

THE PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO SUPPORT INDONESIA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2014–2019

**Faida Indana^{1*}, R. Widya Setiabudi Sumadinata², Wawan Budi Darmawan³,
Irman G. Lanti⁴**

^{1,2,3,4}Postgraduate Program in International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas
Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia

faida20001@mail.unpad.ac.id¹
w.setiabudi@unpad.ac.id²
wawan.budi.darmawan@unpad.ac.id³
irman.lanti@unpad.ac.id⁴

*Corresponding Author: faida20001@mail.unpad.ac.id

Abstract

This research aims to determine the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia's (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia*/DPR RI) parliamentary diplomacy in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program in Indonesia during the 2014–2019 period. Although the SDGs are often viewed as an executive-dominated international agenda, this research highlights the DPR RI's vital role in advancing their implementation. Using a qualitative method with descriptive and interpretative approaches based on the phenomenographic model, the study found that DPR RI strengthened its role through three parliamentary functions: budgeting, legislating, and monitoring. In addition, it expanded international cooperation via the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, and the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Agency. These platforms enabled DPR RI to exchange experiences with parliaments worldwide and apply lessons learned to Indonesia's SDG implementation, particularly in overseeing government programs. The findings emphasize that parliamentary diplomacy significantly contributes to Indonesia's progress toward achieving the SDGs.

Keywords: BKSAP, DPR RI, SDGs, Parliamentary Diplomacy

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a transformation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), serve as a benchmark for the international development agenda launched by the United Nations to address various emerging issues in various countries, particularly those in the developing world. The MDGs' success in addressing various issues, including HIV/AIDS, gender equality, increasing access to education and healthcare, and others, prompted the United Nations (UN) to formulate the SDGs and refine this universal development agenda.

The SDGs differ significantly from the MDGs, with 17 goals and 232 indicators, significantly exceeding the MDGs' eight goals and 60 indicators. The addition aims to accommodate the expansion of access and inclusivity, as well as an emphasis on sustainable development issues in various fields, including health, for example, the goal points are no longer limited to certain diseases but extend to guaranteeing a healthy life and providing access to clean water, and this also applies to other fields.

In terms of the breadth of its objectives, the inclusiveness of the SDGs can be seen in their openness to input, ideas, and concepts from the international community, which were then specifically formulated by the UN. That is why, on July 6, 2017, the UN General Assembly declared that countries have the freedom to implement the 17 SDGs according to their respective internal conditions and strategies. The inclusiveness of the SDGs encourages various forms of collaboration from the international community. One such project is the SDGs Tracker, an open-source collaboration project that presents interactive

data on each country's progress on each indicator . This data is drawn from official data released by the UN and its affiliated agencies. The results of this collaboration between the University of Oxford research team and The Global Change Data Lab are widely used by various parties, both governments and civil society organizations, to periodically track progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Indonesia is a country that was present and co-signed the Millennium Declaration in 2000, which resulted in the MDGs, which were later transformed into the SDGs. This international development agenda is aligned with Indonesia's foreign and domestic policies because its goal is to improve access, equity, and the quality of life of the community. So far, the implementation of the SDGs has been very executive-centric oriented as marked by the 15-year journey of the MDGs, the Indonesian government has integrated them into the National Long-Term Development Plan 2005–2025, National Medium-Term Development Plan 2005–2009 and National Medium-Term Development Plan 2010–2014, Government Work Plan, State Budget Documents and also the preparation of Regional Action Plans in each Province .

This research will focus on the role of the non-executive entity, the Indonesian House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia/DPR RI*), in the SDGs agenda. The DPR RI active involvement began in 2003 through the establishment of the Parliamentary Task Force on MDGs, which implemented a set of guidelines for achieving the agenda . Since the transition from MDGs to SDGs, the DPR RI has become increasingly active in encouraging the achievement of the SDGs agenda . One way is by establishing inter-parliamentary cooperation at the global level. In 2017, Indonesia hosted the World Parliamentary Forum on SDGs in Nusa Dua, Bali, with the theme "Achieving the 2030 Agenda Through Inclusive Development" . The conference, attended by representatives from 47 countries, was the first international forum to specifically discuss the SDGs.

