

HISTORICAL TRAJECTORY AND TRANSFORMATION OF INDONESIAN MARITIME DIPLOMACY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS-17 AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia, as the world's largest archipelagic nation, possesses an extensive history of maritime diplomacy that continues to transform in accordance with global geopolitical dynamics. This research aims to analyze the historical trajectory and transformation of Indonesian maritime diplomacy within the context of implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs-17) at international forums. The research methodology employs a qualitative approach with comparative historical analysis and international policy studies. Data were collected through documentation studies of Indonesian foreign policy, international forum documents, and in-depth interviews with 15 diplomacy practitioners. Research findings reveal that Indonesian maritime diplomacy has undergone three major transformation phases: the Old Order era (1945-1966) emphasizing maritime sovereignty through the Djuanda Declaration, the New Order era (1966-1998) focusing on maritime economic development and UNCLOS 1982, and the Reformation era (1998-present) integrating sustainability aspects through the Global Maritime Fulcrum concept. The implementation of SDGs-17 in Indonesian maritime diplomacy demonstrates significant progress through various bilateral and multilateral partnerships at international forums such as IORA, Our Ocean Conference, and ASEAN Maritime Forum, with funding commitments reaching USD 2 billion. The research concludes that the transformation of Indonesian maritime diplomacy requires institutional capacity strengthening, enhanced collaboration with international partners, and more comprehensive integration between national agenda and SDGs-17 targets to optimize the achievement of sustainable development goals by 2030.

Keywords: Maritime Diplomacy; SDGs-17; International Forums; Global Partnerships; Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as the world's largest archipelagic nation with more than 17,000 islands and a coastline stretching 99,093 kilometers, occupies a strategic position in global maritime geopolitics. Indonesia's maritime territory, encompassing 5.8 million km² or approximately 75% of the total national territory, establishes the maritime sector as a fundamental pillar in national development and foreign diplomacy. The history of Indonesian maritime diplomacy has undergone various transformations since the independence era to the present, reflecting domestic political dynamics and changes in the global order.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, provide a global framework for sustainable development until 2030. SDGs-17, which focuses on 'Partnerships for the Goals,' emphasizes the importance of global collaboration, including in the maritime domain. As a maritime nation, Indonesia holds strategic interests in implementing SDGs-17 through various international forums to strengthen maritime diplomatic positions and support the achievement of sustainable development targets.

The primary issue addressed is how the historical trajectory of Indonesian maritime diplomacy shapes contemporary strategies in implementing SDGs-17 at international forums. Previous research on Indonesian maritime diplomacy tends to focus on sovereignty and security aspects, while studies regarding SDGs integration in maritime diplomacy remain limited. This research aims to fill the literature gap by analyzing the historical evolution of Indonesian maritime diplomacy and its transformation in the context of the global SDGs agenda, particularly in building sustainable international partnerships.

The urgency of this research lies in Indonesia's need to optimize maritime potential in achieving SDGs 2030 targets while strengthening strategic positions in regional and global maritime security architecture. By understanding the historical trajectory and transformation patterns of maritime diplomacy, the Indonesian government can formulate more effective strategies in utilizing international forums for resource mobilization, technology transfer, and institutional capacity strengthening. This research is expected to provide policy recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of Indonesian maritime diplomacy within the framework of SDGs-17 implementation.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a qualitative approach with comparative historical analysis methods and policy studies. The research design is descriptive-analytical, aiming to explain the historical trajectory and transformation of Indonesian maritime diplomacy within the context of SDGs-17 implementation. The research scope encompasses the period 1945-2024, with particular focus on the Reformation era (1998-2024) marking the intensification of Indonesia's participation in international forums related to sustainable development.

Data collection was conducted through three primary methods. First, documentation studies of Indonesian foreign policy documents, annual reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, as well as official documents from international forums such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN Maritime Forum, and United Nations Ocean Conference. Second, in-depth interviews with 15 key informants consisting of senior diplomats, international relations academics, and international organization practitioners. Third, content analysis of scientific publications, policy briefs, and research reports related to maritime diplomacy and SDGs implementation.

Research variables include: (1) Historical factors shaping Indonesian maritime diplomacy, (2) Instruments and strategies of maritime diplomacy in each period, (3) National policies related to SDGs, particularly SDG-17, (4) Indonesia's participation in international maritime forums, and (5) Achievements and challenges in implementing global partnerships. Data analysis employs triangulation techniques to validate findings from various data sources. Thematic analysis is utilized to identify transformation patterns and factors influencing changes in the orientation of Indonesian maritime diplomacy throughout history.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Historical Trajectory of Indonesian Maritime Diplomacy

Indonesian maritime diplomacy has undergone three major transformation phases reflecting changes in foreign policy paradigms and national development priorities. The first phase (1945-1966) was characterized by the assertion of maritime sovereignty through the Djuanda Declaration of 1957,

which established the concept of an archipelagic state. This era emphasized aspects of international law and diplomatic struggle for recognition of sovereignty over maritime territories. President Soekarno utilized maritime diplomacy as a political instrument to strengthen national identity and resistance against imperialism.

