

- **Digital transformation in small islands:**

Digital technology has been utilized to facilitate the citizens, such as **providing access to e-logbook technology for fishermen**. The e-logbook serves as a recording system for documenting the quantity, species, and location of fish catches. Additionally, VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) technology installed on small fishing vessels is used to monitor the location of fishermen at sea. Radar technology is also used to find fishing locations and predict safe weather conditions for fishing activities.

- **Disaster mitigation:**

Disaster mitigation in small and remote islands is carried out through various activities **targeting Coastal and Small Island Communities to raise awareness about pollution control, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation**. Raising awareness among coastal communities is achieved **through initiatives such as the Indonesian Coastal School, the Clean Beach and Sea Movement, and the Development of Resilient Coastal Area Facilities and Infrastructure**. The programs cover related issues such as coastal disasters and plastic waste, and instill disaster mitigation, such as the establishment of evacuation routes, signage, and other coastal protection measures, particularly for tsunami events.

- **Improving the quality of human resources:** Coastal and small island communities have distinct characteristics compared to those living on the mainland. **The empowerment of coastal and small island communities is carried out through two methods**. Empowering coastal communities by **delegating decision-making authority to the community**, allowing them to be self-reliant in making decisions and developing themselves and their environment. The next method aims to **enhance the capacity and abilities of the community, through training programs in production and marketing management, as well as management of natural resources and the environment**.

### III. PARTNERSHIP THROUGH SSTC

**Against the efforts above, 'Partnership' is key. In this regard, Indonesia considers multistakeholders' partnership, including under the SSTC scheme, could be considered.**

**The core of SSTC lies on exchanging knowledge, skills, experiences and lessons learned between and among countries of the global South, to serve as a catalyst for development. These exchanges complement and may even improve traditional North-South cooperation and are a fundamental tool for inclusive global partnerships towards sustainable development.**

**Using the SSTC model, there are several schemes that can be devised for the development of NSGT:**

- The triangular scheme, involving the administering power, UN member states, and the NSGTs.**
- The quadrilateral scheme, involving the administering power, UN member states, the NSGTs, and UN agencies or relevant other regional/international organizations.**

**Indonesia has been participating in the SSTC programs and activities to support its national development agenda. As Indonesia's economy grew, it has started contributing to the development of other developing countries, including through the SSTC.**

**To improve the effectiveness of SSTC implementation, Indonesia established an Agency for International Development (Indonesian AID) in October 2019.**

**Focusing on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, our development partnerships are strengthened from data availability, localizing the SDGs, capacity buildings and trainings, policy advice, financial resources, funding schemes, and technology development and transfer.**

**Scholarship program has the highest number of beneficiaries in SSTC Indonesia. The closest neighbor, Timor Leste, was the country partner that has benefited from the SSC program.**

**Some development partnership that Indonesia has provided under the SSTC scheme, include:**

- 1. Dispatch Expert for International Training on Seashell Crafting 2015: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji**

2. **Dispatch Expert & International Workshop on Seaweed & Fisheries and Product Development Management for MSG/PIDF Countries 2016:** Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, France, Samoa, New Zealand, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
3. **Internship Program for Alumni of the International Training on Seashell Crafting for Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Countries 2015:** Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands
4. **International Training on Coconut Product Development 2016:** Fiji, Cambodia, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Indonesia
5. **Workshop on Review of the Implementation of National Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** (supported by IDB through Reverse Linkage Program), participant countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Thailand, Timor Leste.
6. **State enterprise Bio Farma has been collaborating with many global institutions** such as Organization Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Developing Countries Vaccine Manufactures Network (DCVMN), and World Health Organization (WHO) **in developing vaccine technology as well as other life science.** This collaboration includes research and development, transfer of technology, development of manufacture and quality control.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

**The global economic crisis in the past several years, coupled with the increasing impact of the climate change and exacerbated by the pandemic, have posed tremendous challenge to the achievement of the SDGs.**

**The challenge feels greater for the Non-Self Governing Territories, due to their location, economic scale, population and limited access to international resources. This has also contributed to the progress of their decolonization process.**

**The international community can partner with the Territories by sharing experiences and good practices suitable to their conditions and making use of available development cooperation schemes, such as the SSTC.**

***“We don’t grow when things are easy; we grow when we face challenges together”***

***Thank you.***