

Analysis of the Reciprocity of Bilateral Relations between Indonesia and Brazil in 2014 – 2021

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ABSTRACT

The longstanding trade relationship between Indonesia and Brazil suggests potential reciprocity in their bilateral interactions, primarily driven by significant trade activities in sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, which are crucial for robust international cooperation. This study employs the cooperation hexagon concept and uses a descriptive qualitative method to examine the bilateral trade cooperation between Indonesia and Brazil from 2014 to 2021, assessing the reciprocity in the relationship dynamics. The analysis reveals an absence of reciprocity, particularly in the areas of trust and mutual benefits, highlighting a systematic failure to meet crucial cooperation variables. Despite the historical continuity of these relations, the findings emphasize an urgent need for Indonesia to intensify efforts to build more effective cooperation with Brazil. Enhancing this cooperation could leverage mutual benefits and strategic alignments, which are essential for addressing contemporary global challenges and opportunities.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has actively engaged in various international organizations and forums, leveraging cooperation to support national independence. Cooperation here implies collaborative efforts by multiple parties to achieve mutual goals (Tomasello et al, 2012, p.673). One key region with strong ties to Indonesia is Latin America, evidenced by the creation of the Indonesia-Latin America and the Caribbean Business Forum (INA-LAC) and participation in the Forum for East Asia–Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) (Resmi, 2018, p.168). These interactions have fostered economic-focused international cooperation, opening new trade opportunities (Mulyati, 2014). Latin America plays a significant role in Indonesia's economic strategy, helping to diversify trade beyond traditional markets and into promising non-traditional markets (Annef, Darmastuti and Kurniawan, 2022, pp.43-46), thereby reducing dependency on established trade relationships.

In this case, Latin America was included as a region that was classified as a trading partner for Indonesia's non-traditional market. The effort to increase Indonesia's trade cooperation relations with Latin America was demonstrated through a new trade cooperation framework involving Indonesia and MERCOSUR in the Indonesia-MERCOSUR Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IM-CEPA) which was first announced in October 2021 with the status having entered into pre-negotiation discussions. According to Muhammad Lutfi, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia who served at that time, the initiation of the IM-CEPA collaboration was a very important strategy aimed at strengthening trade relations between Indonesia Latin America and the Caribbean. Indonesia itself still has only one Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) cooperation framework together with countries in the Latin America region, namely Chile

in the Indonesia - Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IC-CEPA) which has been in force since August 10, 2020. Reviewing the IC-CEPA cooperation, the utilization of the agreement trade has resulted in positive growth. Therefore, Indonesia attempts to enhance the CEPA cooperation framework with the establishment of IM-CEPA as one of the realisations of increasing CEPA cooperation between Indonesia and MERCOSUR (Wahyudi, 2021).

As a member of MERCOSUR, Brazil plays a pivotal role as Indonesia's primary trading partner in the Caribbean and Latin America. This significant position underscores the need for Indonesia to focus specifically on Brazil, which is not only the largest trading partner in the region but also a key player in Indonesia's non-traditional markets. Several factors prompt Indonesia to strengthen cooperation with Brazil, including Brazil's domestic economic conditions and the strategic need to enhance market access for Indonesian products. Brazil's geographic positioning is particularly advantageous, potentially aiding the expansion of the Indonesian market and broadening the distribution of its products throughout the region (Wahyudi, 2021).

Even so, the relations between Indonesia and Brazil did not always show favourable conditions. In 2020, Indonesia's trade balance with Brazil showed a deficit of \$1.55 billion, a 64.83% decrease from the previous year's deficit of \$0.94 billion (Darmawan, 2022, para.1). This substantial drop was primarily due to Indonesian exports totalling only \$1.02 billion, while imports from Brazil amounted to \$2.56 billion. However, in 2021, Indonesian exports to Brazil surged by 48.71% year-on-year to \$1.5 billion, and imports increased modestly by 2.36% to \$2.62 billion. As a result, Indonesia's trade deficit with Brazil narrowed to \$1.11 billion in 2021, down from \$1.54 billion the previous year (Rahman, 2022, para.3). The years 2022 and 2023 recorded the second-largest trade deficits, at \$498.2 million, an increase from November 2023's \$374 million and December 2022's \$290.7 million (CNN Indonesia, 2024, para.4). Additionally, both countries experienced a GDP decline during the transition from 2019 to 2020.

