

**Remarks by H.E Joko Widodo
President of the Republic of Indonesia
at
the 60th Asian-African Commemoration
BANDUNG, 24 APRIL 2015**

Assalamu'alaikum warohmatullahi wabarokatuh,

Peace be upon us all

Welcome to Bandung, the city of the fiery spirit against colonialism and injustice.

Excellences,

Decades ago, in this very hall, gathered our forefathers, who had inspired the world.

In this hall, the spirit of the initiator, SOEKARNO, our Great Leader, still echoes;

In this hall, the fighting spirit of the Great Leader JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, stays aflame;

In this hall, the spirit of solidarity from the Great Leader MOHAMMAD ALI BOGRA, remains alive;

In this hall, the noble dream of the Great Leader SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA to bring prosperity to his people still lives among us;

In this hall, the revolutionary perseverance of the Great Leader U NU, still touches our hearts.

INDIA was a dream

PAKISTAN was a dream

SRI LANKA was a dream

MYANMAR was a dream

INDONESIA was also a dream.

The dream of a free, just, and prosperous life,

The dream which gave birth to the Spirit of Bandung.

In this city, they called for independence, prosperity and justice to the Asian-African nations.

Such was the great vision of our forefathers.

Their dreams were ahead of their times.

Excellences, Distinguished Guests,

Sixty years ago, only 3 African nations took part in the Asian-African Conference.

The representative of Sudan was even present, with a white cloth in his hands with "Sudan" written on it. There was no flag, as they had not gained their independence yet.

The world has changed. The Asian-African Conference this year is attended by 91 states, with the same spirit, against different challenges.

The spirit to bring prosperity to our peoples.

We realize that our dreams will be fulfilled through cooperation, in equal partnership with other countries.

Once again, cooperation on equal footing, with fellows from other countries.

As the President of more than 250 million people, I am well aware that Indonesia has yet to be free of poverty;

Indonesia has yet to reach the level of progress as the developed countries in other parts of the world.

This is also the issue faced by our friends in Asia and Africa.

Therefore, on this august occasion of the 60th Commemoration of the Asian-African Conference,

Let us reignite the Spirit of Bandung.

Let us continue the aspiration of our Leaders 60 years ago.

We need to enhance mutual understanding and attain world peace. All forms of violence must be stopped.

We shall continue our support for Palestine in their struggle for independence.

We must work hand in hand to enhance the welfare of our peoples, through economic and trade relations.

We should work together for equal standing with the developed countries in other parts of the world.

I fervently hope that we will keep the spirit of the Asian-African Conference among us and in our respective countries.

I highly appreciate your active participation in this Asian-African Conference.

Until we meet again in the next Asian-African Conference.

Wassalamu'alaikum warohmatullahi wabarokatuh

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,
JOKO WIDODO**

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