

CONCEPT NOTE

INDONESIA – AFRICA FORUM II 2024

Bali, 1 – 3 September 2024

Introduction

1. Africa is the continent of the future, indicated by the continent's consistently high economy. Africa's economy grew by 4% in 2023, surpassing global GDP growth at 2.7%, while its predicted growth in 2024 is 3.8%, also higher than the global average of 3.2%.
2. The continent's high economic growth is significantly driven by its ever-increasing young population. By 2030, 42% of the world's youth will be in Africa.
3. Furthermore, Africa holds key to the global energy transition through its vast deposits of minerals, such as cobalt, copper, manganese, and lithium. As global demand for these minerals will continuously grow, Africa has a great opportunity to enhance economic capacity, improve competitive advantages, and raise living standards.
4. Of equal importance is Africa's rich biodiversity and status as home to the second largest tropical forest in the world, which contributes not only to providing critical ecosystem services but also serves as a buffer to climate change.
5. Realising these potentials, Africa developed Agenda 2063, a framework whose purpose is to guide Africa's development in coming decades. Agenda 2063 serves as the master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.

Indonesia: A True and Reliable Partner of Africa

6. Indonesia always values the strategic importance of Africa. Sixty-nine years ago, in 1955, Indonesia hosted the gathering of leaders of newly-independent states in the city of Bandung for the Asian-African Conference.
7. The Bandung Conference adopted the Bandung Spirit which underscored the importance of promoting sovereignty, equal partnership, justice, mutual interest and cooperation. These principles become the basis for Indonesia in pursuing a robust relationship with Africa.
8. Understanding the enormous potential of Africa and significantly shared interests between the two sides, Indonesia makes continuous efforts to enhance cooperation with Africa. In that regard, Indonesia hosted the 1st Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF) in 2018, which was acclaimed for its success.
9. The Forum attracted participation from 47 African countries and resulted in the signing of business deals worth USD 586.56 million. Additionally, it marked a groundbreaking moment with the establishment of Preferential Trade Agreements with Mozambique and Tunisia, the creation of Indonesia's National Interest Account to support trade with Africa, and the launching of direct flight between Indonesia and Africa with Ethiopian Air.
10. Relationships between Indonesia and Africa remain strong despite looming global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, wars, geopolitical tensions, food insecurity and energy crisis. Strong ties between the two sides are shown among others by the establishment of the Indonesian Embassy in Cameroon and Embassies of Kenya and Rwanda in Indonesia.
11. In the midst of global challenges, Indonesia is committed to strengthening ties with Africa, holding on to the 'Bandung Spirit' that serves as a timeless reminder of our shared

historical experiences and aspiration for self-determination, social justice, and economic development.

12. Indeed, core principles of the Bandung Spirit remain valid today, as inequality among countries persists and many developing countries struggle to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and climb up to the development ladder.
13. As the largest economy in Southeast Asia, the world's fourth most populous nation and G-20 member, Indonesia stands ready to enhance cooperation with Africa and bring it to the next level.
14. To fully tap into potential for collaboration, the Government of Indonesia will convene the **Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF) II**, scheduled to take place in **Bali, 1 – 3 September 2024**

Objectives and Formats

15. IAF II is intended as a platform to enhance concrete economic cooperation with Africa as Indonesia's key economic partner, following the success of the first IAF in 2018.
16. The Forum will be held under the theme of **"Bandung Spirit for Africa's Agenda 2063,"** highlighting shared values and principles which would lay a strong foundation for robust, inclusive, equal, and sustained relations between Indonesia and Africa.
17. IAF II will be officiated by President of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency Joko Widodo.
18. The Government of Indonesia warmly invites 28 Head of States/Governments of African countries to attend and speak at the Forum.
19. IAF II is more than just dialogue. It aims to create and deliver real impacts to societies on both sides.
20. In that context, it would become a strategic venue for high-level government officials, prominent business leaders, esteemed academicians, and other influential stakeholders from both sides to exchange ideas, establish concrete economic cooperation, and expand business networks.
21. To achieve that purpose, the Forum will consist of:
 - (i) Leaders' Session
 - (ii) Panel Discussions,
 - (iii) Project Showcases and Exhibition,
 - (iv) Business Matching, and
 - (v) Side-line Events.
22. At Leaders' Talks, each invited Head of States/Governments are expected to deliver his/her key messages in about 10 minutes, mainly but not limited to suggested strategies, policies and actions to strengthen Indonesia-Africa relations in emerging global contexts.

Sub-themes

23. The IAF II, particularly Panel Discussions, will be further divided into six sub-themes, which are (i) Economic transformation, (ii) Mining cooperation, (iii) Energy cooperation, (iv) Health, (v) Food security, and (vi) Development cooperation.
24. Through these sub-themes, Indonesia shares the same interests with Africa's with regard to the urgency to take collective steps to accelerate development and reach higher income status.

