

The Effort of Indonesian Government to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through National Policy of Migration

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Abstract. *Indonesia is a member country of the United Nations. In 2015 the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, which contains seventeen agendas for realizing peace and welfare of the people through poverty reduction, increasing education, increasing economic growth, and improving environmental damage. Some Indonesians decide to migrate to get a better life, either migrate to work or study abroad. This paper will discuss how the Indonesian government's efforts to achieve the SDG agendas through the national migration policy.*

Keywords: *Migration Policy, Sustainable Development Goals, Policy Implementation*

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals are the agenda of the United Nations' member states adopted in 2015, which contains seventeen agendas with the big goal of realizing peace and prosperity of society globally, with targets for achievement in 2030. Efforts to achieve the SDGs are carried out by establishing cooperation between developed and developing countries by reducing poverty, increasing education levels, reducing inequality, spurring economic growth, and addressing environmental issues (United-Nations-Department-of-Economic-and-Social-Affairs, 2020).

The emergence of SDGs is a joint agenda of UN member countries dealing with inequality between rich and poor groups. Currently, only 1 percent of the world's population controls the wealth of natural resources. This inequality causes social inequality in various parts of the world with a percentage of 37% in Europe, 41% in China, 46% in Russia, 47% in US-Canada, 54% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 55% in Brazil and India, and 61% in the Middle East (Ismail, 2019).

Indonesia is one of the countries that is part of the SDGs agenda. Until 2020, Indonesia was only ranked 101 out of 193 countries with an achievement score of 65.30, meaning that Indonesia's SDGs achievement is only around 65% (Sustainable_Development_Report, 2020). Since the beginning of the SDGs program, the Indonesian government has committed to focusing on poverty alleviation. The number of poor people in Indonesia until March 2020 was recorded at around 26.42 million people or around 9.78% (BPS, 2020).

On the other hand, migration as a migrant worker is an alternative for people to get out of poverty. Based on data from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI), the average number of migrant workers who go abroad reaches more than 20,000 people. By working abroad, migrant workers can meet the basic needs of their families.

Based on the explanation above, this paper will try to discuss how the Indonesian government's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through national policies on migrant worker protection? This paper will be divided into three parts. The first

part will explain the Sustainable Development Goals as a global governance agenda. The second part will explain how the SDGs implementation in Indonesia in general. The third part will explain how labor migration is an alternative way out. The fourth section will explain the national policy for the protection of migrant workers in Indonesia.

Sustainable Development Goals as a Global Governance agenda

The concept of global governance consists of two words, namely, global and governance. Global is a term that refers to the entire hemisphere. Governance is a term that describes the shift from the perspective of realism to the perception of the new government. Where in the old perception, public policy was monopolized by the state. Meanwhile, in a new perception, public policy is born and implemented by involving many actors, including public, private, institutional, and individual (Kennett, 2008).

The emergence of global governance is the impact of technological advances, increased interdependence of society, and the increasingly complex problems faced, which affect the domestic conditions of a country and affect other countries' conditions. The problems faced become common problems, and one country can handle its problems (Clarke & Edwards, 2004). Thus, the global governance process is carried out through cooperation between national governments, multilateral institutions, and civil society organizations, from policy-making procedures to implement actions that eventually form a new government model (Yazid & Septiyana, 2019).

Global multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, or International Court Justice are key actors in global governance. Because multilateral institutions can facilitate and mediate the interests of the actors involved, be they regional state organizations, states, or civil society, to work together optimally in dealing with various joint problems. The policies decided upon in global governance directly impact the state, and its citizens, as well as individuals, can influence the international system (Clarke & Edwards, 2004).

Sustainable Development Goals are an international agenda whose formulation process involves many countries, especially UN member countries. SDGs are one of the United Nations agendas compiled by member countries with the United Nations since 1992 at the Rio de Janeiro Summit, Brazil until 2015. In 1992, the Summit agreed to adopt an agenda and action plan to build sustainable development partnerships in life. Humans and the environment. In 2000, UN member countries adopted the Millennium Development Goals agenda to reduce poverty levels (United-Nations-Department-of-Economic-and-Social-Affairs, 2020).

Then, in 2002, member countries adopted the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, which reaffirmed the efforts to reduce poverty and improve the environment by promoting multilateral partnerships. In 2012 at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, SDGs were compiled as a follow-up to the MDGs and made the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In 2013 an SDGs proposal was drafted, which was then negotiated in 2015 at the General Assembly, which finally agreed that the SDGs agenda was targeted to be achieved in 2030 with 17 core agendas (United-Nations-Department-of-Economic-and-Social-Affairs, 2020).

