Excellencies Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations,
Seniors and Colleagues from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Indonesia and Abroad,
Distinguished Editors and Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Good morning and peace be upon us

To begin this Annual Statement, allow me, on behalf of all officials and staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to extend to you our best wishes for a happy new year 2015. May this year bring peace and prosperity to Indonesia and to all humankind.

We extend our appreciation and gratitude to all Indonesian Diplomats, wherever they are, for their hard work and dedication.

I would also like to extend my highest appreciation to Ambassador Marty Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs for 2009-2014, whose work has brought Indonesian diplomacy to the stage that it is in now.

Of course, we extend the same appreciation to other predecessor Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hassan Wirajuda, Dr. Alwi Shihab and all senior diplomats who have woven the threads of their daily work into the fabric of Indonesian diplomacy, making Indonesia a better global citizen with significant contributions to global development and world peace.

Distinguished Guests,

This year’s annual press statement is delivered in a time of grief, as we mourn the loss of Air Asia QZ 8501. Allow me to offer my deepest condolences to all the families of the victims. The Government of Indonesia has done and will continue to do everything in its power to deal with this tragedy. Allow me also to convey my gratitude and highest appreciation to all the governments of friendly countries for their support and assistance.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
In his vision and mission, the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, underscored the realization of the Trisakti, or the Three Power Principles: to make Indonesia sovereign in its politics, independent in its economy, and distinct in its cultural character.

Adhering to the independent and active foreign policy, Indonesia’s diplomacy will be done to achieve those goals.

Indonesia’s diplomacy will show its character as a maritime nation and will put take advantage of its strategic position between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.

Indonesia’s diplomacy will serve the needs of the people.

Indonesia’s diplomacy will be down-to-earth.

And Indonesia’s diplomacy will be conducted in a firm and dignified manner.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

2014 has just ended.

Throughout 2014, we enjoyed a stable and peaceful global situation. The international community largely managed to avoid escalation of tensions and to prevent the outbreak of conflicts.

However, we still have to face challenges. In many regions of the world, conflicts persist.

The world also continues to face traditional threats to security, such as arms races, nuclear proliferation, and various conflicts related to territorial disputes.

Terrorist threats such as the rise of ISIS and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) are highly dangerous and a cause for concern to the world.

Human trafficking and drug smuggling are also threats that require our serious attention. In Indonesia, drug-related crimes have adversely affected our nation, including our younger generations. At least 40-50 people die each day due to drug abuse. 4.5 million people are currently undergoing rehabilitation due to drug abuse, while another 1.2 million are still trapped in drug addiction. That is why the Indonesian government will firmly deal with drug-related crimes that have severely impacted on the nation.

We have also witnessed with concern the Ebola outbreak. We need intensive international cooperation to prevent the spread of the disease.

Meanwhile, in the economic field, the world has not fully recovered from the global economic and financial crisis. It is the interest of all countries to strive towards a complete world economic recovery.

Distinguished Guests,

In its bilateral relations with friendly countries, Indonesia has so far established 18 strategic or comprehensive partnerships.

Indonesia’s border diplomacy had several notable achievements. In 2014, Indonesia concluded agreements on three additional segments of its maritime borders with Singapore and the Philippines.

In the context of citizen protection, the Government of Indonesia has intensively pursued three approaches, namely: prevention, early detection and protection.
In terms of prevention, at the end of 2014, the Foreign Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Communication and Information and five cellular providers to inform Indonesian citizens traveling abroad the hotlines of the nearest Indonesian Missions.

The Foreign Ministry also integrated its database of Indonesian citizens abroad (e-Perlindungan), with the database of Indonesian migrants workers being operated by BNP2TKI (Sisko-TKLN). We hope these efforts will make possible better and quicker response to problems experienced by Indonesian citizens abroad, 60 percent of whom are Indonesian migrant workers.

At the regional and international levels, Indonesia remains committed to development, peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Indonesia has actively contributed to the establishment of ASEAN Community 2015. Indonesia will also work to maintain the unity and centrality of ASEAN when interacting with its dialogue-partners.

Indonesia is actively involved as a member of the South West Pacific Dialogue (SWPD), as well as an observer in the Pacific Island Forum (PIF), the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), and the Pacific Islands Development Forum Summit (PIDF).

Furthermore, Indonesia consistently supports the Palestinian struggle by, among others, hosting the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) II, March 2014.

Capacity building cooperation and assistance in the form of equipment were channelled through the South-South and triangular cooperation. Between 2000 and 2014, Indonesia provided 405 capacity building programs to 4,402 participants from 91 developing countries.

Indonesian diplomacy also contributes to the development of democracy by convening the Bali Democracy Forum.