The initiation of the IM-CEPA negotiations in 2021 served as a crucial milestone that significantly enhanced interactions between Indonesia and Brazil. Despite enduring losses, the cooperation between the two countries has remained steadfast. However, the potential risks arising from this relationship do not create an immediate need for both nations to expand their cooperative framework into a bilateral scheme. In this context, certain factors could potentially exacerbate the negative impact on Indonesia-Brazil relations. Consequently, it is essential to consider the principle of reciprocity to evaluate the extent of potential bilateral cooperation that could emerge from the longstanding relationship between Indonesia and Brazil.

RESEARCH METHOD

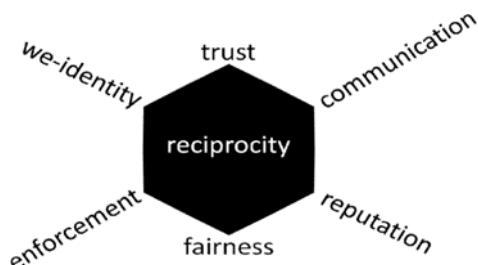
This research used a qualitative method using data collection, data reduction, data processing and data analysis to draw conclusions. The data obtained will be sorted to be classified according to the material needed in the research, and then an in-depth analysis will be carried out using the concept of "Cooperation Hexagon" put forward by Messner, Guarin and Haun (2016, pp.16-17) to see the reciprocity of cooperation relations between Indonesia and Brazil.

The framework of the "cooperation hexagon" is used in the research to provide a structured and comprehensive analysis of cooperative mechanisms by focusing on reciprocal relationships, which are central to the interactions within a cooperative setting. The hexagon illustrates how various elements of cooperation interact and depend on each other, with reciprocity at the centre. This approach highlights the importance of mutual benefits and exchanges in sustaining and enhancing

cooperation. By using this model, researchers can better understand and dissect the complex dynamics of cooperation, ensuring that each aspect is thoroughly examined in terms of its contribution to mutual gain and overall cooperative success. This framework helps in identifying and analysing the key factors that influence effective cooperation and how they are interconnected. Messner, Guarin, and Haun illustrated a hexagonal plane with reciprocity as its centre in order to explain the concept they put forward.

The existence of reciprocity is very important because it serves as a fundamental prerequisite for cooperation to be maintained in the long term. Messner, Guarin, and Haun further explained that reciprocity in cooperation can be formed when at least four of the six variables mentioned in the Cooperation Hexagon concept are met (Messner, Guarin and Haun, 2016, p.15). There are four main variables that can be used to see whether there is reciprocity in international cooperation. They are Trust, Communication, Reputation, and Fairness. There are also two other variables, which are enforcement and we-identity, that support the main variables of the concept. According to the concept, reciprocity in a relationship will emerge when all variables are fulfilled.

Figure 1.
Cooperation Hexagon Concept Illustration



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The History and Dynamic Relations of Indonesia and Brazil

To see how the historical track record of relations between Indonesia and Brazil, it is important to first understand the definition of diplomatic relations. This is because the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Brazil cannot be separated from the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Basically, diplomatic relations are defined as an activity in the context of negotiating between one country and another in order to achieve one goal which is the goal of the negotiation itself. As time goes by, diplomatic relations are able to continue to develop towards a wider scope, including also producing impacts such as technological and scientific advances that mark the development of a global society (Widagdo and Widhiyanti, 2008, Ch.1).

Both Indonesia and Brazil have a strong desire to continue to improve bilateral relations, not only in one sector. Indonesia and Brazil both want their relationship to be improved in various sectors. The related interpretation indicates the strong desire of the two to increase bilateral relations stems from how the interaction between Indonesia and Brazil during the establishment of their state diplomatic relations. The interaction that can be seen was by showing exchange visits between heads of state, officials, members of parliament, economic actors, and the people of the two countries. In July 2001, the former President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, visited Indonesia to develop bilateral relations between Indonesia and Brazil. Following up on the state visit from Brazil, in the series to attend the summit meeting of APEC member countries in Lima, Peru, the President of the

Republic of Indonesia carried out a reciprocal visit to Brazil which was conducted on November 18, 2008 (Borzova, Santos and Sibarani, 2020, p.203).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemlu RI) stated that relations between Indonesia and Brazil have experienced rapid growth each year since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two in March 1953. Even though Indonesia and Brazil are two countries that are located in different regions that are quite far apart, where Indonesia is in the Southeast Asia region while Brazil is in the South America region, this should not be used as an obstacle for the two countries to establish joint diplomatic relations with one another (Borzova, Santos and Sibarani, 2020, pp.202-203).

