

CONTENTS

Foreword : H.E. Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri
President of the Republic of Indonesia

Preface : H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda
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Introductory Remarks : H.E. Mr. Mochamad Slamet Hidayat
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Indonesia to the United Nations, New York

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I : Sustainable Development from Indonesia's Perspective

- A. A Journey from Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg
- B. Contributing to Norm Development and the Promotion of Action
- C. An Overview of Indonesia's Assessment on the National Implementation of Agenda 21

CHAPTER II : The Process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

- A. A Brief History
- B. The Bottom-up Approach
- C. Generating the Summit Outcomes
- D. Negotiations for a Global Consensus

CHAPTER III : The Role of Indonesia in the WSSD Process

- A. Chairmanship of the Preparatory Committee of the WSSD
- B. Host of the Ministerial Preparatory Committee Meeting on the WSSD
- C. Shuttle Diplomacy prior to the Johannesburg Summit
- D. Consensus Achieved at the Johannesburg Summit

CHAPTER IV: The Way Forward and Challenges for Indonesia

CHAPTER V: Conclusion

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The ten year review of the landmark Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 took place in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, (WSSD), in Johannesburg in August/September 2002 and included a preparatory process that began about a year and a half earlier. The preparatory process had four preparatory conferences, the last of which was held at the ministerial level in Bali, Indonesia a few months prior to the Johannesburg Summit. Indonesia played an active and important role throughout the year-and-a-half-long process not only as a country deeply concerned with many of the numerous critical issues being negotiated, but also as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and host of the final Preparatory Conference in Bali. This book, titled, *Indonesia and the World Summit on Sustainable Development -Forging Consensus for Global Agreement on Sustainable Development*, takes a searching look at the journey taken by the WSSD process, and particularly at the implementation of sustainable development in a rapidly changing world as well as at Indonesia' s active role in the unfolding process.

In telling that story , the book, which was recently prepared and published by the staff of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York, seeks to trace any progress or lack of it made since the international community was mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 55/199. It also seeks to give a flavour of the often difficult multilateral negotiations of the Summit process and included the task of forging consensus on ways and means of reinvigorating the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of Rio. The struggle during the WSSD process to inject new impetus and vigor into the faltering efforts of the global community to implement sustainable development was a formidable one.

The publication takes a look back at the background and context that led up to the Johannesburg Summit. While humankind had lived in close harmony with nature and the environment for thousands of years, the onset of the industrial revolution in the developed countries and the population explosion in the developing countries ushered in widespread unsustainable practices and activities that outpaced the carrying capacities of numerous ecosystems. The global community did not collectively address the issue till the Stockholm Conference in 1972. It was there that the alarm bells first sounded loud and clear and echoed round the world. They put humankind on notice that the world in which they lived and upon which they depended was a fragile place, that the resilience it enjoyed was finite, that the ongoing unsustainable relationships should be redressed and that our whole economic and development models should be subjected to fundamental rethinking. However, the emphasis at Stockholm was largely confined to environmental protection" a concept that had its genesis mainly in the industrialized countries. While the Stockholm Declaration did recognize that most of the environmental problems in the developing countries were traced to under- development and pervasive poverty, it largely ignored the intimate linkages between the environment, poverty and development.

In the succeeding years after Stockholm this imbalance was increasingly addressed by the developing countries who became increasingly vocal particularly through the activities of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement. They argued that the agenda advanced by the developed countries to halt environmental degradation and to promote the protection of the environment, was far too eco- centric. Such policies, they stressed, would not resolve the pivotal problem of poverty and deprivation, which were central to environmental degradation. Rather, they could lead to further marginalization of the development interests of the developing countries. It should however be remembered that the seeds of an emerging debate on the environment and development were already sown at Stockholm, particularly in the agreement which underlined that each country had sovereign rights over their own natural resources for development on behalf of their own people.

These warnings got a receptive ear during the Brundtland Commission and at the Rio Summit in 1992. It was recognized that new norms and strategies for development were critically needed. A focus on environmental protection or natural resources management alone would not suffice. The activities of the poor in their daily quest for survival

were seen as similarly destructive of the environment as the excessive practices of production and consumption by the developed countries. Both were unsustainable. In forging a consensus on the need to integration development and the protection of the environment, the Rio Conference succeeded in putting the concept of sustainable development firmly on the international agenda. The delegates leaving the Rio Summit had a sense of euphoria that a breakthrough had been achieved, that a new beginning was possible and that its implementation of the outcomes would bring about a new sustainable world free from poverty and deprivation. The "Spirit of Rio" was shining brightly.

Yet, while Rio had put the sustainable development firmly on the international agenda, over the course of the following decade the global programme and commitments adopted, particularly Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration remained disappointingly unfulfilled. What had gone wrong was a question often posed, especially by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Professor Emile Salim. Part of the answer was that in the intervening years the world had changed dramatically marked by the end of the cold war, the information and communication technology revolution, the spectacular increase in private international capital flows and the impact of globalization on the poor and marginalized developing countries whose population levels continued to outpace development. The political will for implementing the sustainable development was clearly eclipsed by the imperatives of globalization and that of surging global competition. Thus, with the dawn of the new Millennium, the challenges confronting sustainable development loomed larger than ever.

In response to these major setbacks that the international community adopted GA resolution 55/199 at the 55th session of the General Assembly, calling for a 10- year review of the progress made or not made in implementing Agenda 21. More specifically the resolution, which was prepared in close collaboration between Indonesia and South Africa, called on the world leaders to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development which had been agreed on at the Earth Summit. Moreover, the General Assembly mandated the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to serve as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit and requested that the Summit be preceded by a series of preparatory committee meetings at the global level.