25. Together with Africa, Indonesia is willing to work hand in hand to advocate developing countries' equal access to the global economy and the right to development as an inherent right of every country.

Subtheme I: Economic transformation

- Industrialization and digitalisation play crucial roles in economic transformation by enhancing productivity, innovation, and competitiveness. Focusing on industrialisation and digitalisation would enable economic transition towards sustainable and resilient growth trajectories, drive job creation, increase incomes, and foster inclusive development.
- Unlocking capital flows is essential for strengthening industrialization in Africa and Indonesia, especially through empowering SMEs. Innovative and tailored financial instruments will drive broader industrial development and promote economic diversification.
- Although the increasing prevalence of mobile internet has presented substantial transformative opportunities, a significant portion of the population in both regions still lacks infrastructure. That situation presents investment opportunities in digital infrastructure which could fully leverage the potential of the digital economy, including on e-commerce, where Indonesia's e-commerce market is projected to reach \$260 billion by 2030 and Africa's e-commerce market which grew to \$72 billion by 2030.

Subtheme II: Mining Cooperation

- Critical minerals, which include a range of metals and non-metals essential for modern technologies, are abundant in Africa and Indonesia. However, the full economic potential of these resources remains untapped due to a variety of structural and operational challenges.
- This discussion panel will focus on the following key areas: economic potential and benefits, technological and infrastructure needs, policy and regulatory frameworks, investment and partnership opportunities, and environmental considerations. By addressing key challenges and leveraging shared experiences, the Forum seeks to create a roadmap for sustainable and inclusive industrial growth in both regions.

Subtheme III: Energy cooperation

- Both regions share a burgeoning demand for energy to fuel their expanding economies and meet the needs of growing populations. Collaborative efforts in the energy sector may lead to the development and sharing of technological advancements in renewable energy sources, which contributes to environmental conservation and strengthens Indonesia's and Africa's resilience against global energy market fluctuations.
- The potential for cooperation between Indonesia and Africa in the energy sector is vast to maximise the potential of available non-renewable energy and develop renewable energy projects in both regions, such as solar and wind farms.
- Knowledge exchange programs, capacity building, and collaborative research efforts can further enhance the capabilities of both sides in adopting and implementing sustainable energy practices. Investment partnerships and infrastructure development for energy production and distribution can also create a more interconnected and resilient energy network.

Subtheme IV: Health

- Challenges such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health issues, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure underscore the urgent need for concerted efforts. Both Indonesia and Africa can benefit from collaboration in pandemic preparedness,

sharing expertise, resources, and best practices in surveillance, testing, and vaccine distribution.

- Strengthening health systems and infrastructure is another crucial aspect, with potential cooperation including capacity building, investment in healthcare facilities, and the deployment of telemedicine solutions to improve access to healthcare services.
- Furthermore, both sides could promote pharmaceutical cooperation which may entail joint research and development, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange to enhance production capabilities for essential medicines and vaccines, ensuring their accessibility and affordability.

Subtheme V: Food Security

- The intricate interplay between agricultural productivity, the pandemic, and global uncertainties underscores the multifaceted nature of the food security issue. It also highlights the urgent need to enhance agricultural resilience, promote innovation, and foster collaborative efforts for sustainable food production.
- Indonesia and Africa, as major global key producers of a wide variety of agricultural products, must deepen collaboration in addressing these pressing challenges, among others, through facilitating trade and investment, infrastructure support, and sharing experience and knowledge exchange programs.

Subtheme VI: Development Cooperation

- International development aid has been pivotal in propelling economic growth in many countries, including to address fiscal capacity gap due to economic shocks. Development cooperation will play a central role in Indonesia's engagement with Africa, transcending mere economic interest into a genuine partnership for mutual progress.
- Indonesia plans to launch the Grand Design for Development Cooperation in Africa which will serve as a solid platform for Indonesia to implement its commitment to work together with Africa in addressing development challenges and issues that are targeted, impactful, and accountable.
- Furthermore, triangular cooperation between Indonesia, African countries, and other governments or multilateral organisations is vital for sustainable development. Collaborating with various stakeholders enhances the effectiveness of development cooperation by combining resources and expertise.

Participants

26. IAF II will be attended by **800 participants representing governments, international and regional organisations as well as businesses** from Indonesia and Africa.

Outcome

27. A summary report and a press statement will be delivered at the end of the Forum.
28. The Forum expects outcomes in the form of agreements (G-to-G, G-to-B, and B-to-B) and business deals which serve the best interests of Indonesia and Africa

Contact

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