Moreover, Indonesia and Brazil are two countries that have several similarities in terms of the country's characteristics. The first point of similarity lies in the ownership of the Natural Resources of the two countries. Indonesia and Brazil can be considered as countries with abundant natural resources. Indonesia is the world's largest exporter of steam coal, refined tin, and nickel ore (Dutu, 2015, p.7). Meanwhile, Brazil is also a country that is rich in natural resources such as minerals, hydropower and petroleum (Bada, 2018, para.8-11).

The second point of similarity between Indonesia and Brazil is the role played by these countries in the establishment of regional blocs in their respective regions (Borzova, Santos and Sibarani, 2020, p.206). The regional block referred to in this case relates to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR). Indonesia is one of the founding countries of ASEAN, a regional organization in the Southeast Asian region. While Brazil is one of the founding countries of MERCOSUR which is a regional trading bloc in South America.

The third point of similarity is the involvement of Indonesia and Brazil as a member country in the Group of 20 (G-20). Indonesia and Brazil have one common goal that underlies their decision to participate in the G-20 membership, which is to improve the world economy (G20, 2021).

In addition to the similarities in the characteristics shared by Indonesia and Brazil mentioned above, there are other similarities shown by Indonesia and Brazil, in which they both are actively involved in taking part in maintaining world security and peace through peacekeeping operations carried out by the two countries (Borzova, Santos and Sibarani, 2020, pp.206-207).

Advantages and Disadvantages of Indonesia-Brazil Bilateral Relations

In a cooperative relationship that exists between countries, it is undeniable that in addition to providing benefits, it also has disadvantages that are a risk to be borne by all parties. This probability also occurs in the relations between Indonesia and Brazil. For Indonesia, the benefits that are obtained through the cooperation is that Indonesia might get the opportunity to increase the country's GDP per capita figure by conducting economic cooperation with Brazil in a bilateral cooperation scheme. In fact, Indonesia's GDP per capita in the last 10 years has shown a smaller figure compared to Brazil's GDP per capita.

Based on the data obtained by the author, Indonesia's GDP growth shows a statistical chart that is quite stable, although not higher than Brazil's GDP in the 2012-2019 period (The World Bank, 2022). Meanwhile, from the Brazilian side, at the same time, there was also a change in the level of GDP that was less stable, which is shown through statistical charts with a line of sharp decline or

increase. Even so, both countries experienced a decline in GDP which was recorded in the transition from 2019 to 2020. In the 2019-2020 period, countries are trying to recover their economies after the Covid-19 outbreak has taken its toll. Therefore, if both Indonesia and Brazil have an agreement to produce a bilateral cooperation framework, there will be an opportunity to gain benefits from the national economic recovery (Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021, Pers Release). Both the unstable economic conditions of Brazil after the pandemic and Indonesia's lower GDP level could also be a disadvantage if both countries decided to create bilateral cooperation.

Furthermore, the points to be considered for the possible disadvantage of cooperation between Indonesia and Brazil are regarding the unemployment rate of each country. Based on data from the first quarter of 2018, Brazil's unemployment rate is around 13.1% (Merco Press, 2018, para.5). The unemployment rate of the country partner will directly and indirectly affect the sustainability of the cooperation between countries.

The next point is the country's inflation rate gap which is not too high. Even though Indonesia and Brazil are both facing problems related to inflation, the narrow gap between the two countries' inflation conditions has become another challenge for both parties. According to the data report in 2018 before the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia's inflation rate was at 3.13% (Pablo, 2018, para.3) and Brazil was at 3.67% (Inflation.eu, 2018). If the intention of the cooperation between two countries is to boost economic recovery, the possible strategy is to cooperate with a country that has better economic stability in order to help the country reduce its national inflation rate. However, in the case of Indonesia and Brazil, both are considered developing countries with similar economic problems. Therefore, if both countries intend to depend on each other to improve their economy through bilateral cooperation, it would be a great challenge.

Despite all of the probabilities, Indonesia and Brazil jointly decided to continue enhancing their cooperation through the establishment of IM-CEPA which was successfully launched in 2021. Although it is not a complete bilateral cooperation, the initiation of IM-CEPA has designated the development of Indonesia-Brazil relations as well as with other MERCOSUR country members.

