

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair



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**ABSTRACT:** This research discusses Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region during the ASEAN chairmanship period in 2023. This is Indonesia's fourth time as ASEAN chairman, after serving three times in 1967, 2003, and 2011. This research focuses on how Indonesia contributes to stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region through its foreign political activities, especially through implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) document. The method used in this research is qualitative, with secondary data sources including books, journal articles, etc. The data collection technique is carried out through library research. Then, the research will be analyzed using qualitative data analysis techniques following the framework described by Miles and Huberman: data reduction, data presentation (data display), and drawing conclusions or verification (conclusion drawing/verification). The results show that Indonesia, in its chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023, wants to become a Regional Great Power that plays the role of norm-setting and norm-making. In ASEAN's chairmanship in 2023, one of the main focuses will be Indonesia's foreign policy activities in the Indo-Pacific region, which focuses on the implementation of AOIP, where Indonesia wants to encourage ASEAN's role in creating regional stability, peace, and progress and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. ASEAN strives to embrace large countries to collaborate in the Indo-Pacific region by strengthening ASEAN centrality, openness, inclusiveness, transparency, and respect for international law. As part of this, Indonesia hosted the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) to strengthen regional cooperation and promote economic growth. This forum hopes to utilize principles such as ASEAN centrality, inclusiveness, and transparency to achieve a more peaceful and prosperous region.

**KEYWORDS:** Foreign Policy, Indonesia, Indo-Pacific, ASEAN Chairmanship

### I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries that initiated the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on August 8, 1967, in Bangkok, Thailand, through the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration); apart from Indonesia, other founding countries are Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, then other countries in the Southeast Asia region also joined, to date ASEAN membership includes around 11 countries. During Indonesia's membership in ASEAN, Indonesia has served as Chair of ASEAN three times, namely in 1967, 2003, and 2011. In 2023, Indonesia will again receive a mandate to become Chair of ASEAN for the fourth time.

Indonesia received its fourth chairmanship of ASEAN from Cambodia at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2022. Indonesia's chairmanship period starts from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The theme of Indonesia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023 is "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth." through this theme, Indonesia is determined to direct ASEAN cooperation in 2023 to continue and strengthen ASEAN's relevance in responding to regional and global challenges, as well as strengthening ASEAN's position as the centre of regional economic growth, for the prosperity of the ASEAN people (menpan.go.id, 2023).

The Indo-Pacific region is the place where Southeast Asian countries are located. This region has strategic value where there is very high rivalry between the world's superpowers, especially the U.S. and the PRC, through ASEAN. Indonesia is interested in maintaining stability and peace in the region so far. The Indo-Pacific region has always been approached using a security approach. Still, Indonesia will try a more economic and development approach to view the Indo-Pacific region within the ASEAN framework. Many issues pose challenges to Indonesia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023, including the South China Sea issue, the Myanmar Crisis, US-PRC rivalry, the heating up of Cross-Strait relations between the PRC and Taiwan, the Ukraine conflict and its

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

impact on supply chains, recovery Post Covid-19 economy, as well as the emergence of the new QUAD-AUKUS block, all of these problems are related to regional security which has a direct impact on the Indonesian economy (Rafaldhanis, 2023).

Through Indonesia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023, Indonesia will continue to make the Indo-Pacific region one of its priority issues. ASEAN centrality must be strengthened to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Indonesia will continue encouraging concrete and inclusive cooperation in implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Even the implementation of AOIP, according to the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Retno Marsudi, must be mainstreamed in all ASEAN activities, even Indo-Pacific issues. This is also the background to the theme adopted by Indonesia in its 2023 ASEAN chairmanship, namely ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth. Indonesia wants to reiterate that ASEAN remains important and relevant for the people of Southeast Asian countries and beyond. Cross-border cooperation will be strengthened with the hope that ASEAN will become the growth centre. So, an Indo-Pacific region that is peaceful, stable, respects international law, and prioritizes inclusive cooperation is the key for ASEAN to become the Epicentrum of Growth for the region and the world. Once again, Indonesia wants to emphasize that the Indo-Pacific must be approached not only from a security aspect but also from an inclusive economic and development aspect (Republika.co.id, 2023).

