

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In order to combat climate change, countries have adopted a treaty called the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding treaty on climate change that was adopted on 12 December 2015 by 196 parties. The agreement went into action on 4 November 2016. It aims to combat climate change by limiting global warming increase to below 2 degree Celsius, if possible 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels¹. In this case, pre-industrial is used as a baseline because the Industrial revolution in 1700 marked the start of the gradual increase of greenhouse gas emission². The implementation of the Paris Agreement requires economic and social transformation. In order to limit global warming increase, countries need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is when there is a change in the usual weather, this can be change in earth's temperature, change in earth's climate, change in snowdrops and rainfall locations, change in rainfall time, and a rising sea level³. Climate change is

¹ UNFCCC. "The Paris Agreement". Accessed February 26, 2021. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

² Andrew King, Ben Henley, Ed Hawkins. "What is a pre-industrial climate and why does it matter?". June 8, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/what-is-a-pre-industrial-climate-and-why-does-it-matter-78601>

³ NASA. "What is Climate Change?". May 15, 2014. <https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/what-is-climate-change-k4.html> (Accessed February 25, 2021)

a global issue that can affect every aspect of our life. It affects food sources, water supply, poor air quality, which leads to human health and it can cause diseases. Not only that, it will also affect the ecosystem for instance the rising sea levels, the ocean becoming more acidic which then pose danger to marine species and forest wildfires which then threaten the home of various species⁴. That is why climate change needs to be dealt with the cooperation of every country.

The Paris Agreement is legally binding, all parties must be committed to it. It is the first climate change global agreement that included policy obligations for all members. It is a laissez faire system that lets member countries operate and decide its own domestic policy that can fulfill international legal obligations of the agreement. The national policies are exposed to international transparency and global review⁵. The Paris Agreement has two review processes, every 5 year for climate action carried out by countries. By 2020, the countries are expected to submit NDC (Nationally determined contributions) which consist of their climate action plans. And for the long-term strategy, by 2020 countries are expected to submit long term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS), but unlike NDC these are not mandatory. All of those plans mentioned are to guide countries to reduce their emission of greenhouse gases.

⁴ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Climate Change Impact". Last Modified February 19, 2021. <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts#:~:text=on%20our%20tables.,Health,many%20of%20these%20health%20threats>

⁵ Radoslav S. Dimitrov. "The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Behind Closed Doors" (August 2016). https://doi.org/10.1162/GLEP_a_00361 (accessed 26 February 2021)

To track progress, the Paris Agreement renewed a system that was developed during the Copenhagen/Cancun Agreement. The system is called an enhanced transparency framework (ETF), this is to facilitate “implementation and compliance”. This includes steps such as 1) countries reporting transparently on their climate actions taken and their emissions, 2) considering the progresses that are taken for achieving the target, and 3) reviews and examinations by experts⁶.

With the Paris Agreement, countries are supporting each other to reach their goals because in this case they all have the same goal, so cooperation and commitments from every party is crucial⁷. Developed countries may help developing countries in terms of financing and technologies. Technology development is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emission. And the Paris Agreement encouraged developed countries to lead in terms of providing finances to less fortunate countries. Overall, countries with varied socio-economic backgrounds all work towards the same goal. And one of the countries that will be the main focus of this thesis is Indonesia.

Indonesia is one of the important actors in the agreement. Indonesia is the second largest greenhouse gases emitters from forests below Brazil, and overall Indonesia is 5th largest emitters in the world. Millions of Indonesian depend on

⁶ Schmidh Jake. “Paris Climate Agreement Explained: How will we track country progress?”. December 16, 2015. <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/jake-schmidt/paris-climate-agreement-explained-how-will-we-track-country-progress>

⁷ Mehta, P.S., Kaukab R. “Paris Agreement: A pact of solidarity for developing countries?”. May 2016. <https://ecdpm.org/great-insights/from-climate-commitments-to-action/paris-agreement-pact-solidarity-developing-countries/>

forests for their livelihood. Emission reduction from forests are crucial for the success of Paris Agreement goals. Reductions of emissions from forests represents a quarter of reductions plan submitted by countries for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)⁸. Indonesia is also one the countries that have the greatest biodiversity and the impact of climate change may threaten this biodiversity. Indonesian forests are home to thousands of animals and plant species. Indonesia contains some of the world's most endangered species. Another threat is to human health, it has also been affected directly through natural disasters or indirectly through diseases⁹.

