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DW interview with Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono (AHY) in Berlin

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Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, who is also widely known as AHY, was present in Berlin, Germany, to attend the Club de Madrid meeting. DW had the opportunity to speak with AHY on the sidelines of the forum.



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This time the Club de Madrid meeting took place in Berlin from 31 October to 1 November 2022. Club de Madrid is a group of former world leaders, former presidents, former prime ministers and former heads of government. From The Yudhoyono Institute (TYI), a partner of Club de Madrid, were present the 6th President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and Executive Director of TYI, Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, AHY. Deutsche Welle had the opportunity to meet with AHY in Berlin last November 1 and discuss the views of the Democratic Party (PD) on current global developments. The following is an excerpt of the interview:

DW: Currently, the world is facing various global crises, including the energy, food and inflation crises due to [the war in Ukraine](#). Even though the world has just emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. How do you and the Democratic Party in general view this? What do the countries of the world, ASEAN and Indonesia need to do?

AHY: Just this afternoon I finished participating in a forum that I think is very important and strategic, Club de Madrid, which is also working with The Yudhoyono Institute, where I currently serve as executive director. I am proud to be working with this elite club for two days in Berlin, together with world leaders, intellectuals and policy makers from various world institutions which are multilateral in nature.

tremendous inflation. Including the food crisis, financial crisis, and we don't know when it will all end. Indonesia itself, which is far from Europe, was significantly affected. Therefore, it is important for us to sit together to discuss the best solution.

First, stop the war, end the human tragedy that has occurred for months in Ukraine. There have been many victims, civil society is also suffering today. Fifteen millions of Ukrainian residents were displaced, internally displaced in that country, which caused various problems. It is not only a matter of saving lives, but also a long-lasting social problem.

But no less bad, what happened in Ukraine has disrupted energy supplies. This is what we don't expect to happen: Russia is using its power to influence the world's energy supply. We know that a lot of food commodities are imported from Ukraine. This has an effect on the price of the basic needs of society, including Indonesia. Therefore, we, the Democratic Party, are trying seriously to be able to raise this issue. One more time: stop human tragedy. The nations of the world must sit together, lower their ego, and focus on bringing stability and security. Not only in Europe but also in various regions of the world. These geopolitical tensions must be defuse. Looking for a solution.

There is very good momentum, the G20 Summit in Bali. I really hope that our government can play a strategic role so that the G20 is not just a club, a global architecture, but can also present appropriate and effective solutions. Thus, the world community can immediately experience recovery from the 2-year pandemic, so that we can grow immediately, we can find a solution to stagnation, and in the end the world will return to safety, peace and prosperity. This is our hope. It's tough, but we have to do it.



Present at the Club de Madrid meeting in Berlin The 6th President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and General Chair of the Democratic Party Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono as executive director of The Yudhoyono Institute (TYI)

Photo: Mira Permatasari/DW

Next year, Indonesia is an important member and 2023 will serve as chairman of ASEAN. What do you think about the role of Indonesia and ASEAN in the current conflict?

AHY: In addition to speaking at a global level, these countries are building a regional spirit. Regionalism is important. Southeast Asia we have ASEAN. ASEAN has three pillars. The first is how to build community cooperation in the fields of politics and security, also talking about the economy and welfare, socio-culture. What I want to convey, ASEAN must also be proactive. Indonesia, as the largest country in ASEAN, from a political and

various sizes, Indonesia deserves to lead ASEAN. Moreover, next year Indonesia will become the chairman of ASEAN. Hopefully it can carry out strategic steps. Clear, ASEAN here must be able to build a collective spirit to maintain the Southeast Asian region as a safe, peaceful, stable area, and pursue prosperity growth. There are 660 million people in ASEAN. That alone is a potential market. 10 countries with that much population. We see the potential presented by ASEAN countries, we know that ASEAN countries have natural resources that must be empowered for common prosperity and progress.

What happened in Ukraine should be a wake-up call for other countries in the world. What I want to say, we really regret it if there is a settlement of conflicts or dispute resolution between countries with a massive military invasion. Because we don't want our country's territory to be disturbed by any other country, come and occupy it. Moreover, carrying out annexation, which is contrary to international law. We cannot allow this.

