

Constructive Engagement as Indonesia's Foreign Policy Strategy in Promoting Democratization in Myanmar

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of a constructive approach conducted by the Indonesian Government towards its bilateral relations with Myanmar known as a form of Indonesia's responsibility to be involved in the settlement of democratic issues and the humanitarian crisis within Myanmar. This approach constructed by regionalism precedent of ASEAN Way Values which reaffirm the consideration of the Indonesian Government in the making process of Constructive Engagement foreign policy to promote democratization in Myanmar. This Strategy opposed disincentive policies implied by Western Countries towards Myanmar. This research applies qualitative research methods through study literature using secondary data. The result shows that, in its implementation, the Constructive Engagement strategy accentuates the attempts of dialogue, consensus and strengthening cooperation between countries to create social and economic development within Myanmar and bring the positive trend in the process of Myanmar's political transition.

Keywords: Foreign Policy; Constructive Engagement; Democratization; Indonesia; Myanmar.

A. Introduction

Indonesia and Myanmar are the two countries in Southeast Asia that have witnessed the process of political transitions. Both countries have historical similarities which started from the struggle to attain their independence from the Britain colony. Furthermore, Indonesia and Myanmar have other similarities in terms of political system background. The two countries in the region have experienced an extreme authoritarian system of

government. Military regimes dominated the whole political system of both the country's aftermath the collapse of parliamentary democracy in the 1950s. Particularly in 1952 after the democratic regime in Myanmar collapsed. Ever since then has been under the authoritarian leadership led by General Ne Win, under his rule, Myanmar was transformed into an isolationist state with the ideology of socialist. Around the same period, Indonesia was under the authoritarian leadership of General Soeharto for three

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decades. Nevertheless, amidst all the similarities between the two countries, there is a fundamental difference in the process of political transitions of these countries. Where Indonesia has succeeded in implementing the political transition to the democratic system and has been actively promoting the values of democracy and human rights around the world. However, Myanmar is still under the influence of the military regime.

During observing the democratic process and humanitarian issues which continuously occur in Myanmar, many countries from the international community, particularly European countries and the United States of America decided to impose economic sanction towards Myanmar as a response of the authoritarian government actions in Myanmar. Seeing all the pressures given to Myanmar, the Indonesian Government finds the need to assist Myanmar to prevent isolationism in the country. For instance, the Indonesian Government has been asking the international community to be patient and continue to support the democratization in Myanmar. This was conveyed by the statement of Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa: *"We want Myanmar to fulfill its commitment to hold independent, transparent, democratic and inclusive elections... Nonetheless, one should not expect perfect conditions in Myanmar Instantly, as.. Otherwise we will even not be able to see the development"*. (Lang, 2012). Indonesian Government realized the necessity of changing the approach strategy by collaborating the political, social and economic aspects into

a constructive approach known as Constructive Engagement. Besides, the Indonesian Government believes political change is a form of evolutionary change which takes time in the process along with social and economic development as its supporting aspects. The brand new approach strategy of Indonesian government has become a new method in examining the political objectives of Indonesia's foreign policy in promoting democratization in Myanmar.

B. Literature Review

To explain Constructive Engagement as Indonesia's foreign policy strategy in promoting democratization in Myanmar, the writer uses one model:

Model Constructive Engagement

Constructive Engagement is based on the premise; it is possible to apply pressure on other parties to create constructive change without using coercive methods on a party, the model focuses on the process along with dynamic of internal change (Crocker, 1986). The refusal of using coercive methods such as sanctions and isolation strategy in this approach is rooted in assumptions about the level of effectiveness. According to this model, there is a strong relationship between the political and economic aspects that can not be separated, in this case, the economic aspect itself includes the effort to create economic cooperation between parties, through various forms of economic

cooperation are believed could support political change within a country (Ivanica, 1998). Thus, to encourage the political transition of a country, the aspect of the economy which is considered as an important aspect to support the transition should be conducted through forming economic cooperation between the countries; this economic cooperation could lead to economic growth and encourage national development. In return, economic stability would support the sustainability of the political transition and the democratic process of a country.