Historically, Brazil is a Latin American country that has had diplomatic relations with Indonesia for quite a long time, for around 69 years, since 1953 (Borzova, Santos and Sibarani, 2020, p.202). Therefore, it is not unlikely that Indonesia and Brazil will expand their cooperation into bilateral cooperation. The good and long-lasting relations that intertwine between the two countries will influence the decision on whether they want to build bilateral cooperation in the future.

The launch of the IM-CEPA negotiations in 2021 indeed became a pinpoint that will improve the interaction and communication between Indonesia and Brazil. Before the agenda for launching the IM-CEPA negotiations took place, agendas for negotiations and preparations were carried out so that the intensity of relations between the two countries was also affected. Based on considerations relating to the advantages and disadvantages of the cooperation between Indonesia and Brazil, it can be concluded that the cooperation between the two countries has the possibility of a reciprocal relationship also called reciprocity. This is because basically, international cooperation that finds sustainability and benefit is built on trust. Thus, it is important to see the existence of reciprocity in international cooperation practices, including the cooperation between Indonesia and Brazil.

Based on the long-lasting relationship between Indonesia and Brazil, it could be expected that reciprocity could have emerged between the two countries. However, in order to analyse the possibilities of bilateral relations, it is also important to examine the dynamic of the relationship

between the two parties. The fluctuation of their cooperation and how similar their characteristic could also impact the decision to develop further cooperation.

Reciprocity Analysis of Indonesia-Brazil Cooperation

Based on the findings obtained through research related to the history of bilateral relations, characteristic similarities, and the dynamics of relations between Indonesia and Brazil in 2014 - 2021, then the reciprocal analysis of cooperation between the two countries can be carried out using the variables in the Cooperation Hexagon concept as follows:

1. Trust

The trust variable in international relations has two primary indicators. The first is the absence of any intention to betray the parties, which underscores a fundamental expectation that all agreements and collaborations should be mutually fulfilled without deceit. The second indicator focuses on the willingness of each party to embrace risks, which is predicated on the mutual trust established between them. This willingness is critical because, while cooperation offers distinct benefits, it also comes with inherent risks and potential challenges that require careful navigation (Messner, Guarin and Haun, 2016, p.134).

In the context of Indonesia-Brazil bilateral relations, the trust variable appears minimally applied. The engagements between these two nations often manifest within multilateral frameworks such as INA-LAC, RCEP, and IM-CEPA, rather than through direct bilateral agreements. This multi-nation involvement dilutes the pure bilateral nature of trust and cooperation typically expected in such relationships. For example, the procurement of Brazilian defence equipment by Indonesia formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding during the LAAD defence expo, highlights this complexity. Although this might seem like an indication of trust within the Cooperation Hexagon concept, the underlying motivation for Indonesia's purchase was driven by strategic needs rather than mutual trust specifically, the requirement to upgrade military capabilities under national defence strategies (Sandi, 2021, para.6).

The Indonesian government has been committed to the modernization of its defence equipment since 2007, outlined in its Minimum Essential Force (MEF) strategy divided into three strategic phases: MEF Phase I (2010-2014), MEF Phase II (2015-2019), and MEF Phase III (2020-2024). By 2019, the implementation of this plan had achieved less than 65% of its targets, indicating significant pressure to accelerate progress by the 2024 deadline (Sandi, 2021, para.2-3). Khairul Fahmi, a military observer from the Institute for Security and Strategic Studies, noted the urgency of meeting these objectives, which led to the decision to procure suitable defence equipment from countries like Brazil. This choice was underscored by economic considerations, as pointed out by Suharso Monoarfa, Minister of National Development Planning, who highlighted that Indonesia, like many Latin American nations, spends less than 1% of its budget on military, compelling a cost-effective procurement strategy (Putri, 2021, para.7-9). This scenario illustrates that while Indonesia and Brazil maintain ongoing communication and cooperation, the deep-seated trust required to strengthen bilateral relations remains underdeveloped, influenced more by necessity and economic factors than by a genuine bilateral trust.

2. Communications

The communication variable plays a pivotal role in international cooperation, serving as a critical indicator for the successful transmission of shared visions, missions, and objectives necessary for effective collaboration. Effective communication involves both direct and indirect interactions where parties exchange statements and information, which is crucial in organizing meetings and setting agendas for discussions (Alleyne, 2019, Ch.4).