For researchers, the involvement of parliament, particularly during the 2014–2019 term, in promoting the realization of the SDGs agenda is very interesting to study. The 2014–2019 period coincided with the momentum of the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs, which came into effect in 2015. This means that the transition process at the domestic level (the government period) and at the global level (the implementation of the SDGs) both took place during this period . Therefore, the phenomenon of increasingly dynamic legislative and executive relations, the encouragement of active parliamentary involvement in the SDGs, and the transition period that both occurred during the 2014–2019 period are interesting to research and study further. Especially regarding how parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary strategies so that the implementation of the SDGs runs transparently, accountably, and effectively. In addition, the 2014–2019 period became a benchmark for the parliamentary political order in Indonesia, in which various interesting phenomena were directly and indirectly related to the SDGs, including the Prolegnas Program (National Legislation Program), the DPR RI budget with a large amount of IDR 26.14 trillion or an average of IDR 5.23 trillion, as well as the existence of various important issues that were discussed consistently including the environment, health, legislation and public services related to the SDGs and in previous periods were not discussed intensively by members of the DPR RI.

The active involvement of parliament in diplomacy is not a new phenomenon in the study of international politics. Several international relations scholars and diplomatic practitioners have reviewed it and provided specific definitions of parliamentary diplomacy . Therefore, the involvement of the DPR RI in international issues, not only through inter-parliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy, but also through increasingly active oversight of international negotiations, monitoring the implementation

of various agreements adopted by the government, and ensuring their implementation aligns with national interests, international law, and the rule of law.

Through multi-actor involvement, the implementation of the SDGs offers a significant opportunity to build a better future for human resources. This poses a challenge for the DPR RI, as one of Indonesia's key institutions, to engage and continuously oversee the SDGs in Indonesia. Based on the literature review conducted by the researcher, research on the extent of the DPR RI's involvement in SDG implementation in Indonesia has never been conducted. Therefore, the researcher hopes this study will enrich the literature on the DPR RI diplomacy, particularly in overseeing SDG implementation in Indonesia.

The role of the DPR RI in supporting the SDGs refers to the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as an interesting study to be discussed further as a contemporary political phenomenon. This is based on several facts, first, the parliamentary diplomacy of the DPR RI is a new concept that enters the realm of multi-track diplomacy that requires further research, second, the parliamentary diplomacy of the DPR RI shows that role expansion which has so far emphasized various roles in the domestic sphere and third, the parliamentary diplomacy of the DPR RI shows a progressively developing international political constellation that opens up opportunities for non-governmental actors (non-executive) to be able to develop their roles and participate in the global development agenda.

The DPR RI diplomacy in support of the SDGs during the 2014-2019 period became a significant political phenomenon. This issue has been relatively underdeveloped as a topic of discussion due to the prevailing paradigm that this diplomacy is a phenomenon that is difficult to prove. Furthermore, the political paradigm regarding this case presents a challenge because it is more oriented towards the political realm, making it more difficult to concretely view as a political development phenomenon compared to diplomacy carried out by the government in the same field. This is both a consideration and a challenge for the DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy in supporting the SDGs program in Indonesia.

The SDGs are an international agenda that the UN seeks to implement as a global consensus to support the development of third-world countries. In Indonesia, the 17 SDGs are aligned as a blueprint for fulfilling the national development agenda to address various issues, including poverty, hunger, health, and welfare, as well as international partnerships. While Indonesians tend to perceive responsibility for implementing the SDGs in Indonesia as resting with the executive branch (government), this study will explore the role of the legislative branch (DPR RI).