Constructive Engagement itself began to be adopted as a soft diplomacy approach in 1991 by ASEAN aimed to encourage diplomatic relations and economic cooperation between ASEAN member countries and Myanmar, this is done to encourage domestic economic-social development that in return will have an influence toward political liberalization and democratization in Myanmar (Masilamani Logan, Peterson Jimmy, 2014). Indonesia then adopted a *Constructive* model to support the resolution of the problem of democracy in Myanmar. This approach prioritizes constructive efforts that are built based on solidarity, closeness, brotherhood and partnership in various fields. Constructive engagement is used as a persuasive diplomacy strategy of the Indonesian Government in promoting democratization in Myanmar. Through this strategy, Indonesia seeks to prioritize consensus, avoid confrontation between the two countries and encourage an inclusive spirit for the realization of democracy and

strengthening the protection of human rights in Myanmar. (Hongwei, 2012)

Now the Indonesian Government continues to implement a Constructive engagement strategy in their foreign policy to see the steps of democratization in Myanmar continue to be carried out continuously. The implementation of this strategy is carried out by holding bilateral cooperation in the fields of economic, socio-culture and followed by a political approach.

C. Constructive Engagement Strategy of Indonesia in Promoting Myanmar's Democratization

Constructive engagement becomes a strategic choice for the Indonesian Government in supporting democratization in Myanmar; this is because the decision to use the Constructive Engagement strategy is not detached from Indonesia's efforts to implement the "ASEAN Way" value which is a form of diplomacy implemented between ASEAN member countries. It is including the involvement of dialogue, consensus-building, consultation and strict implementation of non-interference principles. In this case, Constructive engagement is part of the "Asean Way" that was initiated in 1991 as ASEAN's diplomatic approach toward Myanmar in response to the democratization and human rights issue within the country. (Cheak & Fai, 2008)

The choice of using Constructive Engagement as Indonesia's foreign policy towards Myanmar was created from regional precedents consideration that

emphasized the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of member countries, the consensus of regionalism amongst ASEAN member countries and Indonesia's sense of responsibility that can not allow any kind of humanitarian and democratic problems in Myanmar continue to occur. The Indonesian Government reflects the value of "Asean Way" in the Constructive engagement strategy through the use of dialogue, consultation, and inclusive cooperation methods to avoid confrontation with the Government of Myanmar.

Until now, the Indonesian Government has continuously and consistently implemented a Constructive Engagement policy towards Myanmar to embody the objectives of foreign policy to promote democratization. Indonesian Government, on the other hand, finds the need to ensure that Myanmar can carry out democratic steps and reform on an ongoing basis. In this case, the Indonesian Government strongly emphasizes the creation of consolidation of democracy within Myanmar, the development of economic cooperation, the overcoming of communal conflicts fairly, wisely and considering the humanity side. (Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2015).

In outline, this strategy has resulted in various attempts and actions taken by the Government of Indonesia through the implementation of it's democratic relations with Myanmar, which carried out with; providing assistance in the process of

political transition through bilateral and multilateral approaches including the conduct of Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) and active contribution of Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) in rebuilding the values of democracy in Myanmar, the implementation of an agreement on framework of economic cooperation with Myanmar as an attempt to support the creation of national development within Myanmar and by carrying the diplomacy mission aimed at addressing the humanitarian issue in Myanmar that have been affected the course of democratic processes in Myanmar.

D. Form of Constructive Engagement attempts of Indonesian Government In Supporting Democratization In Myanmar

Government of Indonesia reflects strategy of Constructive Engagement in various form of policies and methods of approach which are believed to be an effective means to succeed in implementing Indonesia's foreign policy, namely through; bilateral and multilateral political approach through Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) and Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD), the implementation of economic cooperation in the form of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) and the signing of Framework Agreement on Trade and Investment between The Republic of The Union of Myanmar and The Republic of Indonesia, and through humanitarian assistance programs in supporting the resolution of humanitarian crisis in

Myanmar, below is an explanation of the Constructive Engagement efforts undertaken by the Government of Indonesia towards Myanmar.

- 1) Enforcing political approach through Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) and Institute For Peace and Democracy (IPD)

Through the implementation of the Bali Democracy Forum, Indonesian Government targets to be able to participate in promoting the democratic process in Myanmar. According to the Foreign Ministry strategic plans, Bali Democracy Forum is one of the forms of constructive engagement policy that aims to encourage the political transition process in Myanmar (Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2015). in it's enforcement, BDF is also supported by the Institute for Peace and Democracy, which is an initiative of Indonesian Government which consisting countries in the Asia Pacific region who aims to actively contribute in developing and promoting democratic values and could be realized as part of Indonesia's foreign policy role in forming international institution (Sidauruk, 2015). This forum is inclusive, marked by the presence of countries that do not merely adhere democratic system nor taking the process of political transition to a democratic system such as Myanmar as a

country that still struggles amidst the process of political transition.

