



# The 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship and Indonesia's Foreign Policy: Implications for Regional Diplomacy in Southeast Asia

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**Abstract.** Indonesia's Chairmanship of the 2023 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) holds significance for regional diplomacy. Over the years, Indonesia has been a key player in shaping ASEAN's direction. This manuscript aims to provide an analysis of Indonesia's foreign policy during its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023, elucidating its implications for regional diplomacy in Southeast Asia. This analysis draws on a wide range of sources, including academic studies, government reports, and news articles, to construct a thorough understanding of Indonesia's foreign policy initiatives and their impact. We employ a qualitative approach to delve into key aspects of Indonesia's diplomatic strategies, focusing on conflict mediation, institution building, and regional leadership. Scrutinising role theory in International Relations, this study finds that, Indonesia's foreign policy priorities have been dynamic, reflecting its commitment to regional cooperation and stability throughout the 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship. We examine Indonesia's handling of complex regional issues, such as the Myanmar crisis and the South China Sea dispute, and highlight its diplomatic efforts to navigate these challenges successfully. This research contributes to a deeper comprehension of Indonesia's foreign policy decisions and its regional leadership. It underscores Indonesia's role in shaping the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific concept and the broader implications of its leadership for ASEAN's centrality in global diplomacy. As Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship unfolds, this study offers valuable insights into the country's diplomatic strategies, their regional impact, and their potential to shape Southeast Asia's political and security landscape in the future.

**Keywords:** Indonesia, ASEAN, leadership, role, centrality, neutrality

## 1 Introduction

Indonesia has always played a pivotal role within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), especially in recent times. Under its leadership in 2023, the country has significantly fostered regional cohesion, emphasizing unity and collaboration among member nations. This endeavour towards a unified front is imperative, given the diverse cultural, economic, and political landscapes that characterize the ASEAN member states. As the largest state in Southeast Asia, Indonesia's prominence isn't merely geographical. According to Emmers (2014), the nation is seen as a natural leader within the ASEAN framework [1]. This recognition stems not just from its size

but also from its proactive stance in advocating for the betterment of the region. Its leadership position is further solidified by its consistent efforts to guide and support its neighbouring countries. In its commitment to regional stability, Indonesia has taken active measures to ensure a stable and autonomous security environment. Recognizing the importance of peace for prosperity, the country has actively engaged in conflict mediation efforts. Beyond just maintaining peace, Indonesia has also taken strides to promote institution-building within ASEAN. These endeavours highlight the country's vision for a robust, cohesive, and prosperous Southeast Asian region.

Nevertheless, the fact shows that ASEAN has faced a series of unprecedented challenges that have led many scholars to believe that the organization is currently experiencing one of its lowest points over the past two decades. A myriad of issues has threatened regional cohesion, from territorial disputes in the South China Sea to the political crisis in Myanmar. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic has put immense strain on member countries both individually and collectively. Recent international conflicts such as the AUKUS pact and the Russia-Ukraine war further complicate the regional dynamics, as ASEAN countries grapple with their implications.

According to Pattiradjawane (2016), member countries like Indonesia must constantly navigate a delicate balance, weighing their national interests against the collective interests of other ASEAN nations [2]. This sentiment is echoed by Haftel (2010), who emphasizes the importance of member states recognizing the long-term benefits of regional cooperation and integration [3]. Striking the right balance between individual national interests and the broader objectives of ASEAN as a regional organization is crucial to ensure the prosperity and stability of Southeast Asia.

Furthermore, external influences continue to pose challenges. Wicaksana (2023) notes the persistent rivalry of global powers within the ASEAN region, which jeopardizes regional stability and threatens the central role of ASEAN in shaping its destiny[4]. Such geopolitical pressures have led nations like Indonesia to adapt and recalibrate their strategies. Under the leadership of President Joko Widodo, often referred to as Jokowi, Indonesia has shifted its foreign policy, moving from a traditional focus on ASEAN to exploring other channels that more directly serve its national interests, as highlighted by Desker (2015). This shift underscores the complex interplay of national and regional priorities in an ever-evolving geopolitical landscape[5]. This paper aims to delve into the pivotal role of political leadership in shaping Indonesia's initiatives within ASEAN. Given the myriad challenges confronting ASEAN, from internal cohesion issues to external geopolitical pressures, the decisions made by political leaders become instrumental in determining the trajectory of the region. Particularly for Indonesia, a nation often recognized as a natural leader in Southeast Asia, its strategies and policies under distinct political leaderships, such as President Joko Widodo's tenure, provide valuable insights. Analysing these leadership initiatives is paramount, as they not only reflect Indonesia's national interests but also influence the broader dynamics of ASEAN, emphasizing the profound impact of political leadership on regional collaborations and strategies.

