

CLOSING REMARKS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL DIPLOMACY

BALI, 16 NOVEMBER 2021

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

We have come to the end of the International Conference on Digital Diplomacy.

I am pleased that we have had a productive discussion on a range of important issues in the context of maximizing the benefits of digital diplomacy.

Allow me to highlight some views arising from the Countries' Review session, where we shared experiences, thoughts, and ideas, on two main topics:

- Digital Diplomacy for Crisis Management, and
- Digital Diplomacy in the New Era of Opportunities.

Within these two topics ...

- We highlighted the critical role and benefits of digital technologies during crises, whether natural disasters or national health emergencies,
- We emphasized the need to identify and counter misinformation and disinformation, and
- We also underlined how digital diplomacy should significantly boost economic, trade, tourism, investment, and socio-cultural cooperation.

In the second session, we had four simultaneous panel discussions, each with its own prominent topics.

In Panel 1, we discussed on how to overcome challenges and ensure equal opportunities in digital economy.

In Panel 2, we highlighted efforts to assist SMEs recover from the impact of the pandemic and encourage innovation.

In Panel 3, we underlined that effective data management could significantly strengthen digital diplomacy efforts. We also highlighted that voices of vulnerable and invisible populations must be heard.

In Panel 4, we emphasized efforts in countering false information that negatively impacts diplomacy, especially during times of crises, as well as narrowing the digital divide among countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's conference has upscaled our discourse on digital diplomacy, broadening our network and cooperation beyond those achieved during the Regional Conference on Digital Diplomacy two years ago.

We have distributed **the Bali Message on International Cooperation in Digital Diplomacy**, which highlights Five Key Focus Areas, namely:

- Government Policy Frameworks to Support Digital Diplomacy,
- Crisis Management Through Digital Diplomacy,
- Data Management to Support Digital Diplomacy,
- Innovations to Support SMEs, and
- Capacity Building and Digital Inclusion.

Through the Bali Message, we underscore the value of promoting innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth while also bridging the digital divide among countries.

Such endeavours should be conducted through the sharing of best practices and assistance in capacity building.

I thank all the delegations that have provided comments, inputs, and ideas, which have refined the Bali Message.

Recognizing each country's different needs and emphasis on digital diplomacy, we should all look forward to participating countries' voluntary implementation of the Bali Message.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all delegations, speakers, moderators, and participants who have enriched today's discussion.

Our journey has only begun, as we assist each other, learn from one another, efforts to maximize on the benefits of digital diplomacy.

It is my sincere hope that we will collaborate further in harnessing the potentials of digital diplomacy for the betterment of our people.

I thank you.