

Statement from the Head of Delegation

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Bambang Soesatyo, SE, MBA

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

138th IPU General Assembly

**General Debate on strengthening the global regime for migrants
and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions**

*Honorable Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Members of the IPU,
Honorable President of the IPU, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron,
Honorable Secretary General of the IPU, Mr. Martin Chungong,
Honorable Delegates,
Let there be peace for all of us,*

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia would like to express its utmost appreciation for the role and leadership of IPU President, and the hard work and dedication of the Secretariat of the IPU in executing the 138th IPU General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Delegates,

Attending this meeting is an honor for me. Personally, I consider the issue of migration and refugees as a global issue, where no single country can solve this problem on its own. For decades, large-scale migration, caused mainly by conflict and violence, is a challenge still faced by a number of countries.

The 2017 International Migration Report notes that there are at least 258 million migrants worldwide. This number indicates an increase from 173

million migrants in 2000. International migration is one of the issues that has become a point of national interest in Indonesia. International migration from Asia, including Indonesia, has increased significantly over the last decade. The World Bank noted that, currently, there are more than 9 million Indonesian citizens working abroad, while within the country there are 74 thousand foreign workers, indicating that Indonesia is a recipient, as well as an exporter of manpower.

Dear Delegates,

The House of Representatives upholds the importance of the International Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers, which has been adopted by Indonesia through the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Act. At the national level, the Act aims to strengthen the placement and protection of migrant workers, and provide a more solid legal platform for government institutions and other relevant parties. Alongside this, Indonesia has adopted a “*triple win*” situation in solving migration problems. This approach is not only in the interests of the migrant dispatching countries, but also the recipient countries.

For Indonesia, the Migrant Workers Protection Act reflects our commitment to carry out the mandate contained in the International Convention on Migrant Workers, with particular reference to the empowerment of abandoned migrant families.

In an effort to realize global governance of migration, we recommend that the existing international apparatus be more inclusive by taking into account the interests of all parties, including the recipient countries, the dispatching countries, and, of course, the migrants themselves. This apparatus should be forward looking, so as to address both today’s and future migrant issues and challenges.

Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia was not one of the signees at the 1951 Refugee Convention, however, on the basis of humanitarian considerations, we have accommodated as many as 14,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including hundreds of Rohingya refugees. At the executive level, President Joko

Widodo has signed the Presidential Regulation on the Handling of Refugees from Overseas, clearly showing Indonesia's commitment to, and concern for the issues at hand. Being in the role of a transit country, we are also working with the UNHCR and the IOM to provide storage facilities for refugees waiting to be repatriated or resettled in a third country.

In the regional arena, Indonesia has shown its commitment to refugee issues, especially the Rohingya in Myanmar. Violence against the Rohingya, in all its forms and manifestations, is a serious threat to global peace and security. To overcome these problems, Indonesia emerged as a pioneer in taking the necessary diplomatic steps to help the Rohingya gain access to humanitarian aid, and display transparency and openness in handling the refugees. Indonesian aid agencies also built health and education facilities, and temporary shelters for Rohingya refugees. This is a concrete result, which stemmed from the Indonesian President's visit in early 2018, and the visit of the leaders of the House of Representatives to Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh at the end of 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We would like to extend an invitation to all IPU members to establish a tight communication network to provide protection for regular and random migrants, through the formulation of a comprehensive national policy, in accordance with the needs on the ground, and in the interests of all parties.

We recognize that the realization of human rights for all migrants is a responsibility arising from our international obligations to get involved. Therefore, it is essential we support the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), which has now entered the second round of discussions. On this occasion, we are pleased to welcome the completion of the initial draft of the GCM.

We believe that the Inter-Parliamentary Union has the capacity to promote emerging international bodies such as the GCM and the GCR, which can accommodate the interests of recipient countries and migrants in a balanced and proportional way.

Honorable Delegates,

On this occasion, allow me to briefly inform you on the upcoming event which will be held in Bali, Indonesia on 12-13 September 2018, the 2nd World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development, with the theme “Partnership Towards Sustainable Energies For All”. This forum is the only interparliamentary forum that specifically addresses sustainable development issues.

The Indonesian House of Representatives cordially invites all IPU member parliaments to attend the event. Through this forum, we can put into practice the commitment made by parliaments towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Your presence is greatly honored.

Thank you.