The seventeen core agendas, namely: 1) reducing poverty in various forms; 2) eliminating hunger; 3) Ensuring a healthy life and improving well-being; 4) Ensuring the quality of education that is inclusive and equitable; 5) Achieve gender equality; 6) Ensuring the availability of clean water and sanitation; 7) Ensuring affordable and clean energy; 8) increasing decent work opportunities and economic growth; 9) Build infrastructure, industry

and encourage innovation; 10) Reducing inequality within and between countries; 11) Making cities and communities sustainable; 12) Ensure sustainable production and consumption; 13) Take action to tackle climate change; 14) Preserving marine life; 15) Protect, restore and enhance the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; 16) promote peace, justice, and inclusive institutions; and 17) strengthening partnerships to achieve the SDGs agenda (United-Nations-Department-of-Economic-and-Social-Affairs, 2020; Wijayanto & Nurhajati, 2019).

The SDG agenda's birth is a response from UN member countries and the emergence of new problems such as the financial crisis, climate change, natural disasters caused by exploration, and natural resources exploitation to cause natural damage. The policymakers feel the need to change the direction of policies that advance the economy and improve the environment (Rahman, 2013).

The SDGs agenda is aimed at all, not only at individual countries. The development principle is no longer on the transfer of funds but preferably on economic growth that will eradicate poverty, eliminate exclusion, and create equality. The SDGs' agenda also includes various more comprehensive dimensions that include security, economic, social, human, and environmental dimensions. There is a strategic approach carried out by the United Nations, namely internationally, nationally, and regionally (Yute, 2019).

SDGs Implementation in Indonesia

The implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia began with the end of the MDGs program. This implementation is a commitment of Indonesia as a member of the United Nations. The implementation applies a universal and integrated strategy from the planning, programming, and budgeting stages. Universal, namely implementation carried out comprehensively, which provides benefits to all parties, while the integration of implementation is carried out in various aspects including social, economic, and environmental aspects. However, in the process, Indonesia faces three challenges when trying to implement the SDGs program, namely the communication, financing, and preparation strategies for each region (Noviansyah, 2020).

The steps to implement the SDGs are carried out in five stages. First, the Indonesian government mapped the SDGs goals and targets based on national development priorities. The Second is mapping the availability of data and indicators in the SDGs. Third, compile an operational definition for each SDG indicator. Fourth, formulating a Presidential Regulation regarding the implementation of sustainable development goals. Fifth, preparing National Action Plans and Regional Action Plans to implement SDGs (Kennedy, 2020).

Then the national policy for implementing the SDGs was outlined by the Indonesian government through Presidential Regulation No.59 of 2017. The regulation states that the national action plan for the SDGs is outlined in a five-year national and regional action plan compiled by the Minister of National Development Planning. Institutions assist the implementation- other government agencies and community organizations, philanthropists, business actors, academics, and other parties (Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 59 of 2017 concerning Implementation of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals, 2017).

In 2015, since the SDGs were signed, the President of Indonesia declared that the government would eradicate poverty (Fitri & Vonda, 2016). The concept of poverty as an indicator is the international poverty standard, namely groups of people with purchasing power below 1.25 USD per capita per day for consumption needs. However, the standards are different for urban areas due to the higher cost of living (Sutopo et al., 2014). The

number of poor people in Indonesia until March 2020 recorded around 26.42 million people or around 9.78% of the population with the poverty line. 454,652 Rupiah per capita per month (BPS, 2020).

The root of poverty in Indonesia is the disparity in development between regions and groups of people, which results in the unequal distribution of income between rich and poor. Apart from disparities, other factors cause a group of people to be dragged into poverty:

1. Inadequate educational facilities and infrastructure, resulting in unreachable access to education so that the community lacks skills and expertise.
2. Health facilities and poor consumption patterns so that the number of productive human resources who can work is low.
3. People's livelihoods are concentrated on agriculture and mining with lagging production methods (Tisniwati, 2012).
4. Limited employment opportunities make people unable to work for wages (Liputan6.com, 2019).

Conditions of poverty are vulnerable to making children lose their ability to survive and develop, leading them to conditions of exploitation, abuse, violent discrimination, and stigmatization by their environment (Kertayana, 2017). because of poverty, many children in Indonesia still suffer from malnutrition, and many girls are dragged into early marriages (Pulungan, 2020).

To reduce poverty, the Government of Indonesia conducts community empowerment by involving the community in infrastructure development projects such as the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM). Then, there is an increase in access to basic needs such as education and health, such as family planning programs and maternal welfare, increase economic growth by conducting the assistance of MSMEs and social security assistance through the Family Hope Program (PKH) (Tisniwati, 2012). Meanwhile, to prevent malnutrition, the government has implemented a program of implementing the Card of Mother and Children, which ensures that mothers and children receive health services from public health institutions. However, the community's utilization rate has only reached 50-60% who use MCH, and the number of babies who are breastfed is still at a low rate, which is around 37.3% (Pulungan, 2020).

Labor migration: a way out of poverty

Labor migration as a way out of poverty is a practical community thought, assuming that they will get a job with higher wages to meet basic needs when they migrate. Labor migration is driven by domestic economic conditions, which do not have many jobs, so that some Indonesians migrate as migrant workers (Septiyana, 2019).