The DPR RI, as the legislative body in Indonesia, has several primary functions: first, the legislative (regulating) function, which emphasizes the formulation and drafting of laws. Second, the budgeting function, which emphasizes the approval of the State Budget, accountability follow-up, and approval of the management of important assets. The third function is monitoring, which emphasizes the oversight of the implementation of laws and the follow-up of the results. The SDGs agenda at the international level has been in effect since 2015, when the MDGs agenda ended.

The DPR RI is a crucial institution in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia. Researchers assume several important aspects regarding the SDGs and the DPR RI. First, the 2014–2019 period was a crucial period for international interactions, leading to international liberalism, which encouraged the emergence of non-governmental actors to build a constellation of international relations. Second, the dynamics of international relations are not only dominated by cooperation and interaction within the G-to-G (government-to-government) framework, but also open up broader opportunities involving the private sector, academics, and cultural figures, including the DPR RI. Third,

transparency and accountability in development implementation require evaluation not only from the government but also from other parties. In this context, the DPR RI's role can be a balancing act as a supervisor of the governance of SDG implementation in Indonesia.

The political dynamics of government in Indonesia after the reform era have gradually become more transparent, accountable, credible, and accessible. The existence of the DPR RI can play a role in building communication with other countries' parliaments and collaborating with international entities to evaluate the performance of their respective governments in implementing the SDGs in Indonesia. Therefore, the research problem formulation is: "How does the DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program in Indonesia during the 2014–2019 period?".

2. Method

This study employs a descriptive and interpretive qualitative research method using a phenomenographic model. Data collection techniques include primary data, including exploratory field studies, field documentation, and interviews, as well as secondary data from literacy studies. This document analysis process measures the semantic content of a document and/or the aspects contained within the information using phenomenography as an interpretive approach. The results of the interviewees' responses will be interpreted and linked to existing theories and concepts, involving literature and field studies. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted using the snowball method.

This study utilizes two types of data: secondary and primary. Primary data includes field documentation and interviews with sources in the DPR RI who are competent in parliamentary diplomacy in supporting the SDGs program in Indonesia. Secondary data includes literature reviews in the form of books, journals, written reports, and printed media, such as newspapers or other print media, that discuss the DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy in supporting the SDGs program in Indonesia.

The data analysis technique used is model data analysis. The stages of data analysis of this research include, first, data reduction which refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and changing raw data that occurs in written records, second, data presentation (data display) is intended to make it easier for researchers to see the overall picture or certain parts of the research data presented through tables or charts by examining, reading, and then writing the phenomenon through standard and formal language without eliminating the essence of adoption and transformation, as well as mechanisms, and implementation of SDGs by the DPR RI, third, validity test is an effort to obtain data that is in accordance with the theme and can be accounted for its validity and authenticity through several steps taken including searching for data from general to specific, as well as grouping data originating from accountable data sources from books, newspapers or websites, as well as by comparing printed data with accountable interview and observation data, and fourth, verification or drawing conclusions by compiling narratives based on data and interpreting based on viewpoints by linking theories and concepts used by researchers as a research unit which is coherent, systematic and continuous.

3. Results and Discussion

Since its launch in 2015, the SDGs have become a growing international program, striving to be adopted by almost every country in the world. This is due in part to the legitimacy of the UN, particularly the United Nations Development Program, which has enabled the SDGs to develop as a global development agenda that is egalitarian and

open to the participation of various parties, including parliament (the DPR RI). The DPR RI has a comprehensive and relevant institutional framework for the SDGs agenda. This fact also confirms the alignment between the DPR RI and the SDGs, which serves as a foundation for the legislative institution to develop parliamentary diplomacy.

The DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy in the SDGs program is implemented through various visits and discussions involving various entities from various countries around the world. This parliamentary diplomacy remains crucial and essential as a form of parliamentary foreign policy to support the achievement of Indonesia's national interests, namely the realization of development in Indonesia that can be reflected in global development standards.