Based on the description provided, researchers are interested in researching Indonesia's foreign political activities in the Indo-Pacific Region, especially regarding the ASEAN chairmanship in 2023. So the focus of the problem that will be examined in this research is: "How will Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region be in the ASEAN chairmanship in 2023?" this research question is also a problem that will reveal Indonesia's efforts in implementing AOIP through various means—foreign political activities carried out by Indonesia during the 2023 ASEAN chairmanship.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This research generally draws on literature studies regarding the main concepts and ideas surrounding Indonesian Foreign Policy, ASEAN Regionalism, and the Indo-Pacific Region.

### A. Foreign Policy

According to Chris Brown in his book *Understanding International Relations*, foreign policy articulates and fights for national interests towards the outside world (Chris Brown, 2001). Foreign policy is a set of value formulas, attitudes, directions, and targets to defend, secure, and advance national interests in the international arena. Foreign policy is a complex study because it involves external and internal aspects of a country. In this case, the country as an actor carrying out foreign policy remains the main political unit in the international relations system.

In the study of foreign policy as a system, external and domestic environmental stimuli that influence a country's foreign policy are perceived by policymakers in a conversion process into output. The conversion process that occurs in the formulation of a country's foreign policy refers to the meaning of the situation, both in the external and internal environment, taking into account the goals to be achieved as well as the facilities and capabilities it has (Rosenau, 1980; Perwita & Yani, 2005). In the context of this research, the foreign policy referred to is Indonesian foreign policy, namely Indonesia's way of articulating and fighting for its national interests in the Indo-Pacific region within the framework of the ASEAN chairmanship in 2023.

### B. Regionalism

A region can be understood as an independent geographical unit, usually a country. Interdependence between countries produces regionalism, which is a shared policy with the agreement of members of units in a region or area. This differs from regionalization, which is usually used as an equivalent to explaining social and economic activities that are not focused and too formal in a region. Usually, regionalization precedes or shapes regionalism. Joseph Nye, in his article entitled "The Formation of Interstate Associations or Groupings based on Regions," argues that regionalization is a dynamic process of interaction between state and non-state actors that occurs in adjacent or non-adjacent regions but forms a single political identity or special economy (Syahdani, 2021).

Fawcett stated that region or region in regionalism does not mean being limited to a group of regions or territories. The region itself is a unit or union of zoning formed from an agreement and created based on interests and associations of countries or regions so that they can be identified due to similarities in identity or interests brought about in certain aspects. Region or area coverage is narrower than the international system's analysis level.

The development of regions and regionalism has become a concern, especially since 1945, when the development of the discipline of international relations has not yet reached its peak, even though the discussion of regionalism has become a special category being discussed by academics and International Relations researchers. Regionalism is defined as a policy or regulation in which state and non-state actors collaborate and coordinate strategies in a regional area. This was also brought about by the presence and development of significant international organizations and the shift in the order of superpowers who looked to the

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

region to exert their influence after the war. The Cold War became an important marker in the development of regionalism, which was divided into Old Regionalism, which was divided into first and second-wave regionalism, and New Regionalism, which was divided into third-wave regionalism (Syahdani, 2021).

Old regionalism studied regions rationally, especially in political aspects. At this time, relations between countries were not yet so complex, so there was little focus on regionalism studies. Rational calculations are a characteristic of the development of old regionalism, which does not consider identity factors or the values that are built. This happened because regional studies during this period went hand in hand with the development of positivistic methods in the study of international relations at large. Apart from that, the level of economic interdependence is not yet deep enough that institutions for resolving disputes between economic actors, such as the WTO, were not visible during the long period of regionalism. Then, what followed was a new era of regionalism that emerged as a reaction to the phenomenon of globalization with a rapid response to the incorporation of inclusive patterns characterized by deeper integration into world markets through free trade that runs through regional industrial supply chains [regional - value chains] (Syahdani, 2021).

