

Section 1

To Uphold Democracy and Become Maritime Global Powers

Our dream for the people of Indonesia and Japan is to create a life of plenty, freedom, and safety in a society that is peaceful, diverse, and tolerant. To realise this dream, not only is it crucial to sustain our democracy, but democracy is also necessary to build resilience for the future challenge of the trend towards increasing diversity in Indonesian and Japanese society.

Indonesia is blessed with a strong foundation on the national motto, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity), which is now also the motto of the European Union and South Africa. Japan is also one of the most sustained democracies in Asia with a population of more than 100 million. Based on the foundation our predecessors have built, Indonesia and Japan need to develop their joint partnership to tackle the challenges of maintaining democratic, diverse, and united societies together.

The challenges to democracy, diversity, and unity are immense. With technological advancement, democracies will face a new style of foreign interference from 'sharp powers' that try to exert political influence through cyber-attack from within and outside our society with the intention of undermining our democratic principles and eroding public trust in government.

Tackling economic disparity is another prime challenge that will benefit from cooperation. Economic disparity can easily ignite hostility and trigger false information leading to identity politics, which undermines unity and political tolerance of our social diversity. Our natural advantage of diversity is the foundation of a society where creativity and innovation thrive. Because of these challenges ahead, we would like to preserve our foundation of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* and democracy.

The roles of Indonesia and Japan in enhancing democratic principles do not end within our nations. It is also important to play a proactive role in making the regional political environment benign to preserve democracy with the aid of advanced technology. Japan

has harmonised its democracy and cultural and social traditions with modernisation. Indonesian leaders have shown leadership, wisdom, and a model – especially of moderate Islam – for a diverse and socially resilient society in times of political and social transition. This history would be the foundation for and a pre-requisite of our dream of a life of plenty, freedom, and safety in a diverse and tolerant society.

Both Indonesia and Japan, as two maritime democracies and archipelago nations, are well-positioned to further co-operate and contribute to sustaining regional security in an era of major shifts and challenges in the global order. Partnerships and joint projects are needed in the field of security, especially in enhancing maritime security and cyber security capacities, to make our maritime zone an arena of prosperity rather than conflict. We would like Asia to remain the engine of global growth in the decades ahead, and this will necessitate a stable and open region and the joint building of our capacity to achieve the goals.

Uncertainty is everywhere. Major powers in the coming decades, such as China, India, and the United States, will naturally seek to assert themselves unilaterally. Thus, we need to strengthen our ties as two regional powers that share common principles, and similar characters and geopolitical settings. In strengthening our principles of democracy, rules-based society, respect for human rights, and economic growth, we also need to shape the international and regional order to reflect our principles. We will pursue a course based on the established approach of independence, non-intervention, and multilateralism that seeks to build stability and openness rather than to dominate others.