

CHAPTER IV

THE INTEREST OF INDONESIA IN UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

As explained in the previous chapter, there have been so much debate about what benefit Indonesia get in its membership in the UN Security Council, where the pessimistic group of people feels that the membership in UN Security Council does not have a significant impact towards Indonesia since its merely a non-permanent member which will change in the next tenure. There is even a tendency that the Indonesian campaign candidacy to enter the Security Council is only a waste of money. But there are also those who are optimistic that Indonesia has many opportunities to use when sitting on UN Security Council seat, such as Indonesia is willing to achieve its own national interests which has been formulated in every decision taken by UN Security Council. Based on this phenomenon the writer will try to analyze what Indonesia's interests in joining UN Security Council using a constructivist approach supported by existing data as well. Based on the hypothesis that writer has compiled, the discussion will be divided into two parts. The first is to discuss Indonesia's interests in maintaining its territorial integrity from any threats and the second one is Indonesia's interest to preserving the world peace order.

A. Maintaining Indonesia Territorial Integrity

The end of the Cold War created uncertainty in the Asia Pacific Region, whose region was closely related to the pattern of relations between many countries and the roles and intentions of many parties in the future. Regional security issues were still dominated by potential conflicts, such as territorial claims and military tensions which are residual from the Cold War era. This potential conflict in a certain degree created a crisis that threatened the security and stability of the region, including Indonesia. In general, prominent regional security issues are terrorism, the threat

of transnational security, and communal conflict. Meanwhile, on a limited scale, in some countries, interstate conflicts based on territorial claims are still occurring. One of the issues of regional security that still exists is the interstate conflict relating to territorial claims.

Besides the potential conflicts between countries, another prominent issue is domestic conflict which has vertical and horizontal dimensions. This still occur in several countries in the Southeast Asia region. Cross-country security threats, such as terrorism, armed piracy, illegal fishing, are regional security issues are mainstriming now. In addition, there are internal racial-based conflicts, separatism, and anarchist radicalism in several countries in the region and surrounding areas. Indonesia is in an area where conditions are relatively experiencing security issues as mentioned above. Indonesia can not possibly live peacefully in an area that experiences conflict because Indonesia domestic arena can be affected by the conflict as well. The example to those effects are refugee, illegal weapons circulation, to those effects areand illegal border crossings.

Maritime security is one of the prominent regional security issues that has received more more attention from President Joko Widodo's government (Hudaya & Putra, 2017). The prominence of these issues is related to Indonesia's identity as a maritime country. Also it is supported by the function of the maritime region which are increasingly strategic in the interests of many countries in the world today. Thus, this encourages the Indonesian Government's efforts to improve the security of its territory. The maritime region is still the main factor of global economic interaction between countries. Therefore, maritime security is a crucial issue for many countries in the world today. For example in the Southeast Asian region, the Malacca Strait region remains the focus of the international community because of the transportation traffics of world trade are through these waters. The

strategic position of the Malacca Strait has encouraged the desire of the main power countries to play a direct role in securing the Malacca Strait. For Indonesia, the direct security of the Malacca Strait is a sovereign right for Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. Indonesia as an archipelago country located between the Continent of Asia and Australia and the Indian and Pacific Oceans, has a strategic position as well as a big challenge in securing its territory.

Coupled with the fact that Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic country inhabited by more than 300 ethnic groups forms a very pluralistic condition. The heterogeneous conditions have implications for the categorization of various security issues. In the area of regional sovereignty, there are number of issues that need to be considered, including border issues and outermost small islands, separatism, terrorism, anarchist radicalism, communal conflict and natural disasters. The characteristics of Indonesia's geographical conditions contain multidimensional challenges that demand the right strategy from the government to secure the region. Therefore, safeguarding the territorial integrity of Indonesia is a strategic agenda for Indonesia's national interests. Thus, Indonesia joining United Nations membership is expected to provide direct exposure in handling various issues in Indonesia's territorial security. Also, this membership will enable Indonesia to be more direct in securing its various national interests according to its capacity as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

B. Preserving the World Peace Order

The Indonesian National Goals are listed in the Preamble of the UUD 1945 Constitution, which are to protect the entire Indonesian nation and all of Indonesia's bloodshed, promote public welfare, educate the nation's life, and participate in carrying out world order based on freedom, peace and social justice. In regards to the third

point, Indonesia's commitment to preserve the world peace order is based on value of independence, lasting peace and social justice as the creation of a safe and peaceful environment, both global and domestic. Indeed, disruption to world peace is not only triggered by conflicts between countries, but can also come from internal conflicts within the country. While the meaning of independence in the elaboration above means independence from the occupation of other nations and freedom to determine the destiny of the nation itself, social justice is realized for the benefit and life of the Indonesian nation.

Indonesia as a sovereign democratic country always encourages the creation of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the global community through its free and active foreign policy accompanied by the principle of a non-aligned country. Indonesia does not side with one of the blocs and always choose dialogue in dealing with international issues, participating in maintaining world peace, and actively participating in easing international tensions. In its commitment to maintain world peace, Indonesia upholds equal rights, respects the sovereignty of each country, and does not intervene in each other's internal affairs. This commitment is based on the Indonesian nation's perspective on peace, where it is impossible for a nation to live peacefully in a world where conditions are not stable if they are intervening each others affair. Indonesia's important role as a strategic partner of the international community is carried out through peace efforts in various sectors in order to build world trust. Efforts to promote peace and stability in various regions, both at regional and global levels, are carried out through diplomatic efforts which aim to achieve national interests. Diplomacy is guided by a free and active foreign policy to build the authority of foreign policy in international relations.

In carrying out state relations, Indonesia upholds the principle of democracy that prioritizes equality. This is

done in resolving such problem through a mutual agreement as part of diplomatic efforts. Indonesia puts forward the principle of peace but more agreed on independence. War is the last choice to be taken if diplomatic efforts considered failed. Indonesia is committed to peaceful coexistence and respect for the sovereignty of each country.

The concrete form of Indonesia's commitment in this regard is the Indonesian Role in the United Nations Peace Mission in sending of TNI troops to peacekeeping operations which are the mandate of the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, in order to participate in creating world peace based on independence, eternal peace and social justice. Indonesia's participation has provided a real picture of the implementation of free and active foreign policy (Ratner, 1995). Until now, Indonesia has participated in nine UN peace missions with a total of 2680 personnels, namely the UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) mission in Lebanon, the MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) mission in Congo, the MINUSCA (UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic) mission in Central African Republic, UNAMID (UN - African Union joint peacekeeping mission in Darfur) mission in Sudan Darfur, UNISFA (UN Interim Security Force for Abyei) mission in Abyei Sudan, UNMIL (UN Mission in Liberia) mission in Liberia, the MINURSO (UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara) mission in Marroko, the UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan) mission in South Sudan and the MINUSMA (UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) mission in Mali (Kemlu, 2019).

Deployment of TNI personnel from year to year has increased which is expected to reach 4,000 personnels by 2019. Until now TNI personnel who are members of the peace mission consist of several types of assignments, those are military forces, military observers and military

staff. Indonesia also sent several TNI armaments such as warships (*Kapal perang Republik Indonesia*) joined in the UNIFIL Lebanon mission's in Maritime Task Force (MTF) and shipments of MI-17 helicopters on duty at the MINUSMA Mali mission. The above description is a real picture of Indonesia's active role in maintaining world peace under the UN flag.