The regionalism referred to in this research is ASEAN. ASEAN is conceptually understood as a geopolitical and economic organization with members of Southeast Asian countries. This organization wants to create a Southeast Asian region that is peaceful, safe, stable, and prosperous (Pamungkas, 2022).

### C. Indo-Pacific Region

A broader concept is a term called "Indo-Pacific.", geographically the Indo-Pacific region refers to the area that stretches from the eastern Indian Ocean to the western Pacific Ocean and is connected to the Strait of Malacca. The Indo-Pacific region has become the centre of maritime geopolitical, security, trade, and environmental activities (Passareli, 2014; Saputra & Sudirman, 2020). This region is also located at the crossroads of international trade. The presence of powerful countries such as the United States, China, India, Australia, Japan, and ASEAN countries is the strategic value of this region as a geopolitical centre (Saputra & Sudirman, 2020). However, apart from referring to a geographical description of the region, the Indo-Pacific concept can also be understood as a new regional geopolitical architecture, where economic relations and the need for greater political and security cooperation and coordination require an expansion of the regional concept. Several groups see the involvement of India and Indonesia as important in regionalization and regionalism, which led to the initial adoption of the Indo-Pacific idea (Khurana, 2017; Saputra & Sudirman, 2020).

Indonesia's initiative towards developing the Indo-Pacific concept is based on a series of security and economic concerns dominated by competition between Beijing and Washington within the Asia-Pacific framework (Natalegawa, 2013; Saputra & Sudirman, 2020). In this region, China is an important driver of the geopolitical construction that Indonesia is trying to play. These factors significantly restrict the Indo-Pacific regional integration that Indonesia is trying to promote, in contrast to the understanding of the Indo-Pacific concept in other large countries such as the United States (Ayres, 2019; Saputra & Sudirman, 2020).

## III. RESEARCH METHODS

A research method is a tool or method the author uses to obtain research data. The method used by the author in this research is described as follows.

### A. Type of Research

The type of research that the author uses is qualitative descriptive research. According to Sugiyono (2018: 15), qualitative descriptive research is research based on the philosophy of postpositivism, which is usually used to examine the condition of natural objects, where the researcher acts as a key instrument and conducts/describes a situation objectively or based on visible facts. Apart from that, according to experts, the descriptive qualitative research method, including the opinion of Sukmadinata (2017: 73), is a method used to describe and describe existing phenomena, both natural and human engineering, which pays more attention to the characteristics, quality, and interrelationships activity.

### B. Data Source

The data sources used by the author in this research are secondary data sources obtained through books, journals, reports, and publications, as well as other reading materials in the form of websites, magazines, and so on related to the research object the author is studying.

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

### C. Data Collection Technique

Data collection techniques are used to collect data related to this research. The data collection technique that the author uses is library research by searching various library sources originating from books, documents, journal publications, and materials from other readings.

### D. The Scope of Research

The scope of the research is an activity carried out by the author to limit the research so that it does not become too extensive. The scope set by the author in this research is related to 2023, Indonesia's fourth chairmanship period in ASEAN. Then, the geographic scope includes Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and the Indo-Pacific Region. The scope of the study is about Indonesian foreign policy, ASEAN Regionalism, and the Indo-Pacific.

### E. Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data is then analyzed using qualitative data analysis techniques, where the author will describe the problem based on the facts and data obtained, which will then be analyzed qualitatively. The qualitative data analysis technique follows Miles and Huberman's explanation, which includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

## IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. Chairmanship of ASEAN Indonesia in 2023

At the beginning of January 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in synergy with the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government, held a Kick-Off event for Indonesia's Chairmanship in ASEAN in 2023. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, inaugurated the ceremony for Indonesia's Chairmanship in ASEAN from January 1 to December 31, 2023. The ceremony Representatives of ASEAN member countries witnessed this, embassies of friendly countries, international organizations, missions, and other ASEAN entities (Yazid, 2023).

