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<b>Event Terkait</b>		<b>Penulis</b>	Yuna Farhan
<b>Kata Kunci</b>	APBN		

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### Press Release

## **Transparency and Budgetary Participation: Absolutes of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

On 25 – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013, the fourth meeting of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place. The President of Indonesia was one of the leaders present, along with the President of Liberia and the British Prime Minister. The meeting was held to decide the direction of the world's development agenda post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In relation to the MDGs, FITRA considers it important to push for transparency and participation in the budget as one of the absolutes in the post-2015 development agenda. Zumrotin K Susilo, Chairman of the FITRA National Board, in the Global CSO Forum on post-2015 in Bali on 23 – 24<sup>th</sup> March, stated that “the concept of the MDGs that is currently in effect cannot be defined as participative and, furthermore, doesn't even require governments to publish reports on the funding sources that they use to reach development objectives. By excluding society from the formation of development policies and, equally, by not including society in the monitoring of development policies implemented by government, it is not surprising that MDG achievements have generally been quite disappointing.”

Based on a study by FITRA, when analysing the budget trends of MDG programs in each ministry – despite the fact that the budget isn't comparable with the challenges that need to be solved – the tendency is always to increase the budget from year to year. In the health sector for example, the average budget growth rate, particularly in Maternal and Child Health, was as large as 14% in the 2006-2012 period and in 2010-2011, reached its highest point at 38.6%. Unfortunately, although the tendency to allocate more funds has increased, the results have been stagnant and little progress has been made, giving the impression that the budget was disbursed to wasted MDG programs.

Such wastefulness occurred because society simply can't exercise control over any of the programs that are prepared and implemented by government. “For example, one of

the MDG programs in the Ministry of Health that is concerned with maternal and child mortality forms the largest part of the budget (around 75%), but its budget is primarily spent on internal travel expenses (meetings, socialisation, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation etc)”, said Yenny Sucipto, Research Manager at FITRA, who also attended the meetings.

Transparency and participation can enable citizens and other actors to influence the formation and implementation of the MDGs and development priorities, as well as monitor how government is using public resources in order to reach the goals, and ensure that governments are responsible for their actions. With the inclusion of fiscal transparency indicators and targets, as well as participation in the post-2015 MDGs, the importance of linkages between MDGs will increase, as will fund allocations, policy implementation and monitoring of results.

For the above reasons, FITRA asks that transparency and budgetary participation are included in the post-2015 development framework in two ways:

*Firstly*, all countries should be required to periodically report on the investment funding that they use to fund each target and development goal in the post-2015 development framework, and also report on results that were achieved by means of such investment funds. In this way, society can monitor what budget the government has allocated to adequately and effectively achieve the MDGs.

*Secondly*, transparency and budgetary participation must be included as a specific target in the post-2015 development agenda. This target should be included, in order that governments publish 6 key budget documents starting from the planning stage, through to implementation and accountability. This target should also include public hearings undertaken by the executive and legislative assemblies at the time of budget preparation, so that society is aware of how committed governments are to allocating budget for the MDGs compared to other development priorities.