Therefore, it can be seen that BDF is also part of the strategy of Indonesia's foreign policy which is also known as a form of persuasive diplomacy attempt that adopts the model of constructive engagement in its enforcement. In this case, it is known that there's a significant role in holding dialogue and communication in diplomacy to understand how a country realize its national interest (Westhuizen, 2014). Furthermore, the spread of democratic values through BDF asserts the principles of homegrown democracy where this principle is implemented based on the principle of non-interference among ASEAN member countries. Non-interference principle prohibits fellow member countries from intervening in each state's internal affairs and provides freedom to each member countries to imply state affairs without interference from other countries, this principle shows respect for the sovereignty of each country. Therefore, Indonesia's foreign policy is also carried out by considering this principle (Wakhidah, 2014)

Since the beginning of BDF formation, Myanmar has been known to always attend the forum from 2008 to 2014. It can be said that BDF gradually began to influence the democratic process in Myanmar, Myanmar also viewed the

importance of BDF particularly because of the theme promoted by BDF seen as an important phase to help resolve various domestic issues that continue to occur. The theme promoted by BDF based on the strategic agenda or current issues in the region. With the assistance of the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) as the implementing agency of BDF, the Indonesian Government provides various supports of capacity building in the field of democracy, namely, electoral monitoring and visit programs and dialogues regarding decentralization, democratization, and peacebuilding. These activities, certainly creating a positive trend for Myanmar to develop democracy in the country. In its implementation, BDF also upholds the home-grown democracy principle to spread democratic values and encourage Myanmar to implement the top-down process in its democratic transition. (Rahman, 2017). Furthermore, the idea of democracy in its nature is inseparable from the values set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 1948 which includes indicator of fundamental rights that shape democracy, namely; political rights and civil rights that could be measured by the ability of country to hold fair and sustainable election which involving civilians and the media, and other indicators are social, cultural and economic rights.

In outline, BDF as a forum held at the multilateral level has a positive influence on the democratic process in Myanmar. This could be seen through Myanmar's decision to participate in BDF. This active participation, in turn, could change perception upon Myanmar's identity. Where a new identity will be formed, that is Myanmar as one of a democratic country. This changing perception could have an impact on the relations between Myanmar and other countries particularly western countries and to improve the reconciliation process with western countries who have given economic sanctions against Myanmar. Furthermore, another influence caused by BDF is the emergence of awareness among political elites and the military regime in Myanmar upon the importance of implying democratic values. This can be seen from Myanmar's urge to cooperate with the IPD in promoting Myanmar's democratic transition process.

For the past few years, IPD has known as an advanced institution of BDF that aims to realize ideas that arise in the BDF forum and assist to see through the problems which are present in the forum through various work programs. In assisting in Myanmar's democratic transition process, practically the IPD does not apply coercive methods or to assert Myanmar to immediately adopt a democratic system. IPD has the view

that the process of learning and understanding the practice of democracy is one of the prominent steps in building democracy. This approach and methods cause BDF and IPD popular among the parties who participate in it. Through BDF democratic and non-democratic countries are brought together in one forum where each party could learn from each other about the practice of democracy from the countries that are considered to practice democratic system well. Meanwhile for these non-democratic countries will then be assisted by the IPD to conduct the transition process (Rahman, 2017).

One of the achievements of IPD in assisting Myanmar's democratic process is when the IPD succeeded in gaining support from various countries who were willing to participate in promoting democratization in Myanmar. As in 2011, IPD collaborated with Norway and Australia arranged a workshop and invited Myanmar to discuss various strategic measures in the process of democratic transition. The emergence of positive reaction followed by the inclination of Norway and Australia to collaborate with IPD in supporting Myanmar's democratic transition process shows the trust between the two countries upon the improvement of democracy in Myanmar and IPD as the institution to assist the process due to the constructive dialogue and

communication that have been built during BDF.

A study conducted by the Freedom House noted that since the emergence of BDF and IPD there has been an increase in the positive trend of Myanmar's democratic transition particularly in the democracy index which has such a significant increase of 21-24 points in 2012-2014. Despite it could not be stated that the increase of the index was merely due to the presence of BDF and IPD. However, the active participation enforced by IPD and BDF in promoting Myanmar's democratic transition process has also contributed to the increase of the index. The result of research conducted by Freedom House showed there were several improvements in the field of political and civil rights such as elections and civil liberties, and each of them increased by 6 and 5 points (Puddington, 2013).