## 2 Literature Review

ASEAN's political leadership has played a crucial role in managing great power rivalry and

promoting regionalism in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific[6]. It has been effective in promoting stability and cooperation, although there are criticisms regarding its ability to address security challenges[7]. ASEAN's leadership has also been tested in the context of the South China Sea disputes, with some arguing that it has been ineffective in addressing the challenges posed by competing territorial claims and power dynamics in the region[8]. However, it has been instrumental in managing great power competition in Southeast Asia, providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation among major powers while maintaining the region's autonomy and stability [6] ASEAN's political leadership has also been crucial in promoting regional integration and democracy in Asia, although challenges remain in terms of deepening economic cooperation and addressing human rights issues [9]

The lack of other concepts in the study of International Relations can make the concept of political leadership more suitable for analysing how to build ASEAN cohesion and centrality. Firstly, other concepts may not adequately capture the agency and decision-making of leaders in shaping regional dynamics. Political leadership focuses on the actions and decisions of leaders, which are crucial in driving initiatives and promoting cooperation among member states. This concept allows for a more nuanced understanding of how leaders navigate complex regional dynamics and contribute to ASEAN cohesion and centrality [10], [11]. Secondly, other concepts may not fully consider the specific context and dynamics of ASEAN as a regional organization. Political leadership recognizes the importance of consensus- building, non-interference, and the ASEAN Way in shaping regional cooperation. It takes into account the unique principles and objectives of ASEAN, providing a more comprehensive framework for analyzing Indonesia's initiatives and their impact on ASEAN unity and centrality [12], [13]. Furthermore, other concepts may not adequately address the role of major powers and external influences in shaping regional dynamics. Political leadership acknowledges the challenges and opportunities posed by the rivalry between China and the United States in Southeast Asia. It allows for an examination of how Indonesia's political leadership navigates this rivalry and promotes ASEAN's interests, thereby enhancing ASEAN unity and centrality [14], [15].

It can be argued that political leadership is more suitable for investigating Indonesia's initiatives in ASEAN to increase ASEAN unity and centrality than other concepts in the study of International Relations. Firstly, political leadership encompasses the actions and decisions of leaders in shaping regional dynamics and promoting cooperation among member states. Indonesia's political leadership in ASEAN, as evidenced by its active engagement, diplomatic efforts, and commitment to regional cooperation, has played a crucial role in fostering ASEAN unity and centrality [16]. Political leadership provides a comprehensive framework to analyse the initiatives taken by Indonesia and their impact on ASEAN's cohesion and effectiveness. Secondly, political leadership takes into account the specific context and dynamics of ASEAN as a regional organization. It recognizes the importance of consensus-building, non-interference, and the ASEAN Way in shaping regional cooperation [17], [18]. By focusing on political leadership, we can better understand how Indonesia's initiatives align with ASEAN's principles and objectives and how they contribute to strengthening ASEAN unity and centrality. Thirdly, political leadership considers the role of major powers and external influences in shaping regional dynamics. It acknowledges the challenges and opportunities posed by the rivalry between China and the United States in Southeast Asia [19] By examining Indonesia's political leadership, we can assess how it navigates this rivalry and promotes ASEAN's interests, thereby enhancing ASEAN unity and centrality.

Indonesia's leadership in ASEAN demonstrates a delicate balance between national and regional interests. Several references shed light on how Indonesia manages this balance. Firstly, President Joko Widodo's administration has reoriented Indonesia's foreign policy towards ASEAN and other channels that best serve its national interest [20]. This indicates that Indonesia considers its national interest as a priority while engaging with ASEAN. Secondly, Indonesia's leadership style in ASEAN is characterized by a dynamic and visionary approach, aiming to maintain stability in the region while positioning ASEAN members as a new axis of world power [8]. This suggests that Indonesia seeks to advance its national interests by leveraging its leadership role within ASEAN.

