

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL DIPLOMACY
BALI, 16 NOVEMBER 2021**

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

Welcome to the International Conference on Digital Diplomacy (ICDD).

Our world today is different than it was two years ago... when we organized a Regional Conference on the same theme.

The pandemic has changed the way we conduct diplomacy... and forced us to rely more on technology.

In all fairness, we all had been using digital diplomacy for quite some time... although mostly as a means of public diplomacy.

But it was not until the pandemic struck... that we truly embrace digital diplomacy.

Indeed, for large part of this pandemic... diplomacy had gone virtual... and it soon proved its worth.

Now, world leaders do not have to travel to attend meeting... They can send pre-recorded speeches... or deliver them virtually.

The UN Security Council voted on a Resolution with emailed letters.

Meanwhile, COVAX managed to coordinate... the delivery of nearly 450 million doses of vaccine around the world... without resorting to physical meetings.

Meanwhile, in Indonesia... online negotiations led to the finalization of Indonesia-RoK CEPA and Indonesia-Mozambique PTA.

**Excellencies,
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Ladies and gentlemen,**

For all its worth, digital diplomacy cannot yet replace face-to-face diplomacy.

But digital diplomacy is here to stay... and the need for it will continue to increase.

A hybrid use of in-person and digital diplomacy... would be the new norm after the pandemic.

And we have to be fully prepared for it.

Today I would suggest three important steps to move forward.

FIRST... strengthen trust in digital diplomacy.

Accelerated use of digital diplomacy must not sacrifice its safety and ethical aspects... especially with the participation of stakeholders beyond traditional diplomacy actors.

Concerns about cybersecurity, data privacy, and Internet governance have to be addressed... to create a trusted digital diplomacy environment.

With online platforms, there should be transparency and agreement from the beginning on...

- ➔ who are being present...
- ➔ what sort of personal data is being collected...
- ➔ and whether the interactions would be recorded.

This is particularly important... when it comes to confidential meetings... or discussions on delicate matters.

SECOND... bridge gaps in digital diplomacy between countries.

Not all countries are adept at using digital diplomacy... let alone have required capacity and resources.

Assistance should be provided for developing countries... to strengthen their digital diplomacy infrastructure.

This may include...

- ➔ capacity-building in digital literacy and skills...
- ➔ investment in affordable digital technology...
- ➔ and development of safe and secure online platforms.

At the same time, we must learn from each others... through exchanges of best practices and lessons learned... on how to fully benefit from digital diplomacy.

THIRD... use digital diplomacy to address global issues.

We have to go beyond simply replicating traditional diplomatic activities in online platforms.

Think big because there is a seemingly endless possibility.

Indonesia, for instance... utilizes digital diplomacy for crisis management purposes... by using a mobile app to expand our citizen service during this pandemic.

Going forward, we could explore the use of Artificial Intelligence to analyze large data...

- ➔ such as trade patterns, policies of foreign countries, and news from around the world...
- ➔ to create a more responsive and informed foreign policy decision-making processes.

In the future, we might be using Virtual Reality... to visit conflict zones or see the devastation caused by climate change... to help us better understand the situation on the ground.

**Excellencies,
Distinguishes participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I believe it is critical also to use digital diplomacy for economic purposes.

This is why I am proud that, in addition to the ICDD... we will also organize the ASEAN Creative Economy Business Forum (ACEBF)... starting from today.

The ACEBF represents Indonesia's contribution to the region's comprehensive economic recovery strategy.

Digital diplomacy here may help creative economy actors penetrate the global market.

We intend to promote and carry this issue forward in ASEAN and G-20.

To conclude, I am delighted that today... we will have the opportunity to discuss ways and means... to harness the full potential of digital diplomacy.

I look forward to seeing productive discussions.

And now, I will be assisted by Digi... to officially open the ICDD.