



INTERVENTION

**INDONESIAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM), Jl. Siaga II No. 31 Pejaten, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia 12510, Ph: (62-21) 79192564/(62-21) 7972662, Fax: (62-21) 79192519, e-mail: icc.indonesia@gmail.com

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Allow me, on behalf of the Indonesian Civil Society Coalition for the International Criminal Court, to express our heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to attend this auspicious event and voice our support for the ratification of the Rome Statute.

Asia Pacific is a region that has much in common and yet differs in many aspects. It comprises of more than 40 countries with a population of approximately 4.2 billion people (61% of the total world population). Yet, only four countries are considered as fully democratic according to The Economist's Democratic Index, those are Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea, and only eighteen of them are now State Parties to the Rome Statute. Therefore, the lack of ratification indicates that the region remains under represented in the International Criminal Court. The reason is not that the region is relatively peaceful, nor "ignorant" of its international obligations, but because of the diversity of social and political systems require a longer process to fully grasp the idea of international justice to end impunity.

In South East Asia, a region that is experiencing positive developments in the recent years, is currently drafting its ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, a progress that we believe is significant. However, at this sub-regional level, humanitarian issues arising from large stateless group such as the *Rohingyas*, contemplates the need for the region to have a robust human rights review mechanism.

Our interaction today, takes place a week after two significant events that connects the two regions of Asia Pacific and Europe, first, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Vientiane, and second, the 5th Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia. These two important events signify how engagement between countries in Asia Pacific and Europe could bring the best out of the two regions.

Indonesia, as the initiator of Bali Democracy Forum, presents the event as a form of regional contribution to heighten democratic global governance in supporting international peace and security. Indonesia highlights the importance of democracy as one of the pillars of its foreign policy and positions itself to be the champion and beacon of democracy, good governance and human rights in the region. However, domestically, the country is facing its own challenges, for instance, law products such as the (draft) law on national security, the law on horizontal conflict and the intelligence law, may need to be refined in encompassing international standards/norms related to human rights and humanitarian laws. Attention should be focused on the draft Law on National Security that, if adopted prior to Indonesia's ratification of the Rome Statute, would raise concern that such law may hinder the process of the ratification itself.

Thus, allow me to iterate our appeal to the European Union to continue its work in the region and to advance its political support in order to raise the awareness and commitment of the ASEAN Member States to ratify the Rome Statute. In particular, we encourage the European Union to prioritise the issue of ratification of the Rome Statute in the Indonesia-EU Human Rights Dialogue as well as to urge the Government of Indonesia to meet its commitment of ratification according to the National Action Plan for Human Rights, which is by 2013, if not earlier.

We are very much looking forward to envision closer collaboration between the two regions to advance in justice, human rights and democracy. As the UN Secretary-General has said, "justice is crucial for breaking cycles of violence and fragility." As well as, cycles of impunity.

Thank You.