Furthermore, Indonesia's involvement in strengthening regionalism and promoting the ASEAN Way demonstrates its commitment to both regional and national interests [21]. By actively participating in ASEAN's decision-making processes and shaping the movement of the regional organization, Indonesia strengthens ASEAN's position while safeguarding its own interests. Indonesia's diplomacy efforts also reflect a balance between national and regional interests. For instance, in addressing the ethnic Rohingya refugee conflict, Indonesia's strategy considers its national political interests while engaging in diplomatic efforts [22]. This approach demonstrates a recognition of the importance of regional stability and humanitarian concerns. Additionally, Indonesia's policies regarding investment limitations between ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries highlight its commitment to providing privileges for ASEAN members while safeguarding its own economic interests [23]. This demonstrates a careful balance between promoting regional integration and protecting national industries.

Indonesia's leadership in ASEAN plays a significant role in promoting ASEAN centrality and responding to the interests of the US and China in Southeast Asia. Several references provide insights into how Indonesia achieves this balance: Firstly, Indonesia's diplomatic efforts and commitment to maintaining ASEAN centrality contribute to strengthening the organization's position in the region [20]. Indonesia actively engages with ASEAN members and external powers, including the US and China, to ensure that ASEAN remains at the centre of regional decision-making. Secondly, Indonesia's leadership style, characterized by a dynamic and visionary approach, helps promote ASEAN's relevance and influence in the face of great power competition [8]. By actively shaping ASEAN's agenda and initiatives, Indonesia ensures that the organization remains responsive to the interests of its members while navigating the interests of external powers. Indonesia's role in conflict resolution, such as in the South China Sea disputes, demonstrates its commitment to maintaining regional stability and addressing the interests of both the US and China [24]. Indonesia's efforts to encourage interactions based on shared norms and rules among Southeast Asian countries contribute to managing tensions and promoting cooperation.

### 3 Research Methods

This study utilizes a qualitative research method designed to intensively explore and understand a specific subject matter by leveraging relevant information sources. Rather than using quantitative, numerical data, the emphasis of this approach is on textual or verbal data to gather profound insights

[25], [26]. The procedure for gathering data was multifaceted. An exhaustive review of existing literature laid the groundwork for understanding the topic, while focus group discussions contributed communal insights. The research further incorporated pre-existing data sets to deepen the analysis. To gain more intricate insights and elaborate explanations related to the subject, in-depth interviews were carried out [27]. This all-encompassing methodology ensures a robust comprehension of the subject under investigation.

## **4 Results and Discussion**

### **4.1 Indonesia from bilateralism to multilateralism: A shift in foreign policy**

The journey of a nation's foreign policy, often dictated by global and domestic developments, portrays its priorities, alliances, and intentions on the international stage. Indonesia, a pivotal nation in Southeast Asia, has witnessed a transformative shift in its foreign policy over recent years. From bilateral engagements to a more broad-based multilateral approach, Indonesia's foreign relations trajectory, especially under President Joko Widodo's administration, offers a compelling study in diplomacy and international relations.

At the outset of President Joko Widodo's (popularly known as Jokowi) tenure in 2014, Indonesia's foreign policy orientation was viewed with scepticism by several international observers [28]. Predictions of uncertainty and apprehensions about the direction it would take raised concerns over Indonesia's diminishing global stature. The nation appeared to prioritize bilateral engagements over multilateral ones, leading to a perception of reticence in its approach to broader regional issues.

However, this narrative began to evolve significantly during Jokowi's second term. The onset and rapid spread of the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe served as a watershed moment for many nations, compelling them to reassess their priorities and international collaborations. For Indonesia, it catalysed a reorientation towards the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Instead of a siloed approach, Indonesia saw merit in collective action, understanding the value of regional unity in the face of global challenges. Several pressing regional and international issues further solidified this shift. The Covid-19 pandemic underscored the need for a unified response and shared resources. The crisis in Myanmar called for a collective ASEAN stance, given the geopolitical and humanitarian implications. The South China Sea (SCS) conflict, with its vast economic and strategic significance, highlighted the necessity for a coordinated regional position.