The resolution provided terms of reference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and served as a guideline for the general modalities of the preparatory process at all levels in the "Bottom-Up" preparatory process as well as at the Summit itself. In this approach, all sectors of society including women, children and youth, indigenous people, NGOs, local authority, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers, representing the Major Groups recognized in Agenda 21, became involved and contributed various inputs which were recognized as essential to the success of sustainable development. It was within this framework that Indonesia played an active role in the preparatory process leading up the Summit as well as in the Summit itself. Indonesia's longstanding commitment and activism was given clear expression both in its offer to host the Summit and as the host of the fourth and final PrepCom which was held in Bali in May/June 2002, with a high-level segment at the Ministerial level. In addition, Indonesia served in the capacity of Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, in the person of Professor Emil Salim. In his opening statement after being unanimously elected as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Professor Salim highlighted the successes and setbacks recorded in the wake of the historic Earth Summit in 1992. He recalled the great surge of awareness that accompanied the Summit and the strong commitment of various stakeholders to ensure the protection of the environment for the present and future generations. He noted the increasing number of institutions that sprung up at the national and international levels in the wake of the Rio Summit. Likewise, he pointed to the significant amount of basic physical and social infrastructure that were established and a number of regional and international conventions related to sustainable development that were formulated and entered into force. Nevertheless, despite these achievements" Professor Salim also stressed the fact that a number of unfulfilled expectations and challenges require renewed and reinvigorated commitments by international leaders.

Indonesia embarked on these initiatives for several reasons. Its argument to hold the World Summit on the Asian continent was derived from the fact that Asia, unlike other continents, had never had the opportunity to host a world Summit on environment and development. Furthermore, the Summit in the Asia and the Pacific region could provide a unique opportunity for the people of the most populous region in the world to become directly and

passionately involved with an issue of such incalculable importance to them. It could also greatly help to reverse the dangerous trends prevalent in the region. This region, with its unique geographical character, socio-economic conditions, rapid economic growth and coupled with enormous population expansion and the efforts to presented critical and unique challenges to the efforts to implement sustainable development. The financial crises in the region and the prevailing magnitude of poverty, unemployment and environmental pressures raised serious concern on the capacity of the countries involved to regain adequate economic growth critical for the promotion of sustainable development. The organization of the Summit in the region, it was argued, should greatly help to strengthen the sense of urgency" awareness and ownership among all the people and, as a result, heighten their motivation for translating all the commitments undertaken at the regional and global levels into concrete actions.

In the wake of marathon discussions and complex negotiations, the Summit produced the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), a fitting conclusion to such an arduous and tough process. This achievement was not in itself an end. Rather, it could be seen as a means to an end, a new beginning. In fact, the international community was very much aware that the adoption of the JPOI was only the beginning of a formidable process to ensure that the objectives and targets of the JPOI, including poverty eradication, hunger alleviated the provision of clean drinking water for all and the provision of adequate Energy and strong measures to combat AIDS were achieved. Similarly the adoption of JPOI would set in motion the implementation of the concrete programme of action on the top priorities of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, five areas that make up an ambitious but achievable agenda. The ultimate success in achieving these goals and priorities would fully depend on national and international implementation. It was therefore important that while the commitments and momentum of Johannesburg were still strong and fresh in our minds, the question of how to follow through on these commitments loomed large and constituted a major challenge to be faced in the days and months ahead by the developing countries including Indonesia.

In meeting this challenge " the member states" especially the developing countries are under no illusion that they must first overcome a number of formidable obstacles that confronted their implementation efforts. These include such constraints as the lack of financial, technology and informational resources. They also include the need to strengthen their human and institutional capacities and most importantly the need to change pervasive patterns of thinking to broader and more open which could prove to be a critical linchpin towards a more enlightened way forward.

The great challenge to Indonesia is therefore to implement the JPOI at the national and local levels. The essential task is to ensure that the goals and priorities of the Plan are effectively integrated into its national development strategies. Yet in Indonesia pursuit of such goals, it must first overcome a number of constraints, including financial, technological and institutional resources and capacities. But, this can only be accomplished through mobilizing the necessary political will and international cooperation. At the same time, despite such formidable constraints, Indonesia remains strongly committed to doing its utmost to ensure that the JPOI is fully implemented.

However, since these objectives must be implemented in a world that is without borders, that is increasingly interdependent and has increasingly interrelated issues, it would therefore require no less than the vigorous revitalization and strengthening of international and regional cooperation. In this context, partnership initiatives, launched during and after the WSSD process, could prove to be a major asset for overcoming such obstacles. Major Groups should also be accountable as agents for the operational implementation of the JPOI. But neither the partnership initiatives nor the Major Groups should substitute for the commitments, responsibilities and political will of the governments for ensuring that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is fully implemented. To do so, there can be no alternative to multilateral cooperation. In today's world, that means extensive cooperation, not only between governments; though these are key, it also means cooperation between a broad spectrum of players. It means

collaboration and coordination between governments, international organizations, business, civil society, the private sector, NGOs, youth; women and others. Only through such networks of cooperation can the JPOI be vigorously implemented and can this generation provide for themselves, and bequeath to the future generations, a world free from poverty , disease; deprivation and one that is blessed with peace, prosperity and sustainability .

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