Indonesia tirelessly promotes mutual cultural understanding and people-to-people contact in various international forums through, such as chairing and hosting of the 6th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN-AOC) Global Forum in Bali, August 2014.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2014 was a year of elections for Indonesia. Indonesia once again showed to the world that democracy thrives here. Through democratic elections, the people of Indonesia chose President Joko Widodo and Vice President Jusuf Kalla as national leaders for the period 2014-2019.

From the first day of the new administration, we have followed a set of national priorities. The clear national priorities have guided every Indonesian diplomat in carrying out their duties. In the first two months of the new government, Indonesia actively participated in 12 Summits. President Jokowi also met with 21 Heads of State and Government.

In the context of the 9th East Asia Summit in Nay Pyi Daw, Myanmar, on November 13, 2014, the President conveyed Indonesia’s vision as a Maritime fulcrum with five main pillars (i) cultivating a maritime culture; (ii) preserving and managing maritime resources; (iii) developing maritime infrastructure and connectivity; (iv) maritime cooperation through diplomacy and (v) building a strong maritime defence.

At the Foreign Ministers’ level, I have received visits from four Foreign Ministers, conducted overseas bilateral visits, and held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of Summits, as well as actively participated in the MIKTA informal meeting (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia).
Ladies and Gentlemen, 

We have now entered 2015. 

According to the vision and mission of President Jokowi, Indonesia’s foreign policy in the next five years will be based on these priorities:

**Maintaining Indonesia’s sovereignty**

Our diplomacy will protect the territorial sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia. Our international interactions will be based on the principle of mutual respect for each other’s territorial sovereignty. Indonesia will not tolerate any violation of these principles by other parties.

Border diplomacy will be intensified in 2015. With a view to settling maritime borders, Indonesia has created a roadmap for border negotiations. The Government of Indonesia will also increase its presence in border areas.

**Enhancing the protection of Indonesian citizens and legal entities**

Protection of Indonesian citizens (including migrant workers) and legal entities will be further improved. Indonesia will only agree to send migrant workers if: (i) the country of destination has national legislation that guarantees the protection of foreign migrant workers, and/or (ii) Indonesia has a bilateral agreement with the country of destination country, which guarantees the protection of Indonesian migrant workers.

Strengthening the protection for Indonesian migrant workers will also be conducted at the regional level by, among others, promoting the establishment of a non-discriminatory ASEAN legal instrument for the protection of migrant workers. This is in line with ASEAN’s Vision to establish a caring community.

Indonesia’s diplomacy and foreign policy must provide protection and a sense of security for Indonesian citizens and legal entities abroad.

**Intensifying Economic Diplomacy**

Regional and international cooperation in the fields of maritime infrastructure, energy, fishery and the protection of the marine environment will be intensified. At the bilateral level, maritime cooperation will also be developed within the strategic and comprehensive partnership frameworks with friendly countries.

The Government of Indonesia is determined and committed to enforce laws and regulations in its seas to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Such illegal activities have been committed in Indonesian waters for far too long. To that end, illegal fishing must be stopped. Indonesia is ready to cooperate with other countries in eradicating IUU fishing.

Indonesia’s economic diplomacy will also focus on efforts to accelerate infrastructure development and connectivity. The construction of deep-sea ports and the development of power plants are possible areas of cooperation with foreign partners.
In the field of trade, we will strive to increase our exports to non-traditional and untapped markets. Indonesia will not tolerate discriminatory treatment of our commodities, which are often treated unfairly on the basis of false allegations, as in the case of crude palm oil.

We will also continue to attract foreign investments to Indonesia. The Government’s commitment to simplify the permit system and create a ‘one-stop service’ for investments will surely increase the interest of foreign investors in Indonesia. The Government is finalizing a draft Bilateral Investment Treaty that will create a new regime for investment agreements between Indonesia and other countries.

Indonesia’s diplomacy will also aim at achieving independence in the food and energy sectors, especially new and renewable energy.

Indonesian diplomats are expected to become “marketers” for Indonesia. To understand the nature of markets, diplomats should experience firsthand their country of assignment.

To facilitate the follow-up of economic diplomacy, the Foreign Ministry will form a “Task Force on Economic Diplomacy” to be coordinated by the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. This unit will coordinate with related line ministries and institutions to ensure that business opportunities, development cooperation and economic agreements with other countries can be followed up effectively.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some have stated their concern whether Indonesia will turn its back from the international arena. I can firmly say that Indonesia will not lessen its engagement with the world.