The number of unemployed people in Indonesia is still relatively high, at 7.07% or 9.77 million (Fauzia, 2020). In addition to the relatively high number of unemployed, the Indonesian workforce is still dominated by workers with low skills with a high school education level and below (workequal.org, 2021). Thus, this condition inevitably makes some Indonesians choose to work abroad to get a job and a higher income.

Based on data from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI), the average number of migrant workers who went abroad reached more than 20,000 people, with the most placement areas in Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, other Asian and East

Asian countries. Middle. Indonesian migrant workers work predominantly as domestic workers, caregivers, general workers, and nurses (BP2MI, 2020). Of the many Indonesian migrant workers who work abroad each year, Indonesia receives a sizeable foreign exchange contribution from remittances. In the second quarter of 2020, the incoming remittances amounted to 2,262 million USD or equivalent to Rp. 33.4 trillion (Annur, 2020).

Remittances sent by migrant workers to Indonesia aim to meet the needs of their families in the village. Generally, remittances flow to families is carried out irregularly that depends on the family's request. These remittances become a source of income for the migrant workers' villages of origin, which is greater than the original regional income. The remittance money moves the local economy by increasing the purchasing power of the migrant workers' families, such as meeting basic needs, building houses, paying for children's education, and others (Buchori & Amalia, 2005).

National Policy for the Protection of Migrant Workers in Indonesia

Migration to become migrant workers has been carried out by Indonesian society since the 1970s until today. However, it is precisely the National Policy for the Protection of Migrant Workers in Indonesia for the first time in 2004 with the emergence of Law No.39 concerning the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers Abroad. However, according to several civil society organizations, the Law is less friendly to migrant workers, because there is a tendency to view migrant workers as a community (Hukumonline.com, 2010). The Law has received many demands for revision from various civil society organizations in Indonesia.

In 2012, Indonesia just ratified the 1990 UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers, which later became Law No. 6 of 2012 concerning the Ratification of the International Convention On The Protection Of The Rights Of All Migrant Workers and Members Of Their Families. The ratification was well evoked by various parties, including civil society organizations (Hidayah, 2013).

Furthermore, in 2017, Law No. 40 of 2004 was replaced by the passing of Law No. 18 of 2017. It states that migrant workers are guaranteed protection to obtain their proper rights and protection from actions that can cause migrant workers to become victims of crime and things that violate their human rights, from pre-post to post-work abroad. The new Law also provides Social Security protection for Migrant Workers, implemented by the Social Security Administering Body (BPJS). Besides, there are arrangements for the division of tasks and authorities between the Central Government, Regional Government, and the private sector. The private sector is only given the role of implementing the placement of Indonesian Migrant Workers. (bpk.go.id, 2017).

Even though the Indonesian migrant worker protection law has been passed, some migrant workers are still victims of trafficking to several countries. For example, between 2014 and 2018, around 1,154 Indonesian citizens were victims of trafficking, physical or sexual violence. It happens because the placement company or agency does not comply with legal provisions or does not meet the standards regulated by law (mkri.id, 2020).

Disobedience of distribution companies with the law makes the fate of migrant workers vulnerable to becoming victims of violence to trafficking because often the original identity and congenital disease of the prospective migrant worker are disguised. As a result, when they return to Indonesia, the government often cannot protect migrant workers either because of the unclear identity of the migrant workers.

Also, when returning home, there is still gender discrimination by female migrant workers by officers, so that protection for female migrant workers is minimal. Even though institutionally, the government created programs aimed at serving migrant workers, such as immigration guidance; BMI luggage services; providing transportation to the return data building; data collection services; providing transportation services back to their residence; handling of problems, health to complaints (Kinasih & Dugis, 2015).

Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global governance agenda compiled by multilateral institutions with a global scope, namely the United Nations. The agenda is compiled jointly by member countries with the United Nations to resolve common problems. Indonesia is one of the SDGs agenda parties because it is a UN member, so Indonesia should implement the 17 agendas contained in the SDGs.

From the seventeen agendas, Indonesia focuses on poverty alleviation because Indonesia's poverty rate is still high. Unemployment and job availability are the most significant factors of poverty in Indonesia. Because of these problems, some Indonesians choose the alternative of working abroad to become migrant workers. By working abroad, migrant workers can meet the basic needs and their families and get out of poverty. Based on this, migrating to work outside can help implement one of the SDGs agendas.

There are efforts made by migrant workers to achieve one of the SDGs agendas; protection of migrant workers needs to be done. The protection of migrant workers in Indonesia is stated in the national policies and programs for the protection of migrant workers as outlined in Law No. 18 of 2017, which states comprehensive protection for migrant workers and the division of tasks between the central and regional governments. Thus, the governance of migrant worker protection through policies and programs can be the government's effort to encourage success in implementing the SDGs agenda.

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