Furthermore, global developments such as the emergence of the AUKUS pact and the Russia-Ukraine conflict reiterated the importance of having a unified voice in global forums. In each of these instances, Indonesia actively championed ASEAN cooperation, not merely as a member but as a leading voice, emphasizing collective interests over singular agendas. This renewed emphasis on multilateralism was not limited to ASEAN. Indonesia's role on the global stage was further amplified by hosting pivotal international summits. By organizing the G20 summit in 2022, followed by the MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey, and Australia) in 2023, and the ASEAN in 2023, Indonesia not only underscored its significance in global affairs but also showcased its

neutral stance. Such neutrality is crucial in an era where great power politics and competing interests of global superpowers can often overshadow regional priorities.

Indonesia's transition from bilateralism to multilateralism is a testament to its evolving international vision, one that recognizes the interdependencies of today's globalized world. Rather than isolating itself, Indonesia now actively seeks collaboration, understanding that shared challenges require shared solutions [29]. By positioning itself as both a leader within ASEAN and a neutral entity in larger global dynamics, Indonesia is paving the way for a balanced and pragmatic foreign policy that resonates with both its national interests and broader global aspirations.

In conclusion, the transformation in Indonesia's foreign policy underscores the fluid nature of international relations. While initial years under President Jokowi hinted at a more bilateral approach, global challenges and regional imperatives have ushered in a new era of multilateral engagements for Indonesia. As the country continues to assert its position in regional and global forums, its commitment to collaboration and neutrality ensures it remains a key player in shaping the future of international diplomacy.

**4.2 Internal/regional cohesion in Myanmar crisis: Indonesia at the helm**

Southeast Asia, with its rich history, diverse cultures, and dynamic political landscape, stands as a vivid testament to the complex interactions of states on the international stage. At the heart of this geopolitical tapestry is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This regional organization, comprising ten member states, aims to promote political and economic cooperation and regional stability.

However, as the recent crisis in Myanmar indicates, fostering unity and cohesive action among member states is no small feat. This section seeks to explore Indonesia's leadership within ASEAN and the responses of different member states towards the Myanmar crisis, highlighting the challenges and steps taken to maintain regional cohesion.

**Table 1.** Different opinion among AMS toward resolution of Myanmar crisis

No.	AMS	Regional	Bilateral
1	Brunei	Yes	No
2	The Philippines	Yes	No
3	Indonesia	Yes	No
4	Cambodia	No	Yes
5	Laos	No	Yes
6	Malaysia	Yes	No
7	Myanmar	-	-
8	Singapore	Yes	No
9	Thailand	No	Yes
10	Vietnam	No	Yes

The role of leadership within a regional bloc demands a delicate equilibrium between national interests and regional aspirations. Indonesia's leadership within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) stands testament to this intricate dance. Balancing its own national concerns with the broader priorities of ASEAN Member States (AMS) presents a complex tapestry of diplomatic engagements, particularly evident in the Myanmar crisis.

Historically, Indonesia's leadership has faced resistance and divergent perspectives from various member states. As highlighted by Emmers in 2014, differences in preferences for regional order have consistently posed significant challenges. This sentiment was further echoed by [30], noting the inherent obstacles presented by opposing viewpoints and differing aspirations of member nations. Such internal variances could easily destabilize regional cohesion, especially during times of crisis. Yet, the Myanmar conundrum in recent years has underscored Indonesia's commitment to ensuring ASEAN's unity.

In 2021, under Brunei's Chairmanship, the Myanmar crisis brought forth distinct responses from member states. Indonesia's Foreign Minister embarked on shuttle diplomacy, navigating through intricate political landscapes to build consensus. In contrast, Thailand's Foreign Minister opted for a unilateral initiative. Such varying strategies, though rooted in each nation's unique geopolitical calculus, risked fragmenting ASEAN's collective approach.

However, Indonesia's proactive stance became evident when it hosted an ASEAN Leader's Meeting in March 2021, dedicating a special agenda to address the Myanmar crisis. This convening culminated in the 5-Points Consensus (5PC). The 5PC encapsulated pivotal measures: appointing a special representative to engage with Myanmar's ruling military regime and other significant stakeholders, establishing a humanitarian corridor to deliver vital aid to the Myanmar populace, and collaborating extensively with international entities such as the United Nations. This was a defining moment, as Myanmar's representative was subsequently excluded from attending ASEAN summits, reflecting the bloc's collective stance against the military coup.

