



Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2022  
**Advancing Inclusive Democracy in Indonesia**  
Jakarta, 30 - 31 March 2022



**Group 6: Strengthening the Resilience of Norms and Democratic Values Against the Decline of Democracy**

**31 March 2022, 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM**

The session will highlight the role of civil society in promoting substantial democracy in Indonesia amid the perceived decline of democracy.

Since the 1999 reform, democratization in Indonesia has been considered successful in progressively building democratic institutions, at least procedurally. Unfortunately, the institutionalization of democratic institutions has not gone hand in hand with the implementation of democratic values in the political, government, and community life. Various studies indicate that Indonesia is experiencing a decline in democracy in various aspects. Some of the indications that appeared include money politics, identity politics, populism, and thuggery. These indicators have marked the electoral process at various levels. Another indicator is that the rise of human rights violations by both the apparatus and citizens emboldens the discrimination against marginalized groups, the control of elites with an interest in state institutions both in the national and regional level, and the practice of corruption that is increasingly systematic. The strengthening of the state in controlling citizen's freedom of expression or opposition groups can also be felt, for example with the frequent use of legal tools such as Law 11/2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) and Law 17/2013 on Community Organizations (Ormas)."

Despite the challenges, Indonesia has one key element to the development of democratic values and the prevention of further deterioration, namely a strong civil society. History has shown that civil society is the main architect in encouraging democratization in Indonesia. Civil society, despite its challenges, continues to be at the forefront of advancing democratic values, both through policy advocacy, education and citizen strengthening, assistance in cases, and the defense of marginalized citizens to be able to get their rights. It is no exaggeration that if civil society in Indonesia is expected to continue at the forefront of encouraging the substantive implementation of democratic values to prevent further deterioration of democracy. The question is, how can civil society encourage democratic values to respond to the decline of democracy in Indonesia today?

Guide Questions:

1. What have the democratic and anti-democratic movements in Indonesia been like?
2. What is an elegant way to continue to stifle anti-democratic movements?
3. How to educate the public as voters and prospective first-time voters to be critical voters, to reject money politics and identity politics, and demand inclusive development performance to politicians?
4. How does the influence of young people and women in maintaining democratic values in response to the decline of democracy?
5. What kind of development does civil society need to develop to encourage political education in accordance with democratic values?

**HOSTED BY** Perhimpunan Pengembangan Media Nusantara (PPMN) and THE ASIA FOUNDATION

**Coach: Fransisca Ria Susanti**, PPMN

**Issu Champions:**

- Dr. Syamsul Maarif, Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies (CRCS), Universitas Gadjah Mada
- Henny Supolo Sitepu, Light Teacher Foundation
- Merlian "Lian" Gogali, founder of the Mosintuwu School of Women and Institute
- Ronny Hisage, founder of Nokenwene.com and a papuan journalist