A. The Role and Guidelines of Parliamentary Diplomacy in the SDGs Program in Supporting Development in Indonesia

The role and guidelines of parliamentary diplomacy within the DPR RI can, in fact, operate similarly to those of the government, which has a comprehensive set of foreign cooperation and international relations tools. However, the role and daily guidelines of the DPR RI in parliamentary diplomacy are not yet widely recognized within the Indonesian political and governmental landscape. This is consistent with a statement by Ajnuruddin and Kurniawan, published in Syntax Literacy, which states:

"...parliamentary diplomacy is a systematically planned international activity that reflects multi-track diplomacy. This diplomacy continues annually and determines Indonesia's foreign policy. Planning is carried out systematically so that various issues can be followed up appropriately by the House's supporting apparatus or commissions ."

The DPR RI already has a structured foreign relations system. However, due to popularity, government methods have been more commonly known to the public, while parliamentary methods have been considered complementary . With the SDGs agenda, parliamentary diplomacy will provide an opportunity for this to be known to the public and a wider audience. In other words, the SDGs will become the benchmark for the DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy, both at the institutional level, through the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Agency (*Badan Kerja Sama Antar Parlemen/ BKSAP*), commissions, and at the individual level.

DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy is carried out inclusively, adapting to various factors and evolving conditions at home and abroad. During the 2014-2019 DPR RI period, the SDGs were not specifically addressed, for example, by establishing an SDG task force or commission. Instead, they integrated Indonesia's development agenda with the SDGs, ensuring mutually reinforcing and positively influencing each other. Furthermore, each commission has a common ground with the SDGs. This is where DPR members can play a role in supporting issues within their respective areas of responsibility, indirectly strengthening SDG achievement beyond the BKSAP.

The role of parliamentary diplomacy within the DPR RI in the SDGs agenda represents an opportunity for this development agenda to become more open compared to the previous MDGs . This is where the DPR RI seeks to play a role through the development of parliamentary diplomacy, based on the fact that the SDGs have undergone various changes towards openness and egalitarianism. In this regard, an interview was conducted with Dewi Amelia, a representative of the BKSAP, on October 26, 2022. The interviewees were asked questions regarding the transformation from the MDGs to the SDGs in Indonesia. The interview revealed that the transformation from the MDGs to the SDGs in Indonesia was welcomed by parliament. As is well known,

the MDGs were always dictated by world leaders at the UN at the time, while the SDGs more closely address the wishes of the people in determining their seventeen goals. Furthermore, in terms of focus and socialization of development programs, the SDGs are also superior to the MDGs. According to Ms. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, a figure referred to by the resource person, many people in certain electoral districts are unfamiliar with the MDGs, especially in Malang, East Java. In a simple statement, Ms. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf explained that most people, including national and regional political elites, are more concerned with McDonald's than the MDGs agenda. Therefore, the presence of new, more systematic changes and ideas, represented by the SDGs, can create a new spirit for internal socialization in the DPR RI to be more systematic and effective. It is hoped that in the future, coordination between the House Complementary Tools regarding SDGs mainstreaming issues in the DPR RI will be better, and members can carry the SDGs mission to be internalized in programs in their respective constituencies.

B. The DPR RI's Parliamentary Diplomacy Activities and Achievements Regarding the SDGs Program

The DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy activities and achievements regarding the SDGs agenda have developed in tandem with the increasing openness of this sustainable development agenda, allowing the DPR RI to position itself as a diplomatic implementer to support the achievement of national interests from different perspectives. This diplomacy is implemented by addressing various domestic and international issues. The DPR RI's activities regarding the SDGs agenda represent a parliamentary initiative to follow up on the national development agenda, which directly or indirectly intersects with the SDGs.

