

THE INTEREST OF INDONESIA AS A NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 2019-2020

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Abstract

Indonesia officially serves as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on January 1, 2019. Indonesia's victory for the position obtained after winning over the Maldives in the voting process during the General Assembly in June 8, 2018. Indonesia received a total of 144 votes from 190 member countries. This victory led Indonesia to sit as a non-permanent member for the fourth time, after previously served in three different periods: 1973-1974, 1995-1996, and 2007-2008. This study examines the reasons behind Indonesia membership as a permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2019-2020. The reasons Indonesia wants to achieve in membership at the UN are analyzed using a constructivist approach. Where, according to Alexander Wendt, identities are the basis of interest. This idea underlies the interests which are then manifested in the action or policy of a country. The data comes from secondary data using the library research method. This research found out that the reason why Indonesia want to become a non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council are: through its identity as a sovereign maritime country, Indonesia is willing to achieve its national interest in maintaining territorial integrity from any threat, and through its identity as a democratic country, Indonesia is committed to fulfilling its interest in preserving world peace order following the mandate of UUD 1945 Constitution.

Keyword(s): Identity, National Interest, Foreign Policy, Constructivist

Introduction

The International world has now entered a period of instability. Uncertainty in politic, economic, and security have created achanges in global dynamic. The rivalry between big countries occurs in all sectors of state life. Indonesia assumes that while global challenges are increasingly complex, as they are today, the best answer towards this phenomenon is a global partnership which is a form of synergy from all parties to create a safer and more peaceful world. Countries should prioritize integration as means of unification of forces each country possesses in multilateral relation. In such relations, the sovereignty of each member country will be fully respected (Berty, 2018). Moreover, once a country was engaged in such multilateral relations, each member country is

committed to foster cooperation in maintaining peace. As the greatest global institution throughout the world, the United Nations (UN) is now consisting of 193 countries. It plays an important role in maintaining world peace, security and stability as stated in article 1 of the UN charter.

In his speech at the UN Headquarters, Jusuf Kalla, Indonesia's vice president, said that "peace is never given but it must be strived for". Peace is achieved by efforts through a process of dialogue, inclusiveness, peaceful dispute resolution, instead of through violence (Kompas, 2017). If this cannot be achieved, a war might occur. War and conflict are not only useless actions but also destructive, thus must be avoided. In line with that, As sharing the same idea, President Joko Widodo also said that rivalry between countries would only lead to a chaotic world. For countries which currently in conflict even to those that already lead to war, there is no point in celebrating victory amid the destruction, he insisted. (Kompas, 2017). Therefore, this is a vital function of the UN Security Council as one of the organs of the UN is the vanguard of world peace and security.

As a an active member of UN, many put Indonesia in the process of international discussion and lobbying with its strategic position. In diplomatic, Indonesia's role is also seen as a bridge builder in world security issues. Other form of Indonesia's contribution to international security includes the spread of more than three thousand blue berets in 9 different UN peace missions. Based on the UN data, dated on late November 2018, Indonesia takes the 7th place out of 124 contributing countries in the world (Kemlu, 2019). As it is known, this is such a remarkable achievement, especially since this position has exceeded the target before. Indonesia targeted itself to become top 10 troops contributing countries by deploying more than 4000 soldiers. Yet, the target to reach 4000 personnel remains to be accomplished. According to Retno L. Marsudi, as quoted from voanews.com, the involvement of female soldiers is also Indonesia's commitment in the future, especially in conflict areas where many victims are women and children (Voa News, 2019).

Effective as of January 1, 2019, Indonesia had officially joined 14 other countries to fill positions in this UN's strongest body to help alleviate war,

conflict and tension throughout the world. This is a concrete step for Indonesia in realizing its commitment to help maintain world peace. The voting process for nominating non-permanent members was held on Friday June 8, 2018 at the General Assembly. This occasion was attended by 190 countries including Indonesia. Indonesia, which was represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno L. Marsudi and other Indonesian diplomats representatives. During the voting process in the General Assembly, Indonesia competed with the Maldives to win the seat of non-permanent members representing Asia Pacific region. Indonesia won 144 votes out of a total of 190, while Maldives got 46 votes. Indonesia's victory was achieved because it received votes of more than 2/3 of the votes present at the General Assembly. Like a coin which has two sides, the election of Indonesia as one of non-permanent member on the UN Security Council is both a notable achievement and also such a big responsibility on the other side.