Moreover, communication is integral to influencing and maintaining trust between parties. It provides insights into the characteristics and intentions of each party, which, although not always explicitly revealed, become apparent through routine interactions. The Cooperation Hexagon concept underscores that while exchanging information is crucial, the act of communication itself is even more vital as it inevitably generates valuable information that can deepen understanding between parties.

Analysing the communication dynamics between Indonesia and Brazil from 2014 to the present reveals a history of consistent communication, despite facing challenges such as trade disputes, diplomatic tensions, and specific incidents like the execution of Brazilian nationals in Indonesia. These issues, particularly prominent during 2014-2015, initially strained relations. However, communication improved significantly in subsequent years, especially with the initiation of the Indonesia-MERCOSUR Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IM-CEPA) in 2019. This period marked a phase of more intense and harmonious discussions, particularly around the pre-negotiation stages of the IM-CEPA.

Despite these improvements, the interactions between Indonesia and Brazil have not strictly been bilateral but rather have occurred within the broader context of multilateral negotiations involving MERCOSUR. As such, while Brazil participates as a key partner, the cooperation does not exclusively hinge on bilateral agreements between the two nations alone. Moreover, the enhanced routine of communication, while robust, did not automatically lead to increased mutual trust. The ongoing intensive communications have not necessarily been accompanied by a corresponding willingness to place trust in each other, indicating that while communication has been effective in maintaining dialogue and negotiations, it has not sufficed to overcome all elements of mistrust that have historically marked the bilateral relations between the two countries.

3. Reputation

The reputation variable explains that a country's reputation has an important influence on the implementation of its international cooperation with other countries. It is argued that the reputation of a country can provide the ability for cooperation partners to predict how the country will behave in the future. The meaning of 'future behaviour' can be described as a prediction of the possibility that the cooperation partners may intentionally or unintentionally not cooperate with the previously agreed cooperation commitments.

When a country does not have a good reputation in the eyes of the international community and/or not having the opportunity to build a good image, then the urgency to carry out international cooperation is likely to decrease. Based on the discussion regarding the dynamics of relations between Indonesia and Brazil, Indonesia has already set a good impression on Brazil. Meanwhile, Brazil has had the opportunity to make efforts in order to create a reputation as a good cooperation partner for Indonesia and the international community.

The success of Indonesia's image building toward Brazil could be shown by the statement given by the representative of Brazil, Gustavo Westmann, in proposing the improvement of Indonesia-Brazil diplomatic relations. According to Westmann, Indonesia is a strategic cooperation partner for Brazil because of its potential. Meanwhile, on the other hand, Brazil also trying to prove its potential as a good partner for Indonesia by providing humanitarian assistance to Indonesia for the tsunami natural disaster in 2018.

The reputation variable can be accomplished when each of the parties considers their collaboration partner as a strategic partner in establishing cooperation (Messner, Guarin and Haun, 2016, p.135). If both parties have a good reputation, the potential for bilateral cooperation can be expected and it can also show the existence of reciprocity in their bilateral relations. Even though, the decision for Indonesia to establish a new bilateral cooperation with Brazil still has to go through careful consideration, and should not only based on reputational success.

4. Fairness

The variable of fairness can be described in which each party involved in the cooperation will oppose inequality. According to this variable, cooperation should provide convenience and challenges to each party in a fair manner. Because inequalities in terms of power, obtaining benefits, and taking risks can impede communication, impede the development of trust, and might cause a disastrous contribution to the public interest. Thus, the fairness variable is closely related to the trust and communication variables in its implications.

In the dynamics of the relations between Indonesia and Brazil from 2014 to 2021, there were several interactions that can be counted as the implementation of the fairness variable, such as the agreement to abolish short-term visit visas for Indonesian citizens in Brazilian territory. The abolition of this visa brings benefits as well as risks that are jointly borne by both Indonesia and Brazil. Through the short-term visit visa, Indonesia indeed gained the benefit of being able to visit Brazilian territory in a short period of time, either for business or pleasure, without any need to process a visa. Meanwhile, Brazil was also able to increase state revenues through the escalation of foreign tourist arrivals from Indonesia to Brazil.

Contrary, there were also several potential risks that occurred in terms of security and criminal acts. Therefore, the short-term visa abolition agreement between Indonesia and Brazil shows the accomplishment of the fairness variable in which both parties prioritise fairness without any desire to precede their interest or take advantage of their cooperation partners.

