

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Since initiating the Asian-African Conference in 1955, Indonesia has committed to its high spirit of solidarity among the Global South. Since its inception, the Asian African Conference was established not only to produce a declaration that emphasizes political support for the independence and sovereignty of developing countries in the Asia-Africa region but also promotes the spirit of economic development which is expected to help developing countries to be independent in sustainable independence and prosperity.

On its journey of the cooperation between Indonesia and Africa, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Retno Marsudi said that although the links between Indonesia and African countries had begun since the Asian-African Conference was held 63 years ago, the economic ties had not been well established.

Based on the main focus of the Government of Indonesia during President Joko Widodo's era to prioritize economic diplomacy as one of the important focuses, the economic cooperation with other countries was strengthened. One of them is Indonesia using its position in South-South Cooperation to take a significant role in economic cooperation with Africa. The goal is so that both parties benefit together. The reason for choosing the African market to boost Indonesia's economic diplomacy is to look at and consider two main things:

Firstly, Indonesia sees potential in a new market or nontraditional market as the efforts to boost economic cooperation. Over the past few years, economic growth in Africa has increased by more than 5%. That is what also made the Economist change its statement in the next 10 years (2010) from the 'hopeless continent' to 'hopeful continent'.

Secondly, Indonesia has enough experience in investment and is ready to share its experiences with Africa, including good and bitter experiences. The bitter experience

includes how people come to invest in Indonesia, only taking (natural resources), without adding value. This has been experienced by Indonesia, not to happen in Africa.

Those become one of the reasons why South-South Cooperation is really important for Indonesia to play a greater role in other developing countries. The presence of the South-South Cooperation is not as a substitute for cooperation between developed and developing countries but as complementary. The benefits felt by developing countries are considered more effective, and also the techniques provided are considered to be more applicable.