

**Speech of the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia**  
7<sup>th</sup> Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII)  
**15 November 2017**

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, let me extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Turkmenistan for the excellent arrangements of this important meeting. It is a distinct honor for the Republic of Indonesia to participate in *7<sup>th</sup> Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan* or RECCA VII.

Indonesia and Afghanistan has a long story of good relationship as Afghanistan was one of several first countries which recognized Indonesia's Independence in 1945. Therefore, Indonesia has a very strong commitment to support Afghanistan in creating political stability and economic development. The government of Indonesia has continuously increasing its relation with the Government of Afghanistan in trade and investment sector, as our trade volume has increased for more than 100% in 2017 compare to last year's figure and Afghanistan is the 13<sup>th</sup> biggest investment realization value in Indonesia with 40 projects worth as USD12.3 million.

In line with RECCA initiative, Indonesia has been providing technical assistances to Afghan's official from Ministries and other government and non-government bodies, in major economic issues especially in Energy and Power Development, Women Empowerment and support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). We are confident to widen cooperation not only in technical assistance but also in investment in various fields, particularly on connectivity and trade facilitation projects.

Indonesia believes that the issue of infrastructure development and connectivity in sectors such as Energy, Transportation, Trade and Transit Facilitation, and Communication are crucial to link Afghanistan with the region to discover great potential among the neighboring countries. Therefore, Indonesia is very keen to advance its cooperation with all stakeholders in Afghanistan and other countries in the region. Allow me to inform that we had organized the visit of Indonesian construction state-owned company delegation to Afghanistan in September 2017 to further engaged in many infrastructure projects in Afghanistan and hopefully in the region as well.

Indonesia is also ready to engage and enhance cooperation with Afghanistan and other countries in region to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Women Empowerment in business sector. We are confident to develop women entrepreneurship in Afghanistan in line with the establishment of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry as an important platform for women entrepreneur to improve and to expand their capacity and capability of their businesses into regional and international market.

Allow me to conclude by once again thanking the Government of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan in hosting this important conference.

Thank you.