The activities of the DPR RI in the SDGs agenda serve as a benchmark for the broader scheme of parliamentary roles. Adopting opinion on the theory of parliamentary diplomacy, the DPR RI's activities in the SDGs agenda indicate that this diplomacy will develop openly and increasingly in the transnational sphere. Furthermore, the DPR RI's activities in the SDGs agenda are also in line with the concept of parliamentary diplomacy that will involve non-parliamentary spheres, including government, society, business, the private sector, the media, and others to contribute, accompany, collaborate, and develop activities collectively with the DPR RI, particularly the BKSAP and related commissions.

The dynamics of the activities and achievements of parliamentary diplomacy of the DPR RI in the last five years, from 2014 to 2019, continued to run and develop dynamically in accordance with the demands of the times, by aligning domestic and international constellations. In other words, the achievements of various aspects of the seventeen SDGs are not fixed and continue to evolve with each period. Linked to the opinion of in the theory of sustainable development, during these five years, various phrases have emerged, including the achievement of inter-parliamentary cooperation to address various current challenges in Indonesia by building harmony with world countries, particularly developed countries, to mutually give and take on the development of SDGs. Examples of this are the achievement of the Open Working Group, The Future We Want, and seat sharing.

Based on theory of development, the activities and achievements of parliamentary diplomacy of the DPR RI over the past five years, from 2014 to 2019, demonstrate a shift in the development of the SDGs from a technical or functional perspective to a political one. In this regard, parliamentary diplomacy within the DPR RI has launched what is known as the "parliamentarian way." This concept allows the activities and

achievements of parliamentary diplomacy to develop independently toward universal development, no longer dependent on the government (executive).

The expanding global political landscape, as proposed by , means that the discourse and policy of parliamentary diplomacy within the DPR RI in achieving the SDGs are part of the alignment of the international agenda within the political mainstream. The development of the political landscape in the 2010-2020 decade can legitimize the role of non-governmental actors and address low-level political issues, including development issues in global countries. The DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy discourse and guidelines regarding the SDGs include several important aspects, as follows:

- 1) The DPR RI, as a political entity, maintains a separation from the executive or government, in accordance with institutional arrangements. Thus, the executive and legislative branches maintain a collaborative relationship that mutually strengthens, critiques, and builds complementary cooperation.
- 2) The DPR RI has successfully established a new paradigm as a political actor capable of building cooperation with international entities, particularly parliaments of other countries. This situation enables the DPR RI to build international affiliations to achieve the SDGs, both through and without involving the executive.
- 3) The DPR RI, through its Foreign Cooperation Facility (BKSAP), can foster foreign cooperation and establish a highly legitimate international development regime. It not only serves as a complement but also has a strategic and coherent bargaining position with the international development regime pioneered by the UN General Assembly.

C. The DPR RI Parliamentary Diplomacy Activities Regarding the SDGs Program

The DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy activities regarding Indonesia's SDGs program are part of the development and intersection of foreign policy with the international development constellation of global nations from 2014 to 2019. In other words, throughout these five years, the DPR RI, through the BKSAP (Indonesian National Armed Forces Agency), its work units, and other individuals, demonstrated efforts to foster international relations . This will be further developed through various inputs and adjustments to the House's primary functions: budgeting, monitoring, and controlling.

The DPR RI parliamentary diplomatic activities in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia are part of the progressive development of democracy, global politics, and public awareness in Indonesia . This aligns with perspective on parliamentary diplomacy, which demonstrates Indonesia's increasing consistency in legitimizing democracy, which, while conceptually still faces various challenges, and also the growing public awareness of its role as an entity that continuously monitors the achievements and implementation of development in Indonesia.

According to the thoughts of Dean Rusk and Judge Jessup in their book regarding the implementation of parliamentary diplomacy by the DPR RI in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia, it is in line with various national development agendas. In other words, whether or not the SDGs exist, national development stakeholders in Indonesia will continue to make the seventeen SDGs points to continue to be fought for as development goals. This can be seen from the Government Work Plans for 2014 and 2019, which still contain various problems and achievements, including the national economy, political stability, bureaucratic reform and governance, public welfare, and poverty alleviation. Various points of the Government Work Plans for 2014 and 2019 have a meeting point with the achievement of the SDGs.

The DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy activities in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia, in conjunction with the thinking of Dean Rusk and Judge Jessup,

demonstrate that this has fulfilled the element that this diplomacy takes place within a sustainable organization with interests broader than specific agenda points, namely those related to the intersection between the development agenda in Indonesia and the SDGs. In addition, the DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia is also related to open diplomacy by involving public elements, and is carried out based on formal procedural rules . This shows that the DPR RI in carrying out diplomacy is not merely a parliament developed through euphoria, but is formulated through a clear agenda. This can be seen from the DPR RI's participation in various international forums and also through the role of the BKSAP as the spearhead of the implementation of parliamentary diplomacy by involving various non-parliamentary parties, including the government, the private sector, and the media. Parliamentary diplomacy by the DPR RI emerged as a prominent phenomenon at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly session within the Sub-Committee on Availability of Poverty and the Executive Council. At this meeting, parliaments in the Asian region agreed to elevate poverty issues from the regional to the international level. The DPR RI was represented by Dr. Hidayat Nur Wahid, accompanied by several BKSAP officials, including Ms. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf and Ms. Ida Ira Simamora . This activity served as a benchmark for the DPR RI's cooperation and diplomacy in building partnerships with Asian countries.

Thus, it can be understood that the implementation of diplomacy carried out by the DPR RI is through involvement and participation in various international agendas, both institutionally, sub-institutionally (BKSAP), and through factions and individuals. Throughout the 2014-2019 period, this parliamentary diplomacy was implemented on seventeen agendas that were aligned within the domestic and international constellations. An overview of the DPR RI's parliamentary diplomacy can be seen in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Parliamentary Diplomacy of the DPR RI in 17 Agendas SDGs

No	Goal Agenda	Number (Activities)	Information
1.	No poverty	5 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators and participation in supporting poverty alleviation, together with parliaments and global development stakeholders.
2.	Zero hunger	3 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through participation in supporting hunger eradication together with parliaments and world development stakeholders.
3.	Good health and well-being	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators and participation in supporting the achievement of a healthy and prosperous life, together with parliaments and world development stakeholders.
4.	Quality education	3 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators supports quality education by inviting domestic academics to formulate this agenda so that it can be developed internationally.
5.	Gender equality	3 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through

No	Goal Agenda	Number (Activities)	Information
			facilitators in supporting equality, together with parliaments and global development stakeholders to be applied in each participating country.
6.	Clean water and sanitation	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators and extra-governmental foreign cooperation in supporting poverty alleviation, together with parliaments and global development stakeholders.
7.	Affordable and clean energy	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitation and participation in supporting clean and affordable energy goals with parliaments and global development stakeholders.
8.	Decent work and economic growth	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitation and participation in supporting decent work with parliaments and global development stakeholders.
9.	Industry, innovation, technology, and infrastructure	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators in supporting the advancement of industry, innovation, and infrastructure with parliaments and global development stakeholders.
10.	Reduced inequality	4 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators supports the handling of gaps together with parliaments and global development stakeholders who are present at activities in Indonesia, with the DPR RI as the implementer, which can then be implemented in each country.
11.	Sustainable cities and communities	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators and participation in supporting sustainable cities and communities, together with parliaments and global development stakeholders, to be able to give and receive in various international forums.
12.	Responsible consumption and production	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators and participation in supporting responsible consumption and production together with parliaments and global development stakeholders, including the private sector, to obtain the latest formulation on the agenda, so that environmentally