In 2022 under Cambodia's Chairmanship, headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen, presented another facet to ASEAN's approach. Hun Sen's unilateral direct interactions with the Myanmar military regime underscored the individual initiatives that member states might undertake based on their foreign policy imperatives.

With Indonesia holding the 2023 Chair, the emphasis on solidifying the 5PC became paramount. Despite Thailand's individualistic endeavours, Indonesia endeavoured to reinforce the consensus-driven approach laid down by the 5PC. This move highlighted Indonesia's commitment to ensuring that ASEAN, even amidst differing stances, remained united and cohesive.

In conclusion, the Myanmar crisis offers a profound reflection on the role of leadership and the nuances of regional diplomacy. While individual AMS possess their geopolitical strategies and concerns, the essence of ASEAN lies in its collective spirit. Indonesia, through its consistent emphasis on consensus and unity, showcases the potential of cohesive regional leadership. By applying the 5PC to the Myanmar issue, Indonesia not only addresses a humanitarian and political crisis but also strengthens the very fabric of ASEAN unity, underscoring the importance of collaborative regional engagement in an increasingly fragmented world.

### **4.3 ASEAN centrality: the pivotal role in regional dynamics**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been at the forefront of maintaining

stability and promoting cooperation in the Southeast Asian region. Founded in 1967, this intergovernmental organization has navigated through myriad geopolitical challenges, asserting its centrality as the primary driving force for cooperation, both within the region and with external partners. Article I.15 of the ASEAN Charter underlines the organization's main objective: to bolster ASEAN's centrality and its proactive role in fostering relations and collaborations with external stakeholders within an open, transparent, and inclusive regional architecture. At its core, this concept signifies that ASEAN must position itself as the dominant regional platform, uniquely poised to address common challenges and engage with world powers, ensuring the peace and stability of the Southeast Asian region.

The contemporary geopolitical landscape is rife with tensions, both within the region and globally. Amidst these pressures, understanding and preserving ASEAN's leadership and centrality becomes instrumental [31]. The position of ASEAN is not just about maintaining regional stability, but also about how member states, such as Indonesia, shape their foreign policies under the banner of ASEAN centrality, ensuring that collective interests are at the forefront.

In a testament to its commitment to centrality, the 2023 ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 4 to 7 September underscored the organization's role in the region. Dubbed "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," the summit highlighted ASEAN's unwavering commitment to play a pivotal role in steering economic recovery and sustainable development in the aftermath of global challenges. Further affirmation of ASEAN's importance came from the remarks made by leaders of both member states and external partners during the summit. The Chairman's Statement of the 43rd ASEAN Summit, for instance, emphatically reaffirmed the doctrine of ASEAN centrality. Notably, this commitment isn't solely from within; external powers, including countries like Australia and Japan, acknowledge and support ASEAN's central role, considering it a top priority in their regional engagements. Yet, the regional dynamics are more intricate than they appear. A glance at the different attitudes of ASEAN member states reveals a mosaic of approaches towards global issues [32]. For instance, in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, while countries like Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore leaned towards the US, nations such as Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar aligned more closely with China. Similarly, the South China Sea (SCS) issue saw varied stances, with Indonesia maintaining a neutral position and others like the Philippines and Singapore aligning with the US.

ASEAN's responses to other global tensions, such as the AUKUS trilateral security pact and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, further emphasize the nuanced positions of its member states. While the majority seemed to lean towards the US in the AUKUS issue, the stances towards the Russia-Ukraine situation were more varied, with countries like Vietnam and Thailand siding with Ukraine/US and Myanmar aligning with Russia.

