

Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2023  
**Civic Space, Capacity and Sustainability**  
Jakarta, June 14 - 15, 2023



## Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2023

### Day 1: Plenary Keynote Address and Panel Discussion

#### *Inclusive Democracy and Civic Space in a Post-Reformasi Era*

**June 14, 2023, 08:00 – 12:00**

During the past 25 years, since *Reformasi* in 1998, Indonesian civil society organizations have both contributed to and benefitted from key democratic achievements. However, during the past decade, a stagnation and decline in democracy has occurred, with declining scores in several key indexes. Indonesia might not have decline as rapidly as many other countries around the world, but neither is the country immune to authoritarian tendencies. The first day of ICSF 2023 will discuss what civil society and CSOs can contribute to putting a brake on further democratic backsliding in Indonesia and ensure an open civic space.

Participants at the ICSF 2021 and 2022 noted during the past few years a rise of “uncivil society” and challenges to freedoms of association and expression. Speakers highlighted increasing polarization and religious and ethnic intolerance that risk democratic backsliding. As in many other countries, democratic values are under threat from intolerant groups and online abuse. Identity politics has also intensified during the past ten years, leading to various forms discrimination, exclusion, and the abuse of power. Cyber-bullying, online abuse, and discrimination have become common on social media.

This first day of the ICSF 2023 will focus on “*Inclusive Democracy and Civic Space in a Post-Reformasi Era*” and highlight what civil society can and have done to ensure an inclusive democracy and protect the rights of all citizens. Civil society organizations have a crucial role to play representing and promoting peacebuilding, the diversity of society, promote peace, and ensure that the voices of the marginalized are represented in public policy.

This day will open with two keynote speeches by Prof. Yasonna H. Laoly, Minister of Law and Human Rights, Republic of Indonesia, and Ms. Bivitri Susanti, Indonesia Jentera School of Law.

After the keynotes, the results of two recent nation-wide surveys by the Center for Studies of Religion and Democracy at the University of Paramadina (PUSAD) and the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI) on social and religious intolerance in Indonesia will be presented.

The panel discussion and breakout sessions, featuring prominent civil society activists and government reformers, will expand on this, highlighting best practices and discuss various aspects of the challenges and opportunities for civil society in Indonesia, covering topics such as protecting civic space, peacebuilding initiatives, civil society preparation for 2024 elections, and protecting the marginalized.

#### Guiding Questions

1. Where is civil society in Indonesia today, 25 years after *reformasi* and how are civil society activist addressing recent global democratic deficits?
2. What are the strategies used by CSOs to protect civil space and democracy?
3. How can civil society plan for and contribute to free and fair 2024 elections?
4. What are recent legal developments in the enabling environment for civil society and freedoms of expression and assembly? How have recent pressures on freedoms and democracy affected CSOs?
5. What are the recent developments for participation of women and vulnerable group in public affairs?
6. What are some of the smart practices of women and youth in promoting an inclusive democracy?

**Keynote Speakers:**

- **Yasonna H. Laoly**, Minister of Law and Human Rights, Republic of Indonesia: *Government and Civil Society Collaboration to Strengthen Democracy*
- **Bivitri Susanti**, Indonesia Jentera School of Law: *Democracy and Civil Society in Indonesia in a Post-Reformasi Era: How is Civil Society Using the Democratic Space*

**Moderator for the Plenary Panel Discussion:**

Dani Munggoro, INSPIRIT

**Panelists:**

- Usman Hamid, Amnesty International
- Beatriz Sanz-Corella, Civic Engagement Expert, EU Civil Society Roadmap Facility
- Indah Putri Indriyani, Regent, District of Luwu Utara, South Sulawesi
- Ayu Kartika Dewi, Special Staff to the President and Managing Director of INDIKA Foundation
- Damar Juniarto, Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFEnet)

The session will proceed as an in-person talk-show addressing questions by the moderator and questions collected from the participants via the Slido app.