

# Democracy in Action: Analyzing Indonesia's 2024 Presidential Election and Prospects for Indonesia-Türkiye Relations



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Indonesia reform era in 1998 had transformed the country’s political spectrum from dictatorship to democratization which eradicates vulnerability and promotes an authoritarian reversal (Hendytio, 2023). Post 1998, in every five years, Indonesia held the biggest and most complex democracy party to elect president and vice president as the next executive body to implement law according to national principle. This year presidential contestation brought three pairs of President and Vice President candidates, Anies Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar who initiates transformation movement, Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming Raka, and Ganjar Pranowo and Mahfud MD who initiates “Grass-root” movement.

## Indonesia’s Presidential Debates: Tackling Urgent Issues

The first presidential debate was held on 12 December 2023, covering the topic of law, human rights, governance, corruption eradication and strengthening democracy. Three of the presidential candidates present their vision and mission regarding to the topic, Anies focuses on maintaining legal order credibility and equal protection for all Indonesian citizens. Prabowo claims that Indonesia is still in the safe and peace condition amidst wars that are happening, thus, he focuses on corruption eradication by setting standard for

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good governance. Lastly, Ganjar promotes enhancement in health care facility in every small district, free internet for students and eradicating corruption through clean and accommodative governance. There are six main debate motions in the first presidential debates that covered the urgent and emerging issues in Indonesia; Human Rights in Papua, Public Service Fairness, Discrimination among Social Groups, Corruption Eradication, Strengthening Political Party Governance, and Judicial Authority. Three of presidential candidates highlights that dialogue, digitalization and transparency in governance, interdisciplinary collaboration to eradicate corruption and committing to independent judiciary as the solutions to the emerging issues.



Source: CNN Indonesia

The second debate was held on 22 December 2023, dedicated to further scrutinize vice presidential candidates' vision and mission on the topic of Public Economy, Digital Economy, Finance, Tax Investment, Trade, State's and Regional's Budget and Expenditures management, Infrastructure and Urbanism. Muhaimin focuses on increasing state's budget for Youth Business Credit and increasing social assistance to boost society purchasing power. Gibran focuses on IKN (Indonesia's new capital city) sustainable development while continuing equitable development all over Indonesia. To

increase economic growth, Mahfud promotes effective corruption eradication and wealth management for more equitable public economy. Debate topics revolve around cybersecurity in digital economy, simplification of government's bureaucracy to boost small medium enterprises, raising more structured and planned urban cities by collaborating public-private sector, increasing soft power through economic diplomacy.

The third presidential debate was held on 7 January 2024, covering the topic on Defense, Security, International Relations, Globalization, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy. While it seems Prabowo as current Indonesia's Defense Minister will champion the debates, the arguments from the other two presidential candidates are remained fertile. To address the topics, Anies wants to strengthen Indonesia's diplomacy through soft power (film and culinary) as well as maintaining continuous support for Palestine. Prabowo highlights on maintaining free and active politics and project national strategy through strong military power. Ganjar argues that Indonesia needs to redefine free and active politics based on current status quo while establishing Powerful Defense 5.0 within 1-2% GDP Budget: hypersonic missiles, cyber weapons, quantum sensors and autonomous weapons system. Debates surround the discussion upon defense investment through transfer of technology and transfer of knowledge, strengthening diplomatic relations especially in South-to-South cooperation, and solving South China Sea conflict through ASEAN revitalization.



Source: The Australian



Source: The Jakarta Post

The fourth vice presidential candidates' debate on 21 January 2024 covered the topics of Sustainable Development, Natural Resources, Environment, Energy, Agrarian, Indigenous Communities and Villages. To begin the debate, each vice-presidential candidates deliver their vision and mission regarding to the debate topic. Muhaimin underpinning the importance of involving farmers, fishermen, livestock breeder, and indigenous communities as the main part of food procurement program as well as promoting environmental ethics as national policies to support climate, ecology, agrarian and social justice intragenerational. Gibran promotes national green

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energy transition with the utilization bioavtur, biodiesel, bioethanol through pentahelix collaboration (Media, Government, Community, Academician, and business), propose “leave no one behind” bill of law by increasing indigenous community development budget, and increasing IoT for smart farming. Mahfud put his concerns more into good governance through management in government bureaucracy and law enforcement officials, increase independent energy and food village program and irrigation development as well as agrarian reform through legalization, redistribution, and claim return to land rights.

The final presidential candidates’ debate on 4 February 2024 covered the topics of Social Welfare, Culture, Education, Information Technology, Health, Employment, Human Resources and Inclusivity. Anies has mission to create intelligent, healthy, prosperous, cultured and united Indonesia through affordable cost for education, proper living wage, effective health assistance and targeted social assistance. Prabowo on the other hand, promotes “Nation Transformation Strategy” through nutritious meal assistance for Indonesian children and pregnant woman. Ganjar underpinnings the importance of digitalization, good information technology infrastructure and fast internet access, in health sector, he promotes preventive actions through 1 village, 1 health care facility, 1 health worker. Major discussions upon these issues are how to promote preventive health care, candidate’s strategy for information technology sovereignty, how to strengthen culture commercialization, improve the welfare and competence of teachers and lectures, facilitate disabilities, and strategy to ensure Indonesian migrant workers.



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### Indonesia–Türkiye Relations: What to Expect in The Next Five Years

Seeing that each presidential candidates have their own strategies in International Relations and Foreign Policy, to increase cooperation Anies focuses on strengthening the role of head of state as the diplomacy commander, cyber security cooperation, and strengthening the role of diaspora and soft diplomacy through film and culinary as cultural delegation abroad. While Prabowo focuses on strengthening economy cooperation, facilitate science, technology, engineering, and artificial intelligence to strengthen Indonesia’s defense and Ganjar focuses on maximizing cyber institution through security system and anti-corruption policy, additional defense equipment to ease patrol in conflicting areas. It can be inferred that there will be a lot of new cooperations in economy and defense sector, noting that several cooperation under these sectors have been made previously. Ever since the establishment of Indonesia-Türkiye strategic partnership in 2012, both countries have been focused on G-to-G and B-to-B cooperation. Indonesia- Türkiye Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2019 focuses on trading sector that aims to increase mutual benefit of two-way investment, on the other hand, in the G20 Summit in Bali 2022, Indonesia ministry of defense signed 7 memorandum of understanding for defense industry, cooperation in technology research and innovation, environmental field, forestry sector, development sector, electric powered buses development and Trans-Sumatera Toll road (Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, 2022). As per 16 February 2024, Prabowo-Gibran lead the result of presidential election with 56.85% votes (CNBC Indonesia, 2024). Prabowo as the previous Indonesia minister of defense will be likely to focus on defense industry cooperation with Türkiye.



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