

Hon. Mercy Chriesty Barends, MP, Indonesia

National Group Chair, Indonesia

[AirQualityAsia](#)

Ms. Mercy Chriesty Barends, ST is a member of the Indonesia House of Representatives. She is Chair of the Green Economy Caucus [GEC]. Hon. Barends is a member of Commission VII concerning Energy and Mineral Resources, Research and Technology, and Environment as well as the Inter-Parliament Coordination Board. Hon. Barends is also active in several other caucuses such as the Nuclear Caucus and the Women Parliamentarian Caucus. Hon. Barends is the Vice Chair of the Department of Citizen Affairs of DPP PDI Perjuangan (Indonesia Democratic Party of Struggle), 2015-2020 and she is also the Chair of the Strategic/Situation Room's Division of Energy and Mineral Resources, Research and Technology, and Environment of DPP PDI Perjuangan (2015-2020).

In community development and social movement works, Barends was Executive Director of The Institute of Participation and Development for Community/Maluku Province (2004-2010) and Secretary of GASIRA Foundation working on gender and women studies and public policy advocacy (2007-now). She has a strong passion and wide experience in supporting community programs in various fields: environment, education, economic, research and development, gender based program, energy and food security, particularly in archipelago provinces, and public advocacy. She often is requested as a speaker in local, national or international forums related to the issues above. Barends holds Bachelor degree in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture and sometimes is a guest lecturer at the Technical Faculty of Pattimura University and other universities in Maluku and Jakarta.

In the ASEAN Region, Barends is a member of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) giving a lot of attention and dedication specifically to the issues of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) such as RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) China-16 Asian countries, EU-ASEAN CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) related to human rights impacts in all sectors (environment, agricultural, fishery, labor, land rights of Indigenous Peoples, gender-based violence, Investor-State Dispute Settlement/ISDS, etc). She has been involved in several missions and activities on those issues together with other ASEAN MPs and colleagues to increase critical awareness and promote one voice to put the people and environment at the center of FTAs/BIT and throughout the world, to advocate for the inclusion of a Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) mechanism to be a mandatory legally-binding provision, and to ensure that the negotiation process of FTAs/BITs are more transparent and accountable, so they do not end up doing more harm than good.

Since 2013 after finishing a short course at the Women Public Service Program (WPSP) Institute at Bryn Mawr College Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Barends actively works together among women leaders throughout the world to increase the capacity of women and young girls in many strategic ways. At the same time she started to become involve in Global Hope Network International (GHNI) in Geneva to support and strengthen the leadership capacity, peace building and community, and development program for development in post-conflict countries. Since 2016, Barends serves as a mentor for The Global Give Back Circle for young girls in Kenya and Rwanda.