As a middle power country, with a population of about 250 million, as the world’s third largest democracy, as the country with the largest Muslim population, as the largest ASEAN country and as a G-20 member, Indonesia will continue to play an appropriate role on the regional and global stage. ASEAN remains a priority in Indonesia’s foreign policy. Indonesia is keen to see a more democratic world order, a narrowing of the prosperity gap among nations, a mutually respectful international interaction, and a stable and secure world.

In accordance with our constitutional mandate, Indonesia will continue to contribute and play an important role in safeguarding world peace and security.

For Indonesia, regional security is indispensable. To that end, through ASEAN, Indonesia will continue to actively engage for the full and effective implementation of Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC), as well as the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (CoC). To maintain regional stability, Indonesia urges all countries to refrain from the use of force or the threat of force. Indonesia will uphold peaceful means and respect for the principles of international law, including the UNCLOS 1982, in settling disputes.

Indonesia will continue its active role in achieving the ASEAN Community and in preparing the post-2015 ASEAN Community vision. Several priorities that need to be immediately pursued with respect to ASEAN are the SEANWFZ Protocol, and strengthening the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). In order to realize the Maritime Fulcrum vision, Indonesia’s diplomacy will encourage maritime cooperation through various ASEAN mechanisms.

In 2015, Indonesia will host the 60th Commemorative Summit of the Asia-Africa Conference. This commemoration is an initiative to reinvigorate the spirit of South-South cooperation and its contributions to the world. The Asia-Africa Conference is a symbol of freedom from occupation and a symbol of the rise of Asian and African countries. The message of that
Conference is still very relevant to the world today. Indonesia looks forward for the support and cooperation from Asian and African countries for the success of the Summit and the 60th Commemorative Asia-Africa Conference in Jakarta and Bandung, April 2015.

In this regard, I wish to reiterate to everyone of an issue that needs the continued support of the global community, namely the Palestine issue. Indonesia will continue to support the Palestinian struggle to establish an independent and sovereign state, and we actively call for other countries to recognize Palestinian independence.

Indonesia deeply regrets the failure of the UN Security Council to adopt the draft resolution on Palestine, in New York on 30 December 2014.

In order to forge a closer relationship to Palestine, Indonesia will establish an Honorary Consulate in Ramallah in the near future to complement its embassy accredited to Palestine based in Amman, Jordan. Indonesia’s assistance to Palestine in the field of capacity building will be further improved.

By the end of 2015, Indonesia will assume its chairmanship of IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association). During its chairmanship, Indonesia will focus and encourage maritime cooperation, in line with its national agenda as a maritime nation.

The South Pacific is also a strategic region for Indonesia. Aside from ongoing cooperation, Indonesia will develop new areas of cooperation, such as democratization, fisheries, youth and sports, and culture. Indonesia has allocated US$ 20 million to support its capacity building program for the countries of the Pacific region for 2015-2019.

Indonesia is known as one of the significant contributors to the United Nations peace and security missions. To date, Indonesia is the 16th biggest contributor to these missions with a contribution of 1,843 personnel. By 2019, this will increase to 4,000 personnel, also referred to as the "Vision 4000 Peacekeepers."

Indonesia will continue to actively address the issue of irregular migration through the "Bali Process" cooperation mechanism. Indonesia reiterates that addressing this issue requires close cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination. Every country has its own policy; however, we have a higher obligation to fulfil as citizens of the world.

Indonesia stands ready to contribute to global efforts to combat terrorism.

With the completion of the MDGs in 2015, Indonesia will maintain its active role in the process of formulating the Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure a world free from extreme poverty, and to implement sustainable development.

With regards to climate change, Indonesia has actively participated in the 20th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Lima, Peru, and will continue to actively participate in COP-21 in Paris, France, to prepare new agreements on climate change that will be formulated in 2015 and enter into force in 2020.

Indonesia will continue to utilize the nation’s assets, namely democracy and pluralism, in conducting our diplomacy.

Indonesia’s re-election as member on the UN Human Rights Council 2015-2017 reaffirms the recognition by the international community of our commitment and contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Indonesia will also continue its bid for election as non-permanent member on the UN Security Council for the term 2019-2020.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To optimize the outcome of our foreign policy, communication with all stakeholders is imperative. Through foreign policy breakfasts and other forums, Indonesian diplomats will be delighted to accept your comments and inputs to make our diplomacy better and more beneficial to our people.

Allow me to thank the media for helping communicate our diplomacy and foreign policy. I truly hope that our cooperation can be enhanced in 2015.

We would also like to extend our high appreciation and gratitude for the cooperation of the House of Representatives, particularly the First Commission as a partner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are committed to further improve our partnership.

Let us all unite as a nation to consolidate Indonesia’s diplomacy for the greater benefit of our people and the world.

Thank you.

Wassalamu’alaikumwarrahmatullahiwabarakatuh.