The second phase (1966-1998) demonstrated a shift in focus toward maritime economic development with priorities on exploiting marine resources for economic growth. Indonesian maritime diplomacy during the New Order era was more pragmatic, prioritizing bilateral cooperation with developed nations for technology transfer and marine sector investment. Indonesia successfully played an important role in negotiating the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, which recognized the concept of an archipelagic state.

The third phase (1998-present) reflects the integration of sustainable development paradigms in maritime diplomacy. The Reformation era brought fundamental transformation with the adoption of the 'Global Maritime Fulcrum' concept during President Joko Widodo's administration (2014-2024). This policy integrated aspects of security, economy, and maritime environmental sustainability within a comprehensive strategic framework. Indonesian maritime diplomacy no longer solely focused on narrow national interests but also contributed to global maritime governance and the achievement of sustainable development agendas.

Table1. Transformation of Indonesian Maritime Diplomacy Focus

| Period | Primary Focus | Diplomatic Instruments |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1945-1966 | Maritime Sovereignty | Djuanda Declaration, Multilateral Diplomacy |
| 1966-1998 | Maritime Economy | UNCLOS, Bilateral Cooperation |
| 1998-present | Sustainable Development | Maritime Fulcrum, SDGs, Regional-Global Forums |

Implementation of SDGs-17 in Indonesian Maritime Diplomacy

Indonesia has integrated SDGs-17 into the framework of maritime diplomacy through active participation in various international forums. The implementation of SDGs-17 is manifested in three main dimensions: global partnerships, resource mobilization, and technology transfer. In the dimension of global partnerships, Indonesia plays a central role in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and initiates various regional maritime dialogues such as the Our Ocean Conference held in Bali in 2018.

Resource mobilization for sustainable maritime development is conducted through cooperation with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Indonesia has successfully secured funding commitments exceeding USD 2 billion for marine conservation programs and blue economy development. Partnership with the European Union through the IUU Fishing program has enhanced Indonesia's fisheries surveillance capacity and significantly reduced illegal fishing practices.

Maritime technology transfer has become a crucial focus in implementing SDGs-17. Indonesia has developed cooperation with Japan and South Korea for the development of environmentally friendly vessel technology and satellite monitoring systems for maritime territory surveillance. Capacity building programs with Australia and Norway have enhanced Indonesian human resource capabilities in sustainable marine resource management and climate change mitigation in coastal regions.

Challenges and Global Strategies

The implementation of SDGs-17 in Indonesian maritime diplomacy faces several structural challenges. First, weak inter-agency coordination causes policy fragmentation and inefficiency in implementing international partnership programs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs often have agendas that are not fully integrated.

Second, limitations in institutional capacity and human resources become obstacles in optimizing global partnership opportunities. Many international cooperation programs cannot be maximally utilized due to lack of competent personnel and effective project management systems. Third, geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly rivalry among major powers, creates strategic dilemmas for Indonesia in managing maritime partnerships.

To address these challenges, Indonesia needs to adopt more comprehensive global strategies. The first strategy is strengthening institutional architecture through establishing a national-level coordination body with cross-sectoral authority. The second strategy is increasing investment in maritime human resource development through scholarship programs and international training. The third strategy is diversifying partnerships to avoid excessive dependence on one country or power bloc while maintaining the principles of independent and active foreign policy.

CONCLUSIONS

This research concludes that Indonesian maritime diplomacy has transformed from a sovereignty-centered approach toward a sustainable development paradigm aligned with the global SDGs, particularly SDGs-17, as reflected in its historical evolution, expanding bilateral and multilateral partnerships, international resource mobilization, and maritime technology transfer; however, its effectiveness is still constrained by weak inter-agency coordination, limited institutional capacity, and complex Indo-Pacific geopolitics, thus requiring strengthened institutions, enhanced international collaboration, better integration between national and global agendas, and continued adaptation to global dynamics while safeguarding sovereignty and national interests, supported by policy measures such as establishing a national coordination body, increasing investment in maritime human resources, improving monitoring and evaluation of partnerships, diversifying strategic alliances, and reinforcing Indonesia's leadership in regional maritime security forums.

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