The UN itself, in carrying out its duties to handle various international issues, has 6 main bodies with their respective concern. The six bodies include: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, and Secretariat. The main responsibility possessed by the Security Council is to maintain security and peace between countries as stated in the UN Charter article 1. Accordingly, in carrying out their duties, the Security Council is given the authority to make decisions, the one which require all members of the UN to comply with, as stated in article 25 of the United Nations Charter. The description of the article is: "the members of the UN agree to accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council". The decision made by UN Security Council is known as the UN Security Council Resolution (Hurd, 2007).

In Article 23 of the UN Charter, the Security Council's membership consists of 15 countries categorized as permanent and non-permanent members. Permanent members, known as "P5", consist of five countries, namely China, France, Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The five countries were not chosen randomly, but were a representation of the great power of World War 2 (Hancox, 2017). These countries initiated the founding of the United

Nations. Permanent members have veto rights that distinguish privileges from other members. The formulation in granting veto rights to permanent members was decided through the Yalta Conference. Veto can cancel a decision. Meanwhile, the other 10 countries are non-permanent members elected through General Assembly voting. The configuration base for non-permanent membership in the Security Council is also regulated in charter 23. According to the charter, non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms based, as stated that:

“...in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organizations, and also to the equitable geographical distribution” (United Nations Charter, 2019).

Based on the geographical distribution, the world is divided into some groups, namely African States, Asian States, Latin States, Central and Eastern States, West European and Western States.

In its geographical representation, Indonesia is a candidate for representation of the Asia Pacific to replace Kazakhstan, whose membership ended in December 2018. Meanwhile, to seize this position, Indonesia must compete with the Maldives which is also a representation of same region. Maldives is an archipelago country lies in the Indian Ocean. Maldives joined UN since September 1965. Maldives has been wanting to seat on UN Security Council for about 51 years since its membership in the UN. In 2008, Maldives had announced its candidacy for this position. Despite being the first time in candidacy, Maldives was not a trivial rival. This country is certainly an active member of Small Islands of the State Development (SIDS) which is active in the field of development (Fitriyanti, 2016). Maldives came to candidature by bringing up issue of unique and fresh perspective to old challenges, Maldives believed they should be representative of SIDS which constitutes 20% UN membership. Furthermore, there are many other facts about the participation of Maldives on the world stage, especially on the UN scene, such as: Maldives was listed as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and an Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Quality and the

Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Whereas, the experience of the Maldives leadership on the international scene was becoming chairman of the Alliance for Small Island States (AOSIS).

As with Indonesia, this country has its own dynamic relation with UN. Becoming a member since 1957, this opportunity was the 4th time to Indonesia occupying this position; after previously serving in three different periods of 1973-1974, 1995-1996, and 2007-2008. In the period 1973-1974, Indonesia was side by side with Kenya, Peru, Australia and Austria. Then, in the year 1995-1996, it was side by side with Botswana, Honduras, Germany and Italy. Then in the third period, 2007-2008, Indonesia was side by side with South Africa, Panama, Belgium and Italy. A little of the history of Indonesia's significant leadership in international scene is, that it is one of the founding countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 (G77) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Indonesia is also a member of the G20 from emerging economies. In UN, Indonesia is also a country that encourages the need for UN Security Council reform to be more democratic, responsive and credible.

In fact, in the UN charter, there is no explanation for the existence of any condition and mechanism for candidature of a non-permanent member candidate of the UN Security Council. Basically, the state is free to represent and run for its geographical distribution. Before the election takes place, the country that is running for candidature must declare itself to other countries in order to gain votes. In this election, Indonesia declared its candidacy through the official speech of Indonesia's Vice President, Jusuf Kalla in New York in 2016.

In last September 2016, Indonesia officially nominated itself to represent Asia Pacific in the 2018 elections. The declaration of Indonesia candidature was disclosed directly by Vice President Jusuf Kalla in the 71st UN General Assembly at UN Headquarter, New York. The ceremonial was held with a reception from the Indonesian arts and culture performances which were attended by hundreds of foreign diplomats and the chairman of the House of Representatives Commission I, Abdul Haris. Where on that special occasion, Indonesia used the opportunity to start doing campaign to gain support from invited countries. Through his speech, Kalla mentioned Indonesia's commitment

and contribution to the UN and its readiness to be "true partner for the world". The same argument was stated by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi who also optimistically voiced her support to Indonesia candidature. She also believes that Indonesia is competent enough to compete for qualification to represent Asia Pacific. (Parameswaran, 2016)

Figure 1.1 Indonesia Campaign Logo



Source: (Kemlu, 2019)

The tagline carried in the official campaign of Indonesia candidature is "a true partner for the world peace, security and prosperity". This slogan illustrates the role and face of Indonesian diplomacy now and later to create world peace. As a middle power country, Indonesia emphasizes its image to always be in solidarity with developing countries and is ready to be a reliable partner for developed countries to maintain world peace. Indonesia also highlights itself as a bridge builder who has a strategic role as a mediator for many international conflicts. By becoming one of the non-permanent member candidates in this period, Indonesia shows its strong will and commitment to play a bigger role in international stage (Norlyanti, 2018).