Through this opportunity, the President of the Republic of Indonesia emphasized that ASEAN continues to have an important and relevant role in maintaining peace and stability in the region, especially during a global situation full of challenges and uncertainty. Indonesia is currently serving as chairman of ASEAN for the fourth time. Previously, Indonesia had assumed a similar role in 1976, 2003, and 2011. The theme of Indonesia's Chairmanship in 2023 is "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth." There are two main focuses in the chairmanship, namely: (1) geopolitical aspects to ensure ASEAN's continued relevance in facing various regional and global challenges and (2) geoeconomic aspects to strengthen ASEAN's role in establishing Southeast Asia as a growth centre (Yazid, 2023).

The messages and ideas in this theme are reflected in the image of the Indonesian Chairmanship logo. The ASEAN 2023 symbol is depicted as a globe reflecting the elements of the sky (top), mountains and ocean (middle), and the Maleo bird (bottom). This visualization symbolizes a collaborative spirit that has an impact not only on a regional but also on a global scale. In particular, the Maleo bird, a species native to Sulawesi, Indonesia, has become a symbol of the central and connecting role that Indonesia wishes to hold within the ASEAN framework (Yazid, 2023).

### B. Indonesia's Foreign Policy Vision

During the beginning of President Joko Widodo's administration in 2014, Indonesia demonstrated its determination to act as a regional power. This is reflected in Indonesia's development planning documents. In the Background Study for the Preparation of RPJMN III 2015-2019, Foreign Policy Sub-Sector by Bappenas, it was emphasized that the main focus of the Nawa Cita concept adopted by the government is

1. Prioritize Indonesia's image as an archipelagic country in implementing diplomacy and international cooperation.
2. Increasing Indonesia's role as a regional power with middle-power diplomacy, which prioritizes national interests.
3. Expand regional engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.
4. Develop a foreign policy involving the community's aspirations and interests.

Furthermore, in the 2005-2025 RPJPN (National Long Term Development Plan) document, Indonesia must use its strategic resources to face and manage global challenges. The RPJPN emphasizes:

1. Strengthening regional institutions that can fight for the interests of developing countries in the region.
2. Support global multilateralism with a focus on reform and democratization.
3. Creating a more just world order in political, economic, and socio-cultural aspects.

In line with this, in the 2020-2024 RPJMN (National Medium Term Development Plan) document, increasing the role of diplomacy at the regional level is considered the key to improving Indonesia's position globally. Through intensifying dialogue

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

within ASEAN and with partner countries, Indonesia seeks to resolve global problems, maintain stability and peace, and form more just, inclusive, and peace-oriented international norms and laws (Yazid, 2023).

### C. Indonesia as a *Regional Great Power*

The target to make Indonesia a Regional Great Power is stated in Indonesia's Vision 2045. Indonesia's foreign policy development goals and strategies aim to realize the dream of becoming one of the countries with a big influence in the Asia Pacific region. The President of the Republic of Indonesia has stated on various occasions that Indonesia's contribution to global politics must be focused on norm-setting and norm-making efforts, including ensuring effective leadership in ASEAN (Yazid, 2023).

This vision directs Indonesia to achieve status as a Regional Great Power in 2031 and even become a major power in 2045, with the ability to do the following things:

1. Demonstrate leadership that significantly impacts regional issues and the international agenda.
2. Support multilateralism and be able to build a broad diplomatic network
3. Influence by utilizing regional governance structures to articulate shared interests in the region.
4. Determine and establish a significant regional security, peace, and maritime agenda.
5. Become an element that creates stability in Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific.