We hope that ASEAN will be strong. We know there are geopolitical problems in our backyard, the South China Sea, we know areas that are often sources of conflict, hotspots or flash points in the Southeast Asian region. We hope that relations with China will be good, so that if there are territorial problems it can be resolved in a peaceful way. Don't be a little threatening or threatening each other with military force. We know that not only countries in the Asian region have interests in East and Southeast Asia, but other countries in the world. If you say the United States and China compete for hegemony in Asia Pacific or Southeast Asia, that will be bad for all of our futures. In this 21st century, we hope that relations between countries will get stronger in a globalization regime that brings benefits to all. Sadly, it turns out that there are more and more hyper-nationalism, ultra-nationalism spirits here, each wanting the best for their country. When excessive, it can be bad. We must build collaboration and cooperation between nations. The challenges ahead, facing pandemics, environmental issues, climate change, global warming, all require cooperation, cannot go it alone.



China's Move to Silencing Brunei in the South China Sea Conflict

Brunei, which is experiencing a recession, needs a steady flow of investment funds and finds China as a savior. However, the ties between the two countries are not without ripples. Beijing expects an appropriate response.

Photo:picture-alliance/AP Photo/N. Han Guan

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With this global situation and condition, there is a new geostrategic shift from the cold war era, in which new economic blocs and superpowers such as China and India were formed. What position should Indonesia take in this global political situation?

world war, let alone involving nuclear forces, then Indonesia as a world citizen must expressly convey this and try as hard as it can to prevent that from happening. If there is a third world war, let alone the use of nuclear weapons, it will be disastrous for human civilization. So, free and active must be interpreted as a whole and contextually.

In its development, new centers of power emerged. It could be new economic power, new political power, new military power. Regarding the power of China and India in the Indo Pacific, what we know can bring sparks of conflict that have an impact on the surrounding countries. Indonesia must be able to play an appropriate and intelligent strategic role. This is the importance of diplomacy. Diplomacy requires patience and tenacity, so that we can both avoid unnecessary conflicts. In the end, all need each other, complement each other. We are friendly with China, we have great economic relations with them. We also have good trade interests with India and western countries. America, Australia, New Zealand, Southwest Pacific, but we also have good relations with the Middle East and Europe.

The most appropriate is dynamic equilibrium, dynamic balance in our region. This is the importance of expertise in diplomacy. Soft power, leadership, as well as visionary, in order to maintain the balance. Indonesia does not have to be trapped closer to which block, no longer returning to a bipolar regime like the cold war era, when the world was split into two blocks: West and East. Don't be like that again. What happened in Ukraine seemed to bring us back to the cold war atmosphere. It's a shame. Globalization is getting stronger, why are we divided and partitioned again. Indonesia as an emerging power must have an attitude and leadership that can say: don't let us return to those times. Moreover, then the arms race with each other. This only drains the energy of the countries of the world. Not oriented towards economic growth and the welfare of the respective people, but only to build military strength and develop an all-round defense. What for? It is better to use existing resources for the welfare of people in the world.

You yourself were involved in a UN peacekeeping mission, in Lebanon. How important is the role of the United Nations today in pursuing world peace and mediating the conflicts mentioned earlier?

AHY: It's actually very important. Very central. The United Nations was founded to provide a just system. But we know that the UN itself has many shortcomings. For example, until today, there are five veto holders, five countries that won the Second World War: USA, Russia, China, England, France. One veto holder exercises his rights, then disbands. At the Forum Club de Madrid we agreed that there is a need to reform multilateral institutions, especially the United Nations. So that the United Nations can become an effective global architectural instrument, instead of adding to the problem, not being part of the problem. Otherwise, the UN will lose its credibility. This is what I need to say. PBB is architecture that was built in the 20th century, whereas the challenges of the 21st century are very different. We also have a desire for our voices to be heard and treated fairly.

I have participated as a member of the UN peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon. I was deployed there with Garuda troops 23. I was proud to carry the red and white flag and play a role, serving as a member of world peace between the South Lebanon region and Israel at that time. At that time there was a 34 day war between Israeli troops and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. Then Indonesia was the fastest troop to arrive in the conflict area. Destroyed. Many have fled, and our duty is to maintain security stability, so that there are no more attacks that result in casualties, especially those from civil society.

The role of the United Nations here is very important. When troops are needed that can be a neutral, impartial entity, it is important to have UN troops on the ground. Not only in the Middle East, in the African region UN troops are still on duty to this day. Indonesia itself was involved, from the first Garuda troops to today. Since the time of Bung Karno, the era of Pak SBY until now, Indonesia has been committed to maintaining world peace and order. Hopefully, our active role in sending peacekeeping troops will become one of the trade marks, that Indonesia does not only love internal peace in its country but also wants to be an important part of world peace.

Apart from the veto at the UN, what else do you think needs to be reformed at the UN?