5. Enforcement

Enforcement or rule enforcement is one of the variables in the Cooperation Hexagon concept is a variable that is automatically achieved when all indicators of the four previous variables have been fulfilled (Kloke-Lesch and Scholz, 2022, pp.209-210). Rule enforcement is an important variable in analysing the reciprocity of an international relationship that exists between countries. It is based on analysing how the state gives or receives consequences for the actions it takes during its diplomatic relations. Mainly, when a cooperation commitment has been formed and has been mutually agreed upon by each party.

Punishments for violations and rewards for achievements are examples of enforcing rules which then able to play on the reputational values possessed by each party involved in the

cooperation. The sanction imposed can have the impact of damaging the reputation of a country. The rewards can also cause a positive reputation for the country concerned. Therefore, the enforcement variable and the reputation variable are related to one another (Messner, Guarin and Haun, 2016, p.136).

The evidence of the enforcement variable in the dynamics of relations between Indonesia and Brazil was shown when their diplomatic relations heated up in 2015. Triggered by Indonesia's actions that imposed a death penalty against the accused of trafficking narcotics and illegal drugs who are Brazilian citizens, the Brazilian Government proposed strong protests which then further delayed the submission of credentials to the Indonesian delegation. This process of delay made Indonesia cut off diplomatic relations with Brazil for an unspecified period until Brazil had the initiative to rectify the diplomatic relations between the two.

Indonesia's actions became a form of punishment given to Brazil as a diplomatic partner because its actions were considered disrespectful to Indonesia. Basically, the enforcement variable focuses on the consequences of the actions taken by a party. This shows from the history of the relationship between Indonesia and Brazil in enforcing rules against each other as a form of effort to maintain the commitments that have been agreed upon within a framework of cooperation between the two.

6. We-Identity

For the parties involved in a collaboration, similarities in identity and perspective are crucial as they foster ease in decision-making, thereby facilitating the production of agreements. Economic experiments illustrate that a party will contribute more significantly to collaboration when it shares the same characteristics and orientations as its partner. Indonesia and Brazil possess similar vital characteristics, which significantly encourage the two countries to view each other as strategic partners. This similarity is evident in their abundant natural resources, their roles in establishing regional blocs, and their participation in the G-20.

Furthermore, research into the dynamics of Indonesia-Brazil relations, particularly in 2017, highlighted a significant collaboration in the defence sector through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two nations. This agreement reflects a shared strategic orientation towards enhancing their defence capabilities, providing a common ground that can potentially enhance bilateral cooperation.

Additionally, an in-depth analysis of the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Brazil, using the Cooperation Hexagon concept to assess the presence of a reciprocal relationship, revealed that several key variables communication, reputation, fairness, enforcement, and we-identity are well-established in this partnership. These findings suggest that these elements of the cooperation hexagon are effectively at play in the bilateral relationship, although the trust variable remains unfulfilled. Despite this shortfall, the importance of trust cannot be overstated, as it is crucial for indicating true reciprocity in the relationship between Indonesia and Brazil. This detailed examination of their bilateral ties underlines the complexity and depth of their interactions, highlighting both strengths and areas for potential improvement.

CONCLUSION

Based on the assumptions put forward in the cooperation hexagon concept, there are four main variables to analyse the existence of reciprocity in a relationship between countries: trust, communication, reputation, and fairness. In the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Brazil, three of these variables communication, reputation, and fairness have been fulfilled. Communication between the two countries has been consistent since 2014, showing a healthy interaction. Furthermore, Brazil has expressed its view of Indonesia as a strategic partner and has extended humanitarian assistance, enhancing its reputation and demonstrating fairness through the mutual abolishment of short-term visit visas, which balances benefits and risks fairly between both parties.

However, the variable of trust remains unachieved, indicating a lack of reciprocity in the relationship. This deficiency in trust was evident in the tension following Indonesia's execution of a Brazilian citizen for drug trafficking in 2015, leading to a delayed diplomatic response from Brazil and a temporary halt in diplomatic relations. Despite these challenges, the shared characteristics and strategic interests of both countries, such as natural resource ownership, regional bloc participation, G-20 membership, and roles in global peace and security, contribute to a "we-identity" that fosters potential for strategic cooperation, as evidenced by a memorandum of understanding in the defence sector.

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