Becoming a member of the Security Council is certainly a prestige which come with huge responsibility and full of expectations in a package. Moreover, every member of the Security Council, both permanent and non-permanent, has the advantage of being able to put its interests in decision making process. This then made countries compete to get the UN Security Council seat, one of which was Indonesia. By winning the seat, Indonesia should use this strategic opportunity to actively participate in both lobbying and drafting resolutions process.

Looking back from history of Indonesia's vote on the UN Security Council resolutions, on last tenure 2007-2008, Indonesia abstained on resolution of economic sanction against Iran (Bayuni, 2018). In that case, Indonesia cited the principle of non-interference to its decision. Both at home and international, many assumptions showed up regarding Indonesia's decision. Some say, this political maneuver has created the impression of Indonesia's inconsistency. This phenomenon also injured the image of Indonesia as a neutral country in the flow of many global interests and its commitment to support various peace efforts.

Therefore, in resolving many security issues, the role and decision of a country sitting on the Security Council is a matter for others (Charron, 2011). A country's position should be coherent and consistent over time. By being predictable and consistent will make others willing to interact with the country and are able to make allies. Otherwise, the country will end up being no-one in Security Council (Verbeke, 2018). While seated in the UN Security Council seat, Indonesia has an important role in making diplomatic efforts to accommodate Indonesia's interest. Therefore, the writer needs to analyze the reason behind Indonesia membership in UN Security Council for the period 2019-2020.

Method

Constructivism approach

Constructivist approaches in global phenomena can be seen through several events in International Relations studies. The emergence of Constructivist Theory is considered as a form of criticism of the existing or mainstream theories that are considered too rigid to interpret today's interactions. Constructivism is a perspective that focuses on human consciousness and its role in international relations. It also recognizes the significance of nonmaterial factors.

As theory that emerged after the end of the Cold War, this theory comes up as an alternative to the previous theory of international relations which was considered not able to explain that phenomenon appropriately. (Reus-Smit, 2010). The key thought of constructivism is that the social world including international relations is a human construction, it is not something that given

(Jackson & Sorensen, 2005). One of the key of constructivist concepts for understanding the phenomenon in international relations is the concept of identity which had never been discussed in any theory before. Thus, role of constructivism is considered to contribute and enrich the paradigm of international relations.

In his theory, Alexander Wendt assumed that the dimension of ideas was more important than the material dimension and that identity and interests were determined by that idea. He also examined that through identity, constructivism is considered have ability of bringing back social aspects, history, and norms in international relations. Thus, the logic of constructivist thinking is very different from realist. If the realist emphasizes the material dimension in the form of the distribution of power capabilities between countries, on the other hand constructivists emphasize non material dimensions in the form of shared understanding and intersubjectivity between countries (Guzzini, 2000). Constructivism shows how international norms develop, the influence of ideas and values that can shape a country's action through policies, and the influence of state identity on it (Reus-Smit, 2010). Wendt's basic assumption about identity is that identities are the basis of interest. Therefore, identity is the basic foundation of actor behaviour in international relations before the existence of national interests (Wendt, 1992). The national interest is the result of the identity itself. The state will uphold its national interests when the country knows about what it has in itself and what must be achieved by the state.

The figure 1.2 below shows the illustration of decision making process through constructivism approach by Alexander Wendt.

Figure 1.2 Policy Making Process in Constructivism



Source: (Wendt, 1992)

According to Alexander Wendt, identities are the basic of interest. Constructivist views that identities play a key role in the process of policy making. Identity first formed by ideational structure. Ideational structures are known as non-material or normative form of ideas, norms, values, beliefs, history, etc. This identity therefore shaped national interest of a country and it used by actor in taking action. Referring to Alexander Wendt's view, identity is something that can be developed and transformed continuously through interactions of the actors (Zehfuss, 2002). Also, identity is a continuation and reflection of the values believed of a country. Therefore, Burchill described national interest:

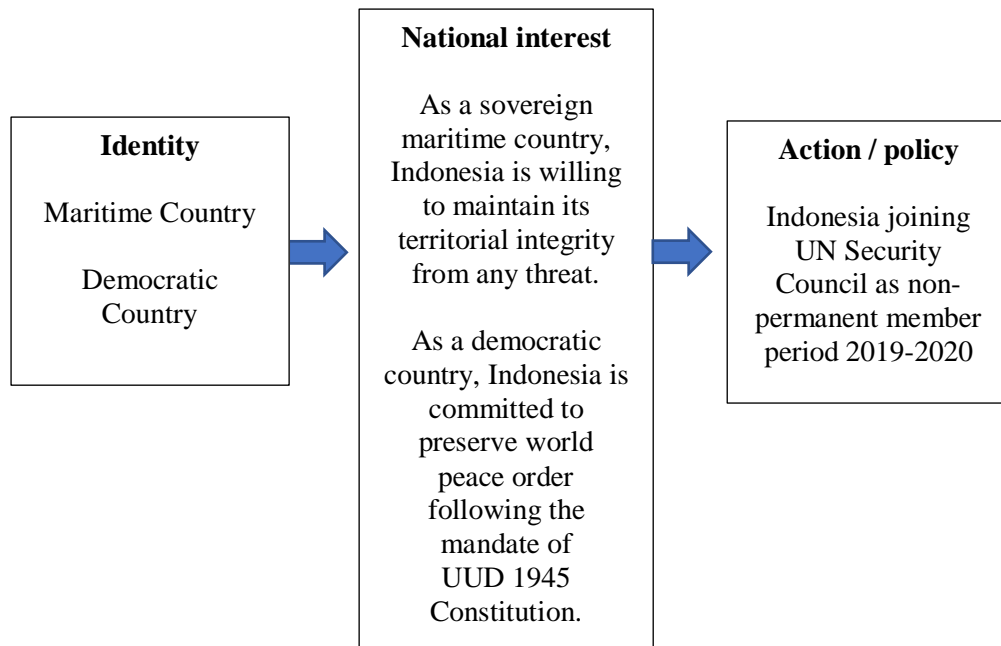
“The national interest is a product of shared ideas, national identity, inter-subjectivity and normative practices. Far from being a set of permanent, objective conditions, the national interests of states are formed within a cultural context and are the outcome of social interaction. This should be the focus of those inquiring into the subject. They are not determined in response to an external given, nor are they fixed. Rather they vary as social conditions and national identities change.” (Burchill, 2005)

From Scott Burchill, we understand that national interest is thus changing through social interaction and historical memory related to the national identity. Whereas, according to Alexander Wendt:

“I define national interest as the objective interest of state-society complexes, consisting of four needs: physical survival, autonomy, economic well being, and collective self-esteem.” (Wendt, 1999)

State's interpretation to those interest are vary depends on how they identify themselves. National interest are therefore subjective interests because states interpret their identity and need based on their different political, economic, and cultural context. Thus, state national interest become the foundation of state's foreign policy behaviour. Beside identity and interests, there are significant elements in constructivism as well, such as actors, structures, and actions. All these elements are interrelated with one another in the formation of existing social realities.

Figure 1.3
Implementation of Policy Making Process in Constructivism Approach



In the context of Indonesia joining the UN Security Council, the concept of Indonesia's identity as a maritime country and the concept of Indonesia's identity as a democratic country towards the United Nations can be applied to initiate an understanding of the reasons and interests Indonesia wants to achieve in its membership in the UN Security Council. In the concept of personal identity, identity is attributes and this characteristics is inherent in the actor whose existence appears without the need or a process of differentiation with others. In this case, the attributes that have been inherited from the beginning are components that formed the establishment of an entity or state such as territory, the concept of sovereignty, recognition, national interests, ethnicity, religion, culture, etc. These components then makes them unique and distinguishes from other entities. Indonesia as a maritime country is an identity that has been attached since the beginning of Indonesia independence. Even long before that, in his vow, Patih Gajahmada in the Majapahit era called the region along Sumatra to Papua, which is now considered as an Indonesian territory with the term “*Nusantara*”. *Nusantara* is taken from Sanskrit which means islands or achipelago. As a country whose islands are exceeding the number of 17000 and whose two-thirds of territory is ocean, Indonesia's identity as a maritime country

is inherent. With its bestow as a maritime country for its land is dominated by ocean, Indonesia tries to uphold and maintain its territorial integrity from any threat that may harm the sovereignty of Indonesia territory. Then, in the concept of collective identity, based on its understanding, identity is formed when there is a group of states or actors who share same understanding or values and are willing to form an identity by joining the group with the motivation of common good. Indonesia as a sovereign democracy country adopt Democracy of Pancasila which originated from the personality and philosophy of life of Indonesia which this is known as a manifestations of UUD 1945 Constitution:

“Whereas independence is the inalienable right of all nations, therefore, all colonialism must be abolished in this world as it is not in conformity with humanity and justice;”(first paragraph of UUD 1945 Preamble)

“...and in order to advance general prosperity, to develop the nation's intellectual life, and to contribute to the implementation of a world order based on freedom, lasting peace and social justice, Indonesia's National Independence shall be laid down in a Constitution of the State of Indonesia,” (fourth paragraph of UUD 1945 Preamble)

According to the construction of identity, it is understood that as a sovereign democratic country with Democracy of Pancasila principles, Indonesia seeks to actively participate in maintaining world peace and security as the manifestation of the mandate of UUD 1945 Constitution. To realize it, since its ininitial membership in the United Nations, Indonesia has begun to take the policy to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in period 2019-2020 with the reason for common good. Principally, Indonesia and the United Nations share same values in upholding peace, democracy and human rights. The resemblance of identity and interests underlies Indonesia to choose and implement a policy to become a member for the fourth time in UN Security Council. This is also reinforced by the statement of the Minister of Relno L. Marsudi, that the UN Security Council is the right platform for Indonesia to achieve its national interests and to project Indonesia's active free foreign policy.

Indonesia Interest in United Nations Security Council

1. 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 could 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 are and illegal border crossings.

Maritime security is one of the prominent regional security issues that has received 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.

2. 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.

By its free active foreign policy, 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 other's 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.

Conclusion

As an elected non-permanent member, Indonesia begins its tenure effective on January 1, 2019, and will end on December 31, 2020. By its capacity as a member of the UN Security Council, indeed, there are interests to be achieved by Indonesia. Based on analysis through a constructivist approach, identity plays a vital role in the policies taken by a country. According to constructivism approach, Alexander Wendt, in his theory, said that identity is the basis of interest, which is then implemented by a country through action or policy. In the context of Indonesia joining the UN Security Council, the concept of Indonesia's identity as a maritime country and the concept of Indonesia's identity as a democratic country towards the UN are playing a vital role in determining the national interests of Indonesia to achieve, and later these interests will shape which policy should be taken towards the country.

Indonesia identity as a maritime country is attributes or characteristics which is inherent in the entity whose existence appears without the need or a process of differentiation with others. In this case, maritime identity is the attributes that have been inherited from the beginning of the establishment of Indonesia. This identity makes Indonesia unique and different from other entities. This identity then becomes a determination of Indonesia national interest as a maritime country. Knows as a country with more than 17,000 islands, and whose two-thirds of its territory is the ocean, Indonesia is certainly a bestow of natural wealth. As a maritime country which dominated by the ocean, it made Indonesia try to uphold and maintain its territorial integrity from any threat that may harm the sovereignty of Indonesia territory.

Furthermore, as a democratic country, Indonesia has an interest in implementing the world peace order under the mandate of the Preamble of UUD 1945 Constitution, which became the basis and identity of Indonesia, stating that:

"...and in order to advance general prosperity, to develop the nation's intellectual life, and to contribute to the implementation of a world order based on freedom, lasting peace and social justice, Indonesia's National Independence shall be laid down in a Constitution of the State of Indonesia," (fourth paragraph of UUD 1945 Preamble)

Principally, Indonesia and the UN shared the same values and understandings in upholding peace, democracy, and human rights. So that the similarity of collective identity and interests between them is a factor that underlies Indonesia's policy to join the UN Security Council period 2019-2020 as non-permanent members. By becoming a member of the UN Security Council, Indonesia can contribute to provide ideas and also at the same time implement its national interests in every decision taken inside the UN Security Council. Therefore, the joining of Indonesia in the UN Security Council is the best projection of free and active foreign policy, which becomes a reference for Indonesia in establishing international relations without depreciating its national interests.

According to the construction of identity that Indonesia possessed, it is understood that: 1) through its identity as a sovereign maritime country, Indonesia is willing to achieve its national interest in maintaining territorial integrity from any threat, and 2) through its identity as a democratic country, Indonesia is committed to fulfilling its interest in preserve world peace order following the mandate of UUD 1945 Constitution. To realize it, Indonesia as an active member of the United Nations, took the policy to join as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in period 2019-2020. Principally, Indonesia and the United Nations share the same values in upholding peace, democracy, and human rights. From the explanation above, the conclusion is the resemblance of identity and interest then underlies Indonesia to choose and implement an action in the form of policy to become a non-permanent member of UN Security Council 2019-2020.

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