### D. The relevance of the ASEAN Chairmanship to Indonesia's Foreign Policy Vision

The national development document and Indonesia's Vision 2045 emphasize the importance of strengthening regional order as the main basis for strengthening Indonesia's diplomatic role at the global level. In this context, strengthening the role of diplomacy through ASEAN is considered a realistic option for Indonesia. Therefore, it is not surprising that ASEAN is often mentioned indirectly in development planning documents as a means that can be used to encourage active and effective Indonesian diplomacy (Yazid, 2023).

The President of the Republic of Indonesia explained the importance of increasing regional order through ASEAN when handing over the leadership of ASEAN from Cambodia. The President stated that ASEAN must become a stable and peaceful region, become the basis of global stability, not a tool of influence from any party, and must be able to increase its ability to be more flexible, responsive, and competitive in facing the challenges that will arise in the next 20 years. Therefore, a strong ASEAN will help Indonesia become a major regional power that can play an important role in setting norms and policies in the region (Yazid, 2023).

The vision of Indonesia's leadership in ASEAN aims to create various priority programs and certain achievements, one of which is the main effort to strengthen ASEAN's institutional structure so that it is more adaptive and responsive as well as strengthening ASEAN's central role so that it is stronger so that it has stronger resilience in facing various potential crises in the future. Through this effort, Indonesia will lead in directing ASEAN to evaluate the capacity and effectiveness of the institution, which may involve changes to the ASEAN Charter. Apart from that, Indonesia will also play a role in overcoming various challenges faced by ASEAN, both in the regional context, such as resolving the crisis in Myanmar, the issue of Timor Leste's membership in ASEAN, implementing AOIP (ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific), and implementing RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), as well as on a global scale such as handling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the intensification of great power competition and power projection in the region, the potential for conflict and tension in the South China Sea, as well as the possibility of an economic crisis, food crisis and energy crisis (Yazid, 2023).

### E. Indonesian Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region

Indonesia is one of the countries that has an important role in foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region. The Indo-Pacific region is a strategic and vast region that includes the Indian Ocean and most of the Pacific Ocean. This region has a major impact on global stability and security and is the centre of world economic growth. Therefore, Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region has various important and diverse aspects. These include the following:

1. **ASEAN and the Politics of Diversity:** Indonesia is one of the founding members of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and has played a significant role in this organization. ASEAN is the main foundation for Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region. Indonesia supports ASEAN's vision of peace, stability, and regional cooperation. Apart from that, Indonesia also encourages ASEAN to maintain the principle of diversity, considering the cultural, religious, and political diversity among ASEAN members.
2. **Maritime Leadership:** As the largest archipelagic country in the world, Indonesia has a big interest in maintaining the security and sustainability of its maritime waters. Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region includes promoting



## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

maritime cooperation, shipping safety, and sustainable management of marine resources. This also includes active participation in the ASEAN Maritime Initiative.

3. **The Importance of the Indo-Pacific:** Indonesia recognizes the importance of the Indo-Pacific Region in global foreign policy. This region is a vital international trade route and is a centre for economic growth. Indonesia seeks to strengthen the role of the Indo-Pacific Region in global trade and the economy and strives to maintain stability and security in this region.
4. **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP):** Indonesia plays an important role in formulating and promoting AOIP, which is ASEAN's framework for dealing with dynamics in the Indo-Pacific Region. AOIP emphasizes principles such as law-based order, sustainability, and active engagement. Indonesia seeks to balance the interests of large regional countries, such as China and the United States, with the interests of ASEAN countries.
5. **Security and Conflict Issues:** Indonesia also mediates in resolving conflicts in the Indo-Pacific Region. One important issue is resolving the conflict in the South China Sea, which involves disputed territorial claims by several countries. Indonesia encourages dialogue and negotiation to resolve this conflict and maintain regional stability.
6. **Bilateral Relations:** Apart from involvement in multilateral frameworks such as ASEAN, Indonesia also carries out proactive foreign policy through bilateral relations. This includes relations with key partners such as the United States, China, Australia, India, and other countries in the Indo-Pacific Region. Indonesia seeks to strengthen economic, security, and political cooperation with various countries to advance its national interests.
7. **The Importance of Sustainable Development:** Indonesia also emphasizes the importance of sustainable development in its foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region. This includes climate change, environmental conservation, and poverty reduction. Indonesia plays an active role in international cooperation to overcome these global challenges.
8. **Pandemic and Global Health:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia was also active in regional and global cooperation to overcome this health crisis. The country is working with countries in the Indo-Pacific Region to ensure access to vaccines and necessary health resources.