No	Goal Agenda	Number (Activities)	Information
			conscious products and consumer patterns can be achieved.
13.	Climate action	3 event	Participatory parliamentary diplomacy in supporting climate change management together with parliaments and global development stakeholders, including various UN agencies, to obtain various breakthroughs and international consensus on various matters related to climate change issues.
14.	Life below water	3 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators in supporting marine ecosystem management, together with parliaments and global development stakeholders.
15.	Life on land	2 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators and participation in supporting the management of terrestrial ecosystems together with parliaments and global development stakeholders by following up on various achievements of previous conventions.
16.	Peace, justice, and strong institutions	3 event	Parliamentary diplomacy through facilitators in supporting the goals of peace, justice, and strong institutions with parliaments and global development stakeholders through the establishment of multi-country forums.
17.	Partnerships for the goals	2 event	Participatory parliamentary diplomacy in supporting partnerships to achieve common goals with parliaments and world development stakeholders to voice common interests to resolve various prominent global issues.

D. Criticism and Weaknesses of Parliamentary Diplomacy in the SDGs Program

Criticism and weaknesses of the DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy in the SDGs agenda relate to several issues, both technical and non-technical. Technical criticism relates to the expanded role of the DPR RI, making it difficult to achieve a correlation with the House's functions, namely budgeting, regulating, and monitoring. Another criticism concerns the House of Representatives' ability to address technical issues without involving executive entities, such as Bappenas.

Criticism of the House of Representatives' parliamentary diplomacy in achieving the SDGs is also related to mainstream public opinion regarding the strong dominance of the executive branch and the relatively weak role of parliament. Furthermore, further criticism concerns the House of Representatives' parliamentary diplomacy in achieving

the SDGs, which is also related to the relatively weak political will of House members, particularly during recess.

5. Conclusions

The DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy in the SDGs agenda is based on the experiences and instruments of cooperation between parliaments of other countries, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum. The DPR RI has long participated in these international parliaments to foster communication, coordination, and various forms of cooperation between Indonesia and international parliaments as channels for unlocking potential development discussions, despite the fact that the IPU has tended to focus on political issues.

The DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy in the SDGs agenda is also carried out through various meetings, whether individual, group, or commission-level, with foreign delegations or representatives, and through overseas visits. This is where parliamentary diplomacy faces challenges from the Indonesian public regarding its effectiveness. Through this research, it can be seen that visits and discussions are part of the formation of opinion, as well as orientation and reorientation, that can support the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia. Furthermore, the DPR RI also proactively develops parliamentary diplomacy through open alignment with the international development agenda, as is the case in the Bali Declaration, which resulted in provisions that parliament must be involved, albeit in a small percentage and role.

The implementation of parliamentary diplomacy is a moral concern for delegates, individuals, and factions within the commissions of the DPR RI. For example, Commission II carries out various parliamentary diplomacy efforts in the area of reducing inequality through rural development, Commission IV discusses maritime affairs and forest management, and Commission VII deals with climate change and environmental sustainability. These commissions are linked to the achievement of the seventeen SDGs. As a result, the SDGs in Indonesia can provide significant benefits for development. This agenda can serve as a standard for assessing the extent of Indonesia's development progress, as measured by rankings, points, and indices, especially when compared with ASEAN countries.

Between 2014 and 2019, all components of the SDGs assessment and achievement showed gradual progress, although they still lagged behind those of several countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. The DPR RI parliamentary diplomacy in the SDGs program pursued a multi-track approach, involving numerous entities in a bottom-up and top-down manner. Furthermore, the DPR's parliamentary diplomacy in the SDGs program was developed and aligned with the DPR's primary functions: budgeting, regulating, and monitoring. Of these three functions, regulating was the most dominant achievement because it could operate autonomously without much intervention from the executive branch. Meanwhile, budgeting and monitoring were weaker achievements. Therefore, between 2014 and 2019, parliamentary diplomacy continued to operate without conflicting with the DPR's three functions and was able to provide various positive influences on the SDGs program in Indonesia through reflection on the DPR's various international relations and the balanced role between parliament and the executive branch in Indonesia.

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