**Table 2.** Different attitudes of ASEAN member states

No.	AMS	Covid-19	SCS	AUKUS	Russia-Ukraine
1	Brunei	US	US	US	Ukraine/US
2	The Philippines	China	US	US	Ukraine/US
3	Indonesia	China	Neutral	Neutral	US



4	Cambodia	China	China	China	Abstain
5	Laos	China	China	China	Abstain
6	Malaysia	US	US	US	US
7	Myanmar	China	China	China	Russia
8	Singapore	US	US	US	Ukraine/US
9	Thailand	China	US	US	Ukraine/US
10	Vietnam	China	US	US	Ukraine/US

Indonesia's leadership has helped to promote ASEAN centrality among its members to respond to the interests of the US and China in Southeast Asia in a number of ways.

1. Maintaining ASEAN unity and cohesion: Indonesia has played a key role in maintaining ASEAN's unity and cohesion, despite the different interests and perspectives of its member states. This has been essential for ASEAN to maintain its relevance and influence in the region.
2. Promoting dialogue and cooperation: Indonesia has promoted dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and the US and China. This has helped to build trust and reduce tensions between the major powers, and it has also given ASEAN a greater say in shaping the regional agenda.
3. Advocating for ASEAN's interests: Indonesia has advocated for ASEAN's interests in its dealings with the US and China. This has helped to ensure that ASEAN's voice is heard and that its concerns are taken into account.

Here are some specific examples of how Indonesia's leadership has helped to promote ASEAN centrality in responding to the interests of the US and China in Southeast Asia:

1. In the South China Sea dispute, Indonesia has proposed a number of initiatives to promote dialogue and cooperation among the claimant states [24]. Indonesia has also worked to keep the US and China engaged in the dispute resolution process.
2. In the East Asia Summit (EAS), Indonesia has played a key role in promoting consensus-based decision-making and in ensuring that ASEAN's views are taken into account. Indonesia has also used the EAS to promote ASEAN-US-China cooperation on a range of issues, such as trade, investment, and climate change [32].
3. In the ASEAN-US Leaders' Summit, Indonesia worked to ensure that the summit was a success and that it resulted in concrete outcomes that benefited both ASEAN and the US. Indonesia also used the summit to promote ASEAN's interests in a number of areas, such as maritime security and economic cooperation.
4. In the ASEAN-China Special Summit, Indonesia worked to ensure that the summit was a success and that it resulted in concrete outcomes that benefited both ASEAN and China. Indonesia also used the summit to promote ASEAN's interests in a number of areas, such as trade, investment, and infrastructure development.

Indonesia's leadership has been essential for promoting ASEAN centrality in responding to the interests of the US and China in Southeast Asia. Indonesia has played a key role in maintaining

ASEAN unity and cohesion, promoting dialogue and cooperation, and advocating for ASEAN's interests [33]. This has helped to ensure that ASEAN remains a relevant and influential player in the region.

In addition to the above, Indonesia's leadership has also helped to promote ASEAN centrality by emphasizing the importance of ASEAN-led mechanisms and processes in responding to regional challenges. For example, Indonesia has called for the South China Sea dispute to be resolved peacefully in accordance with international law and through ASEAN-led mechanisms. Indonesia has also called for the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) to be used as a platform for promoting regional security cooperation [34].

Indonesia's leadership has been welcomed by other ASEAN member states, who recognize the importance of ASEAN centrality in the face of growing competition between the US and China. ASEAN member states have also expressed their support for Indonesia's efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation with the US and China [35]. Therefore, Indonesia's leadership has been a positive force for ASEAN centrality in responding to the interests of the US and China in Southeast Asia. Indonesia's commitment to ASEAN unity and cohesion, its promotion of dialogue and cooperation, and its advocacy for ASEAN's interests have all helped to ensure that ASEAN remains a relevant and influential player in the region.

## 5 Conclusions

As the presiding nation of ASEAN in 2023, Indonesia actively spearheaded regional diplomacy, ensuring unity and cohesion among member states despite their varying stances. Through its unwavering emphasis on ASEAN's centrality and impartiality, Indonesia tirelessly championed the transformation of ASEAN from a passive entity influenced by global powers to an active and decisive player within its territory. This proactive approach not only underscores Indonesia's commitment to the collective strength of ASEAN but also marks a pivotal shift in its foreign policy, emphasizing multilateral collaboration to further its national objectives. In essence, Indonesia's pivotal role within ASEAN serves as a testament to the enduring importance of upholding ASEAN's foundational principles of centrality in regional diplomacy.

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