Thus, Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific Region covers various aspects, from security, economics, and environment to bilateral and multilateral relations. Indonesia is important in promoting stability and cooperation while safeguarding its sovereignty and national interests.

### F. Indonesia's Chairmanship in ASEAN in 2023: Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region

This section will specifically discuss Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region in the 2023 ASEAN chairmanship. As previously explained, in 2023, Indonesia will again hold the ASEAN chairmanship. One of the main focuses is related to the Indo-Pacific region. This can be seen from the three main pillars of Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship, namely: First, the ASEAN Matters pillar, which emphasizes how ASEAN remains relevant, able to face future challenges, able to continue to be a motor of regional stability and peace. Through this, ASEAN must map out a long-term vision and strengthen its capacity and institutions (Sutrisno, 2023).

The second pillar is the Epicentrum of Growth pillar, where through this pillar, concrete cooperation can be established, grounding various collaborations so that the people feel the benefits. In this way, it is hoped that Southeast Asia can continue to be the centre of economic growth, especially being able to face external shocks. The third pillar is related to implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP); this is very important considering the increasingly sharp rivalries in the Indo-Pacific region (Sutrisno, 2023).

As for Indonesia's role as Chair of ASEAN in 2023, it is in a position that wants to seriously implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, including:

1. The approach to the Indo-Pacific Region must be carried out not only from a security aspect but also from an inclusive economic cooperation perspective;
2. Indonesia will encourage follow-up action on the mainstreaming of AOIP's four priority areas, namely maritime, connectivity, SDGs, and economy;
3. Indonesia will identify a list of concrete projects to implement AOIP that will involve all ASEAN partners;
4. Strengthen ASEAN relations with the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Through AOIP, Indonesia wants to encourage ASEAN's role in maintaining regional stability while contributing to the progress and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. ASEAN strives to be able to embrace large countries to cooperate in the Indo-Pacific region through the main principles of AOIP, namely strengthening ASEAN centrality, openness, inclusiveness, transparency, non-intervention, and respect for international law. These principles are ASEAN's guidelines for responding to various challenges and

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

showing that ASEAN does not side with any large country to maintain peace in the Indo-Pacific region (Kemenkopolhukam, 2023).

AOIP was born at the 34th ASEAN Summit in 2019 against various geopolitical dynamics and challenges from various countries with regional interests. ASEAN, the largest regional organization in Southeast Asia, has a strategic role in facing these dynamics. AOIP is becoming increasingly relevant amidst various new challenges, such as the economic separation (de-coupling) between the U.S. and PRC on various fronts, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, and concerns about the development of military power and the proliferation of nuclear forces around the region (Kemenkopolhukam, 2023).

In future projections, AOIP also aims to maintain ASEAN investment in the region through peace that has been maintained for five decades and has become the basis for ASEAN's economic growth and prosperity. This spirit encourages Indonesia to advance cooperation in AOIP priority areas during 2023, namely maritime, economy, connectivity, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As Chair of ASEAN in 2023, Indonesia holds a series of flagship events with the theme "ASEAN-Indo Pacific Forum." This series of activities is expected to increase the role of other ASEAN member countries in becoming lead drivers of activities/projects/initiatives for implementing AOIP (Kemenkopohukam, 2023).

The ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) complements the 43rd ASEAN Summit, held from 5-6 September 2023 at the Mulia Hotel, Jakarta. This event is the first, with the theme "Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific." This event is included in the flagship activities at the 43rd ASEAN Summit. AIPF aims to connect the private and public sectors in the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Region for stronger cooperation. This forum will be a platform for ASEAN member countries and ASEAN external partners. They are expected to be involved in constructive discussions that produce real projects that increase collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region (Kominfo, 2023).

AIPF 2023 carries three sub-themes: green infrastructure and resilient supply chains, innovative sustainable payments, inclusive digital transformation and the creative economy. The forum features leaders' talks, fireside chats, panel discussions, project showcases, and business matching sessions. Forum participants are executives and leaders of the public and private sectors from ASEAN member countries and partner countries (Kominfo, 2023).

Erick Thohir, who is the Side Event Coordinator for Indonesia's Chairmanship in ASEAN 2023 who is also the Minister of State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN), stated that AIPF would be an important momentum to showcase, strengthen, and expand public-private sector collaboration in the ASEAN and Indo-Pacific regions, which will further make ASEAN the epicentre of growth. AIPF will be held in two plenary sessions. The first item on the agenda is a general overview of the region, followed by a brief look at the three sub-themes of AIPF. Then, on the second day, there will be Leaders' Talks, Panel Discussions, and Business Matching sessions with current and potential investors (Kominfo, 2023).

Various organizations and private sector leaders appear at AIPF as speakers. They include the World Bank, IMF, World Economic Forum, ASEAN-BAC and Chamber of Commerce, Maybank, Airbus, Aspen Medical, Forest Carbon Microsoft, Business Council Canada, European Investment Bank, Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs, B.P., Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, Loca Laos, Amazon, and Fairatmos. AIPF also showcases various flagship projects in Indonesia and throughout the Indo-Pacific, in line with AIPF sub-themes. Some Indonesian BUMN, including BRI, Pertamina, PLN, Bank Mandiri, BNI, MIND ID, Telkom Indonesia, and In Journey, actively participate in AIPF 2023 (Kominfo, 2023).

The holding of AIPF is a form of concrete implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which was adopted by ASEAN member countries in 2019. The AOIP initiative aims to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation and seize opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region. Pacific. ASEAN has sufficient capital to become the centre of world economic growth. ASEAN's collective Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2021 will reach US\$3.3 trillion. This large figure makes ASEAN the fifth-largest economic region in the world. With a population of more than 660 million, ASEAN has great potential to become a cooperation partner. The 43rd ASEAN Summit regional forum is an important opportunity for member countries of the association and Indo-Pacific countries to unite and chart a direction for future cooperation and inclusive growth (Kominfo, 2023).

Participants in the 43rd ASEAN Summit emphasized the importance of sustainable economic growth and regional stability. Indonesia primarily promotes the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), an initiative designed to maintain stability, peace, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. The three main principles of AOIP—centrality, inclusiveness, and complementarity of ASEAN—are very important in facing changing geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics (Purwowitz, 2023).

The ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) is a concrete example of implementing AOIP. This forum obtained commitments for 93 projects with a total value of 38.2 billion U.S. Dollars, covering various areas such as green infrastructure, sustainable financing, and digital transformation. International support for AOIP is also strong, with countries such as Japan, China, Korea, and the United States providing financial and technical assistance.

## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

In the future, AIPF is expected to maximize investment potential in the ASEAN market, which has a population of 680 million people, and make wider use of the Indo-Pacific market. The Indo-Pacific region covers 58% of the world's population, 45% of global trade, and 61% of global GDP. Therefore, regional and global cooperation through mechanisms such as AIPF is very important (Purwowidhu, 2023).

The overall cooperation agenda promoted by AIPF positively impacts regional and domestic economic growth. This forum also spurs regional supply chain development acceleration and a more just, inclusive, and sustainable energy transition. This is in line with the general objective of the 43rd ASEAN Summit to create a more peaceful and prosperous region.