Nevertheless, this study shows other big challenges amidst Myanmar's democratic transition process. One of them is local wisdom where almost 90% of people in Myanmar adhere to Buddhism. According to the data from Asian Barometer Survey (ABS) in 2015, there's 95% of the people of Myanmar believe the growing religion besides Buddhism in the country would have an impact on the emergence of domestic chaos. This

certainly shows the high number of anti-pluralism in Myanmar. Thus, the majority of ethnicities such as Buddhism consider the presence of other religions other than Buddhism such as Islam and other religions will become hindrances to their religion. Buddhism as the majority of religion has acculturated with the socio-cultural context and formed local wisdom known with its Theravada values. The doctrines of Theravada Buddhism have become one of the keys to the emersion of domestic issues and challenges in the process of democratic transition. it can be seen that the aspects of social, cultural and religious education are the factors that must be considered in dealing with anti-pluralism. (Puddington, 2013).

In this case IPS role in participating to address this issue could be seen from the attempt of IPD to held interfaith dialogue to foster a moderate comprehension of religions. Hence thus, therefore the local wisdom in the community could reconstruct comprehension of democracy and the values contained in it. Besides that as a part of attempts to promote democratic transition in Myanmar's society, IPD also considers the importance of disseminating democracy among the grass root by conduct a training which involve all elements of the civil society and it is considered effective enough to raise the awareness of democracy in a bottom-

up manner to embody substantial democracy that practically engages to all the elements of the society.

2) Increase economic cooperation between Indonesia-Myanmar

Indonesia has a potential economic relation with Myanmar. This is also supported by the consideration of the Indonesian Government who see the importance of incorporating a developmental approach through various cooperations in the field of economy to promote political transition in Myanmar. As it is known a constructive engagement strategy conducted by the Government of Indonesia reaffirms the use of a constructive approach that involves economic aspects in the attempts to reach political change. The Indonesian government sees the potential of economic cooperation that can be held between Indonesia and Myanmar to embody Indonesia's national interest. Therefore, from 2011-2017 Indonesian Government has intensified economic cooperation with Myanmar through various forms off bilateral cooperation agreements.

a) Economic cooperations through Joint Commission between the Republic of Indonesia and the Union of Myanmar

The joint commission meeting between Indonesia and Myanmar was first held in 2007 in Jakarta, the joint commission is the continuation of the MoU between Indonesia and

Myanmar in establishing the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation which was signed by the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda and Myanmar's Minister of Foreign Affairs, U Nyan Win. During the visit of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to Yangon, Myanmar in 2006 for joining the commission marks the new beginning for bilateral cooperation between the two countries that paves the opportunity for positive economic trends in both countries particularly for Myanmar during the process of political transition (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Indonesia, 2007). Furthermore, in 2011 the second JCBC meeting was held again, in this meeting, the two countries agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation and the trade value of up to USD 500 million in 2015.

The joint commission provides an opportunity for both countries to review the bilateral relations and devise a roadmap to sign the cooperation agreement. During this meeting, the Indonesian Government reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation with Myanmar to urge the democratization process. The Government of Indonesia also offered assistance in capacity building to embody democracy and good governance in Myanmar through mobilizing various parties and domestic institutions from

Indonesia to engage with public institutions in Myanmar and share the experience that could enhance the process of political transition. The Indonesian institutions whose involved are General Elections Commission (KPU), National Commission of Human Rights (Komnas HAM) and Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI).

This can be interpreted as the strategy of the Indonesian Government in sharing its experience in implementing the democratic process during the political transition period. The government of Indonesia believes that Indonesia's experience in performing a political transition during reformation era could support the attainment of both countries cooperation's targets, especially by considering the historical similarity of political transition of Indonesia and Myanmar that disclose the potential for collaboration between two countries in promoting good governance, democracy and human rights (Than, 2012)

The economic cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar through JCBC then continued to develop which marked by the third JCBC Ministerial meeting held on 12th June 2013 in Nusa Dua, Bali. At this meeting Indonesia represented by Minister of Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa and Myanmar represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Wunna Maung Lwin

discussed series of plans to strengthen cooperation relations in advancing the democratic values, particularly in the field of capacity building, communal conflict resolution and economic-socio development, investment and trade; energy and food security; as well as the mobilization of the citizen of both countries (Post, 2013)