AHY: More on the decision-making mechanism. The United Nations must be more accommodating to the problems of the nations of the world. The UN has also played an extraordinary role when 2015 gave birth to the SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals, which later became the MDGs, Millennium Development Goals. The hope

more prolonged conflicts anywhere in the world. Especially those who do not have the ability to maintain their own security and sovereignty. There is such a thing as R to P, Responsibility to Protect. I actually hope that the UN will get better and be able to make a number of fundamental changes. This has long been expected of the nations of the world, but it has not been implemented until today. Again, there are countries that are very powerful, who have power that cannot be hindered by other countries.



Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono in the midst of participants in the Club de Madrid meeting in Berlin

Photo: Mira Permatasari/DW

Indonesia-Germany relations, as well as ASEAN-EU relations, have reached their "golden age" when there were figures like BJ Habibie, who knew Germany well, and were also well known in Germany. At the moment it seems that Indonesia is more orientated towards the US, Japan, China or Arab countries. How important is the relationship between Indonesia and Germany and the European Union for you and the Democratic Party? Is it really not that important anymore?

In my opinion, we should actually strengthen bilateral relations with Germany, build various partnerships, be it at the G to G, government to government, B to B, business to business, even military to military levels. But no less important is the relationship people to people. Last night I met students and female students who are studying here. There are S1, S2 and even S3. I have hope that more and more young people will have the opportunity to study, work and work in Germany and in the European Union countries. Why? Because by sending the best sons and daughters to learn to gain knowledge, knowledge, will add insight and broaden the network. In the future it will not only be for individuals, but in the end it will be dedicated and oriented towards development in Indonesia.

Grandmother Habibie used to be a great person, because apart from having the ability, he also had the capacity to build a network, not only in Germany, but in the European region, to be brought back to Indonesia. In the future we hope to learn from each other. Not saying we are lacking. Not. We have many advantages, uniqueness. I'm sure Germany can also learn from Indonesia from various aspects. If Germany is a great country, the economy is strong, the military is strong, the people are prosperous, why don't we learn. Likewise, other countries that were ahead of Indonesia. In fact, if Indonesia builds on the strengths we have and adapts to the 21st century environment, there will be many opportunities. Indonesia can become a developed country in the 21st century. We often hear about Indonesia Gold 2045. If we all realize that Indonesia has great potential,

Indonesia runs free active politics. 1000 friends is too few, one enemy is too many. Pak SBY used to have a mantra: million friends zero enemies. All directions, build good communication with everyone, including with Germany. I still remember, when I was still active in the military, the Indonesian government was finally able to get Main

respectful, mutual respect, mutual trust.



Traces of BJ Habibie's relationship with Germany

Indonesia's third president, Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, died in Jakarta on Wednesday (11/09), at the age of 83, after being treated at the Gatot Soebroto Army Hospital. DW invites you to look back at its relationship with Germany.

Photo:DW/A. Purwaningsih

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DW: One more thing, how important is the issue of climate change and international cooperation to you and the Democratic Party?

AHY: Very important. If I could tell a story, Pak SBY, as the founding father of the Democratic Party and a mentor for all of us, is known as one of the champions on the issue of climate change. He was very firm in saying that Indonesia must be responsible for decarbonization.

I was surprised, I brought a lot of thick jackets here, November in Germany should be very cold, but not as cold as we imagine. This is not normal. Things like this should become the consciousness of the nation. Indonesia must not be left behind and regard climate change as a hoax. It's dangerous if you don't believe in science, it's dangerous. In fact, the most vulnerable to issues like this are archipelagic countries. Indonesia is a country with 17,000 islands. Our beaches can sink if there is a rise in sea levels. Not to mention other natural disasters caused by global warming or climate warming. How much economic loss do we have to suffer? Not to mention that we are talking about Indonesia in the ring of fire position. Natural disasters often occur. This is for our grandchildren. Don't be because of our carelessness, our ignorance, suffering for our next generation. This is not a country by country business. This is a world affair, so it becomes an issue raised in various international forums. No country can do it alone.

We often hear the debate that this is the fault of Western countries, developed countries. When they demand that a new country wants to grow, it must be orderly and disciplined, even though they also have needs. There must be a meeting point here. Developed countries must provide assistance, in the form of financial support, to developing countries, including transferring technology. Developing countries must also be called morally. There is only one Planet Earth, if not us, who else will take care of it?

The interview for DW was conducted by Miranti Hirschmann and edited as necessary by DW Indonesia. (mh/hp)