Based on what has been previously stated, it can be understood that Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region at the ASEAN Chair in 2023 is guided by the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), ratified in 2019. AOIP emphasizes ASEAN centrality, openness, and respect for international law, Indonesia's strategy in the context of the Security Community, norm formation, and identity in ASEAN. Indonesia's idea for ASEAN to have an Indo-Pacific concept that is more inclusive, open, and respectful of international law was adopted as joint guidelines, namely the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook (AOIP) on June 23, 2019 (Fany Anggun Abadi., Surwandono, S., & Cipto, B, 2023). Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region is characterized by a "hedging plus" policy, which involves the involvement of all parties to maximize benefits while mitigating risks both at the national level and through ASEAN. As the largest archipelagic country in the world stretching across the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the largest member of ASEAN, Indonesia carries out middle power diplomacy by playing a leading role in pushing for broader, inclusive, and cooperative multilateralism centred on ASEAN, helping to shape its institutional and normative pillars, for the international order in the Indo-Pacific (Dewi Fortuna Anwar, 2022). Furthermore, Indonesia held the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) as a concrete form of implementing AOIP during Indonesia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023.

## V. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that researchers can draw from this study is that in 2023, Indonesia will receive a mandate to occupy the ASEAN Chair, and this is the fourth time this position has been held after 1976, 2003, and 2011. The theme is "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth". The relevance of ASEAN's chairmanship in 2023 to Indonesia's foreign policy vision is strengthening the role of diplomacy through ASEAN, where in the national development document and Indonesia's vision for 2045, it is emphasized that it is important to strengthen regional order as the main basis for strengthening the role of Indonesian diplomacy, both at regional and global levels. A strong ASEAN will help Indonesia become a great regional power that can play a norm-setting and norm-making role in the region.

Then, related to Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region in general, these include (1) ASEAN and the politics of diversity; (2) Maritime leadership; (3) the Importance of the Indo-Pacific; (4) ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP); (5) Security and conflict issues; (6) Bilateral Relations; (7) The importance of sustainable development; and (8) Pandemics and Global Health. In the ASEAN chairmanship in 2023, one of the main focuses in Indonesia's foreign policy activities is the Indo-Pacific region and the AOIP, where the implementation of AOIP is one of the main pillars of the ASEAN chairmanship in 2023. Through this AOIP, Indonesia wants to encourage ASEAN's role in maintaining regional stability, contributing to progress and peace, and the prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. ASEAN strives to embrace large countries to collaborate in the Indo-Pacific region through the main principles of AOIP, namely strengthening ASEAN centrality, openness, inclusiveness, transparency, non-intervention, and respect for international law.

Indonesia, in its 2023 ASEAN chairmanship, wants to encourage an approach to the Indo-Pacific region that is not only seen from the security aspect but also from the perspective of inclusive economic cooperation, mainstreaming the four AOIP priority areas, namely maritime, connectivity, SDGs and economics, Indonesia wants to identify a list of concrete projects to implement AOIP involving all partners. It wants to strengthen ASEAN relations with PIF and IORA. In this regard, as a concrete manifestation of Indonesia's commitment to implementing AOIP, which has been adopted by ASEAN countries since 2019, in the 2023 ASEAN chairmanship, Indonesia is holding an activity, namely the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) where this event is included in the activities featured in the 43rd ASEAN Summit. Through AIPF, various cooperation agendas have been formed that positively impact regional and domestic economic growth. It is also hoped that this forum will accelerate the development of regional supply chains and a more just, inclusive, and sustainable energy transition. The hope is that this will encourage the realization of a more peaceful and prosperous region.

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## Indonesia's Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region in the 2023 ASEAN Chair

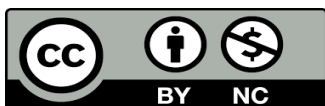
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