The capacity building cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar was reinforced by the released of "Blue Book on Indonesia-Myanmar Capacity Building Partnership 2013-2015", where this book contains series of collaborative programs to increase capacity in various fields dedicated to Myanmar in the period 2013-2015. Besides, both of Minister of Foreign Affairs also agreed to re-encourage the achievement of trade targets worth USD 1 billion in 2016 and to increase the value of investment between Indonesia and Myanmar (Anantara, 2013). In the beginning, the trade value between Indonesia and Myanmar only reached USD 430 million and increased up to 7,98% in 2011. Meanwhile, in the field of investment, the value of Indonesian investments up to 2012 reached USD 241,5 million which made Indonesia in the 14th position and subsequently predicted to increase along with the growing interest in expanding Indonesia's business corporate to Myanmar. Furthermore, the following of the previous JCBC

meeting. The third JCBC meeting followed the sign of three economic cooperation agreements which conducted in Myanmar by the President of Myanmar U Thein Sein and President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in April. The document signed by the two Presidents including the "*Framework agreement on trade and investment between the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia and The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of the Republic of The Union of Myanmar and two memoranda of understanding on cooperation in human resource and on rice trade*" (Xinhua, 2013).in 2015 under the administration of President Jokowi, this economic agreement was ratified to Presidential Regulation (PER PRES) Number 79 of 2015 (Direktorat Utama Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Hukum Pemeriksa Keuangan Negara, 2015).

This attempt showed the solemnity and continuity of the Indonesian Government's measures in cooperating with the Government of Myanmar to embody the agenda of national interest that has begun from the presidency of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and continues to until the administration of President Jokowi. The commitment to continue the agenda of foreign policy related to actualize democracy in Myanmar can be seen in the administration of President

Jokowi through the series of foreign policy that contains a Constructive Engagement strategy in its implementation.

b) Conduct a Forum of Discussions between Indonesian and Myanmar's Entrepreneurs through Business Matching Event

As a part of the attempts to strengthen the economic cooperation, the Indonesian Government through the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon collaborated with the Chamber of Economy and Industry of Myanmar to organize an event known as Business Matching in 2017. The aim of this event is to increase the value of trade and investment between the two countries, this forum gathered 50 entrepreneurs from 33 companies in Indonesia and 50 entrepreneurs from Myanmar to discuss the topic from various aspects such as solar energy, coal, pharmaceutical drugs, electricity, meat and milk, commodity, clothing and textiles, handcrafts, coffee and traditional foods from Indonesia (Soe, 2017)

Through this forum, the Government of Indonesia made a strong effort to provide opportunities for the entrepreneurs and companies from both of the countries to mutually promote their products, negotiate their respective products and eventually export each of these products. Moreover, some of the entrepreneurs from Indonesia

decided to invest in Myanmar and build companies in the country. In this opportunity, the Indonesian Government reaffirms its plan to invest in the realm of mining, technology, and information as well as infrastructure. Considering the increase of trade value between Indonesia and Myanmar in 2017 which worth USD 937 million (KEMLU RI, 2018). In this forum, the Deputy of the Ministry of Trade of Myanmar U Aung Htoo conveyed to businessmen in Myanmar to follow the success of Indonesian businesses. Hence, this forum was also used as an opportunity for Myanmar entrepreneurs to learn and exchange information and experience with the entrepreneurs from Indonesia. Furthermore, this forum also believed to be an attempt by the Government of Indonesia to help increase economic growth in Myanmar precisely, through advancing the business development of domestic entrepreneurs in the country.

c) Implement Humanitarian Diplomacy In Promoting The Completion of The Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis in Myanmar

The humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State, Myanmar has developed to be the biggest and most complex humanitarian crisis in the world. Indonesia as the country that has committed to advocating human right values along with the agenda to

supporting the realization of democracy in Myanmar shows its contribution in resolving the humanitarian crisis that faced by the Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority in Myanmar. Indonesia which has the biggest Muslim population in the world is expected to actively participate in responding to the biggest humanitarian crisis in the region. This crisis also draws the attention of the international community to be involved in the settlement. In this case, ASEAN is one of the regional communities that expected to resolve the crisis, nevertheless, this regional community is still unable to effectively get involved in promoting the conflict resolution due to the principle of non-interference which has become the barrier of ASEAN to settle the humanitarian crisis. However, for Indonesia regardless of the principle of non-interference, Indonesia through its constructive approach continues to promote human rights in Myanmar.