Indonesia is currently headed by President Joko Widodo, who is now in his second term as president. He is focusing on domestic development, economic development, raising living standards and building infrastructures. Jokowi development plan now includes making progress in sustainable development as well as climate change progress. And for this, effective management of forests are needed¹⁰. It is important to mention Jokowi because The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 and went into force in 2016, and Indonesia signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. For Indonesia this was during President Jokowi's first term. Jokowi was elected as president in 2014. The Paris Agreement is now still in action, and currently Jokowi holds his second term as president since he won the

⁸ Luca T and Muhammad Z.M. "Reducing emissions from land use change in Indonesia: An overview". November 19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2019.101979>

⁹ Case, M et al. "Climate change in Indonesia: implications for humans and nature". (2007). https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/inodesian_climate_change_impacts_report_14nov07.pdf

¹⁰ Armida S.A and Jonah M.B. "Forestry, Forest Fires, and Climate Change in Indonesia". November 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00074918.2017.1365404>

election back in 2019. That is why this thesis will focus on Indonesia under Jokowi's administration in dealing with climate change and its commitments towards the Paris Agreement. Specifically, this thesis will focus on why Indonesia decided to commit to the Paris Agreement?

To commit to the Paris Agreement, Indonesia has ratified the Paris Agreement on 24 October 2016, through Law No.12 year 2016 on Ratification of the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Ratification is an act of the state in giving approval to bind itself to a treaty¹¹. Hence by ratifying the Paris Agreement, Indonesia needs to commit to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Indonesia needs to adjust its national policies towards the Paris Agreement.

Indonesia has made some progress in the Paris Agreement, although there are still some challenges for Indonesia as well as critics from activists that say Indonesia's plan is not ambitious enough. Nevertheless, Indonesia decided to keep its previous plan of reducing carbon emission by 29% if it is done independently on their own, and 41% if it is with international assistance by 2030, this is part of the NDC plan that was submitted by Indonesia in 2016¹². As it was previously mentioned.

¹¹ Undang Undang UU no.16 tahun 2016, 24 October 2016.

¹² Ibnu Aqil. "Indonesia's rehashed climate action commitments 'not ambitious enough'. April 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/16/indonesias-rehashed-climate-action-commitments-not-ambitious-enough.html> (Accessed on february 26)

This research is titled “Indonesia’s commitments towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement in combating climate change”. For this the research will focus on the reasons as to why Indonesia under Jokowi’s administration decided to commit to the implementation of Paris Agreement as well as the challenges. And while answering the questions, this research will use and relates relevant IR theories.

1.2. Research Questions

Based on the information provided in the background, this research will answer the following research questions:

1. Why does Indonesia government under Jokowi’s administration commit to the implementation of the Paris Agreement?
2. What are the challenges for Indonesia in implementing the Paris Agreement in resolving climate change?

1.3. Research Objectives

The objective of this research is to find out the reasons as to why Indonesia under the presidency of Jokowi decided to commits to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, what benefits them from this Agreement. For this, the research will explain why Indonesia needs to commit to the Agreement, how can it help Indonesia in dealing with climate change and also what are the challenges for Indonesia throughout the process. This research will also explain and analyse

Indonesia actions in dealing with climate change issues as well as identifying the benefits and problems of climate mitigation for Indonesia.

1.4 Research Significance

The purpose of this research is to give insight on Indonesia's overall commitment towards the Paris Agreement, the benefits in joining the Agreement and its many challenges in reaching the target and expectation of the agreement. It will also give overall ideas about the importance of climate change as a global issue that affects us all and how countries are cooperating with each other to reach the same goal. It will also show how Indonesia may use the Paris Agreement as an instrument to reach its national goals. As for the reason why this research specifically focus on the Paris Agreement instead of other international climate agreements is because The Paris Agreement is the first ever universal, legally binding global climate change agreement and it is an agreement that bonds countries together under one same goal, this agreement has made a great influence and impact. So hopefully this research can give a source of knowledge for future researchers who want to study about Indonesia's role on climate change, specifically relating to the Paris Agreement. Not only that this research can also be used as secondary sources or just source of information or reading for those interested in knowing more about the topic.