Promoting Good Governance, Stepping Up SDGs 16

Speech by Hon. Dr. Aziz Syamsudin Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives

Your Excellency Speaker of the Parliament of Qatar,
Distinguished President of GOPAC, Dr. Fadli Zon,
Distinguished Delegates and invitees,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 was a momentum of agreement to adopt a set of universal goals, targets and indicators for all member countries. The Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs provides a shared vision of our ideal world – a world that is free from poverty and disparity, a world that is more just. Those global development agenda will influence the global policies of United Nations member states.

SDGs emphasize on 5Ps; prosperity, people, planet, partnership, and peace. SDGs are the appropriate response to the major challenges of 21st century. Especially in addressing challenges in four dimensions: (1) Economy – by helping low income countries to achieve the SDGs, (2) Social – by highlighting the vital role of inclusion and equality, (3) Environment – by optimizing climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, (4) Governance – by ensuring strong and collaborative institutions. All of these are intended to ensure inclusive and sustainable development that leaves no one behind. The governance dimension is further elaborated in Goal 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. This goal emphasizes in peaceful and inclusive society, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. For the past couple of periods, institutional strengthening has become a big vision of Indonesian parliament under modern parliament program. Parliament that is able to catch up with the recent development of this century.

Distinguished delegates and invitees, ladies and gentlemen,

The 16th goal is further elaborated into various targets. On institutional strengthening, SDGs underline the efforts towards accountable and transparent institutions across all levels. The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia has a strong commitment to accountability and transparency.

The House has undertaken various initiatives to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making processes.

Open Parliament of the House was declared on the day of the House’s 73rd anniversary in 2018. Open Parliament is an initiative that aims to drive a more open, transparent, accountable, and inclusive parliament. This idea is aligned with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative that promotes openness in the executive
branch. To realize that commitment, to implement good governance, and to demonstrate the political will of promoting parliamentary openness, the House has formulated a National Action Plan on Open Parliament, which is separate from the government’s action plan on open government. I can tell you that having separate action plans is not the usual practice. In Asia, we are the first parliament to have its own Open Parliament Action Plan. Globally, we are part of just 20 parliaments with our own action plan on Open Parliament.

The 2018-2020 Open Parliament Action Plan of the Indonesian House of Representatives has five elements, namely: (i) the improvement of data governance and legislative information service; (ii) increase of IT use in the parliament; (iii) strengthening of public information transparency in the House; (iv) formulation of Open Parliament roadmap; and (v) establishment of Open Parliament institutions.

**Distinguished delegates, guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In my view, one of the greatest challenges to institutional strengthening is sustaining the continuity of open parliament initiative, considering the change of parliamentarians with each new term of office.

As new members come along, parliamentary priorities may also change. This is a lesson we learned after the process of roadmap formulation, in line with our Action Plan, had been met with hurdles with respect to legislative elections and the transition to the new term of office.

There is another challenge in terms of the technicalities surrounding coordination with various stakeholders. Open Government adheres to the principle of multilateralism under the Open Government Partnership, where policy making, implementation, and oversight is a co-creation that involves the civil society. It is certainly a challenge to accommodate different interests and to achieve the best consensus that satisfies all parties involved.

Aside from the challenges, we believe that joining the international community for an open regimen is the best option. Under this regimen, the House may assess and benchmark its level of openness against its peers in a peer review process. Additionally, by participating in an open regimen, we are also opening access for international support to promote openness. The House and parliaments of foreign countries will be able to support one another in terms of advocacy or in terms of providing technical support and studies that would benefit this initiative, improve the use of IT, and strengthen people representation.

**Esteemed delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

Democracy is built upon people representation. The public reserves full rights to participate in policy making. The House believes in the importance of public engagement. Therefore, we have developed a Legislative Information
System (SILEG). Apart from monitoring legislative processes in the House, this system is also designed to accommodate public voices in law making using digital technology.

One of the test cases for the system in the near future is its use to accumulate public opinions on Omnibus Law that is now being deliberated in the parliament. Omnibus Law is a solution amid the regulatory overlaps in Indonesia, the need to accelerate law-making, and the need to amend existing laws and regulations. Learning from our experience of drafting the new Criminal Code Law in the last period, where public refusal and protests were rampant, we are now committed to improve public engagement in every stage of law-making.

Through DPR NOW!, our method of gathering our constituents’ inputs and opinions is no longer limited to the conventional, face-to-face meeting. Similarly, by having the Parliamentary Center for Information and Broadcasting, the House is opening its doors for real-time oversight to parliamentary activities. Finally, through SILEG, the House will able to ensure quality legislation products that truly answer the needs and wants of the people.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The performance of the House as a political institution can only be measured by people, on whether they feel represented through our legislative works and whether their interests are met in the budget we formulate. A future, ideal parliament is a parliament that is capable of communicating the areas of its performance and using digital technologies to capture the voices of the people. Moreover, recognizing that greater public support to policies require better public engagement, I would like once again emphasize the urgency of joining the global movement for an open parliament regimen.

To conclude, allow me to express my appreciation and thanks to GOPAC and to Qatar as the host for graciously entrusting me to be one of the panelists of this meeting. This is a strategic meeting that provides a platform to advance the idea of an open parliament and to align our perception in order to realize effective, accountable, and inclusive institution.

Thank you.
The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia Effort in Promoting Good Governance and Stepping Up SDGs 16
SDGs at a Glance

SDGs 5P focus:
Prosperity
People
Planet
Partnership
Peace

To address the challenges on:
Economy
Social
Environment
Good Governance

Inclusive and sustainable development
Leave no one behind
Vision of a modern and transparent institution

Open Parliament Indonesia as an initiative to encourage an open, transparent, accountable and inclusive

Open Parliament Indonesia was declared in 2018 during the 73rd Anniversary of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

Open Parliament in parallel to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)
National Action Plan on Parliamentary Openness as reflection of our commitment

The first parliament in Asia that submitted the National Action Plan independent of the Government

Consists of five commitments: (i) Improvement of data management and legislative information services; (ii) Promotion of utilization of parliamentary information technology; (iii) Promotion of public information transparency of the parliament; (iv) Formulation of Open Parliament Indonesia roadmap; (v) Institutionalization of the Open Parliament Indonesia.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges:
- Sustainability of the initiative
- Multistakeholders coordination

Opportunities:
- Peer review
- Technical cooperation and advocacy
THE INDONESIAN HOUSE INITIATIVES ON PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS

- Internal regulation on information disclosure under the umbrella of Law on Public Information.
- Development of Legislative Information System (SILEG) which will monitor all the bills tabled in the house along with their records of minutes, hansard, decisions, and others. All of these are now gradually published in the parliamentary website.
- Open access to the public for minutes, academic papers, preliminary bills, research journals, field visit reports, meeting reports.
- Technology and innovation through digital apps DPRNOW!
THANK YOU