For the past few years, Indonesia has shown its commitment to advocate wider support from the international community other than ASEAN in resolving the conflict in Myanmar. For instances, in 2012 Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa introduced moral diplomacy, through this diplomatic strategy Marty invited the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to take action and cease the

persecution in Rakhine State, as the result of the meeting in Mecca, Saudi Arabia has decided to bring the issue of Rohingya humanitarian crisis in the United Nations General Assembly by considering the systemic discrimination and violence that Rohingya minority Muslim ethnic have faced for decades (Hunt, 2012). The actions conducted by the Government of Indonesia are part of the foreign policy agenda to promote human rights and ensure the continuity of democracy practice in Myanmar, with the emergence of humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, this situation considered to hamper the democratization process in the country and lead to the negative assumptions about the ruling government over its failure to protect the ethnic minority rights and maintain the domestic stability.

Furthermore, Myanmar's Government effort to carry out national development could not be realized if the Government unable to address the humanitarian issues that have drawn the attention of the international community. Thus, Indonesia as one of the countries that have stated its commitment from the beginning to realize the democracy in Myanmar must be able to show its active contribution in addressing the Rohingya humanitarian crisis and simultaneously ensuring this conflict does not hamper the process of democratization. The involvement of Indonesia as one of the parties that

actively holds support and assistance toward the humanitarian crisis in Rohingya can also be articulated as the form of its national interest in maintaining regional stability from the impact of the overflowing number of Rohingya refugees.

Hence, the Indonesian Government continues to urge the Government of Myanmar to take immediate action to resolve the issue. In responding to the worsening situation in Rakhine State, the Indonesian Government has taken various measures needed in addressing the Rohingya crisis. The attempts of the Indonesian Government through humanitarian diplomacy began to show the development with the receipt of assistance from the Indonesian Government by the Government of Myanmar and made Indonesia as the only country that allowed to distribute aid to the country. As a follow up to the part of Indonesia's aid program plan to Myanmar and conditions on the field, in August 2017, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi launched a *Humanitarian Assistance for Sustainable Community* program (HASCO) to Myanmar. This program is a form of commitment from 11 NGOs that are members of the Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance for Myanmar (AKIM) this program has the main goal to provide inclusive and medium-term assistance to the people of Myanmar particularly

those who affected from the crisis in an inclusive manner.

There are 4 main programs launched, including; Education, Health, Economy and capacity building. The program as a whole is worth USD 2 million and its from the donations raised by Indonesian people. The diplomatic actions carried out by the Government of Indonesia then continued until the visit of Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi to meet with Myanmar Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi on September 4, 2017. During this meeting, The Government of Indonesia through Minister Retno Marsudi conveyed the proposal of Formula 4+1 to be implemented toward the crisis in Rakhine State. This Formula contains four main elements, which include: 1. Restoring stability and security; 2. Maximum restraint and not to use violence; 3. Protection of all the people in Rakhine State, regardless of ethnicity or religious background; 4. The importance of immediately opening access for humanitarian assistance. And the additional traditional element is the implementation of the recommendation from the Advisory Commission Report for Rakhine State, led by Kofi Annan.

The humanitarian diplomatic mission carried out by the Government of Indonesia has also succeeded in achieving other

significant achievements, marked by the agreement of not only Indonesia that allowed to be involved in the distribution of humanitarian assistance for Rakhine State but also ASEAN, in other word, by the involving of other parties in addressing this crisis, particularly ASEAN as the major player of constructive approach strategy in the region, it could help to accelerate the conflict management and resolution in Myanmar. (Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Republic Indonesia, 2017)

E. Conclusion

The involvement of Indonesia in the continuation of the democratic process in Myanmar is indivisible from the historical background of bilateral relations between the two countries which has existed since

from the pre-decolonization period to the present. The Government of Indonesia through its Constructive Engagement strategy strives to implement a constructive diplomacy approach that based on the spirit of inclusive to realize democracy and improve human rights protection in Myanmar. The decision to conduct a constructive engagement strategy as a method of Indonesian Diplomacy in promoting democratization in Myanmar is also coming from the consideration of the mixed situations and political instability arising from the political transition process. However, Indonesia considered that coercive diplomatic methods such as economic sanctions could not help to address the issues. Hence, the Government of Indonesia implemented the constructive engagement approach that emphasizes the use of political, economic and social approaches to transform Myanmar into a democratic country.

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