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Government Transparency Through Digital Communication: Indonesia–UAE Defense Industry Cooperation (2020–2025)

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Abstract
Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established a defense bilateral partnership through a 2020 MoU to strengthen their national defense industries. The Indonesian government reports these activities via official websites to inform the public while protecting sensitive data. This study examines government transparency in digital communication regarding Indonesia–UAE defense cooperation from 2020 to 2025. Using a qualitative approach, the research analyzes official publications, defense company reports, news articles, and policy documents through transparency and defense diplomacy frameworks.Results show that government publications cover agreements, participating companies, expected benefits, and project activities. However, details on completed projects, technology transfer, and evaluations remain limited. Scattered reports across multiple websites further impede public tracking. The study recommends linking defense agreements with progress updates to enhance transparency and accountability in international defense cooperation.

Keywords: *Government Transparency; Digital Communication; Defense Diplomacy; Defense Industry; Indonesia–UAE*

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INTRODUCTION

Government communication plays an important role in providing information about public policies and the activities of government institutions. Official websites have become channels for publishing policy decisions and agreements, as well as reports on government programs. The use of digital technology allows people to access these publications and obtain information about public activities without depending on traditional media. Furthermore, digital platforms have also created more opportunities for government transparency by improving public access to official information (Bertot, Jaeger, and Grimes 2010)

In Indonesia, the development of digital communication has not resolved the challenges of public information disclosure. The Central Information Commission reported that Indonesia scored 66.43 in the 2025 Public Information Disclosure Index and remained in the moderate category (Komisi Informasi Pusat 2025a). Its monitoring results also placed 121 of 387 public institutions in the non-informative category (Komisi Informasi Pusat 2025b). These conditions make it important to understand how government institutions use their official websites to inform the public about their policies and activities.

Government transparency involves providing information about public decisions and the results of government actions. Grimmelikhuijsen and Welch (2012) discuss transparency through the disclosure of policy decisions and outcomes, which helps people understand the work of public institutions. Access to official records is important because citizens need information to follow government activities and decisions that affect public interests (Jaeger and Bertot 2010). The development of open data has expanded opportunities for people to obtain and use public information through digital platforms (Janssen, Charalabidis, and Zuiderwijk 2012). Meijer (2013) has examined government transparency through strategic, cognitive, and institutional perspectives. These perspectives explain the purposes of government information disclosure and the role of public institutions in providing clear information that helps citizens understand government policies and activities (Cucciniello, Porumbescu, and Grimmelikhuijsen 2017). Public access to information is also related to trust and accountability (Fox 2007; Porumbescu 2017). The use of digital technology and the way public institutions operate shape government communication and the information shared with citizens (Meijer 2009; Porumbescu, Meijer, and Grimmelikhuijsen 2022).

Government transparency in the defense sector requires a balance between public access to information and the protection of national security interests. Official reports on defense agreements and diplomatic activities help the public understand national priorities and

the development of cooperation with foreign partners. Information about defense industry partnerships also provides an account of government efforts to develop national capabilities through international cooperation. Government transparency in the defense sector must consider the protection of sensitive military information. Indonesia's Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure provides the public with access to government information while protecting sensitive defense and security matters (Republic of Indonesia 2008). It allows government institutions to report defense agreements and cooperation activities without disclosing confidential information. These reports are important because they help the public understand the agreements, progress, and the results of their cooperation. Providing information about these developments can support government transparency while protecting national security interests.

Defense diplomacy plays an important role in developing international defense cooperation. Drab (2018) explains that diplomatic engagement and defense agreements support foreign policy and national security through cooperation between countries. Cooperation and assistance in the defense sector also help strengthen relations between countries (Cottey and Forster 2013). Indonesia uses defense diplomacy to strengthen its defense industry by developing partnerships with foreign countries. These partnerships can support national technology development and defense production. Therefore, Indonesia needs to build partnerships with countries that can support its defense industry interests.

Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have strengthened their defense relations through cooperation in the defense industry. Both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation in February 2020. It was followed by a defense industry development protocol in June 2022. These agreements aim to strengthen partnerships between the defense industries of both countries. It involved PT PAL Indonesia, PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI), PT Pindad from Indonesia. The agreement involved the sector in shipbuilding, aircraft development, armored vehicles, and defense technology (Biro Humas Setjen Kemhan 2022b). The cooperation continued through a Joint Working Group meeting in November 2023. It discussed existing partnerships and ongoing defense projects aimed at strengthening the defense industry (Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI 2023b). These activities were reported on official websites that provide information on agreements, participating companies, expected benefits, and activities. These publications help the public understand the progress of Indonesia–UAE defense cooperation. This shows that official

government communication is an important part of understanding defense diplomacy and transparency in international defense partnerships.

Previous studies have examined the defense cooperation between Indonesia and the UAE from different perspectives. Mustofa (2021) has discussed the development of bilateral defense relations and the interests supporting cooperation between both countries. Wisesa et al. (2023) was focused on the role of defense diplomacy and confidence-building measures in strengthening bilateral defense relations. Arian et al. (2023) examined the economic aspects of defense cooperation between Indonesia and the UAE. Aulia et al. (2024) examine cooperation between Indonesia and the UAE from a national security perspective. These studies provide an understanding of the development and importance of bilateral defense partnerships.Previous studies have focused on bilateral relations and defense cooperation activities between Indonesia and the UAE. However, few studies have examined government communication about these activities through official websites. Research on government transparency provides another perspective by emphasizing the relationship between public information and institutional accountability (Fox 2007; Meijer 2013). The information published about the implementation and results of Indonesia–UAE defense industry agreements has received less attention in the existing literature.

This study examines government transparency in the digital communication of Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation from 2020 to 2025. Government Transparency provides the main framework for analyzing official publications and the information available to the public. Defense Diplomacy supports the examination of bilateral agreements and cooperation activities reported by government institutions. The analysis focuses on the objectives and expected benefits of defense partnerships as well as project developments and reported results. It also considers legal restrictions on the disclosure of sensitive defense information. By examining official government communication, the study aims to explain how public information presents the progress of defense diplomacy and the implementation of defense industry cooperation. The research contributes to discussions on government transparency by examining the relationship between digital communication and the reporting of international defense partnerships.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach to examine government transparency in digital communication about Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation from 2020 to 2025. The

research focuses on information published through official government websites concerning bilateral agreements and partnerships between defense companies as well as developments following these commitments. Government Transparency provides the main framework for examining public information through three perspectives: strategic, cognitive, and institutional (Meijer 2013). Defense Diplomacy supports the analysis by explaining the role of diplomatic engagement and defense agreements in developing cooperation between countries (Drab 2018). Both frameworks guide the examination of government communication about the process and progress of Indonesia–UAE defense industry partnerships.

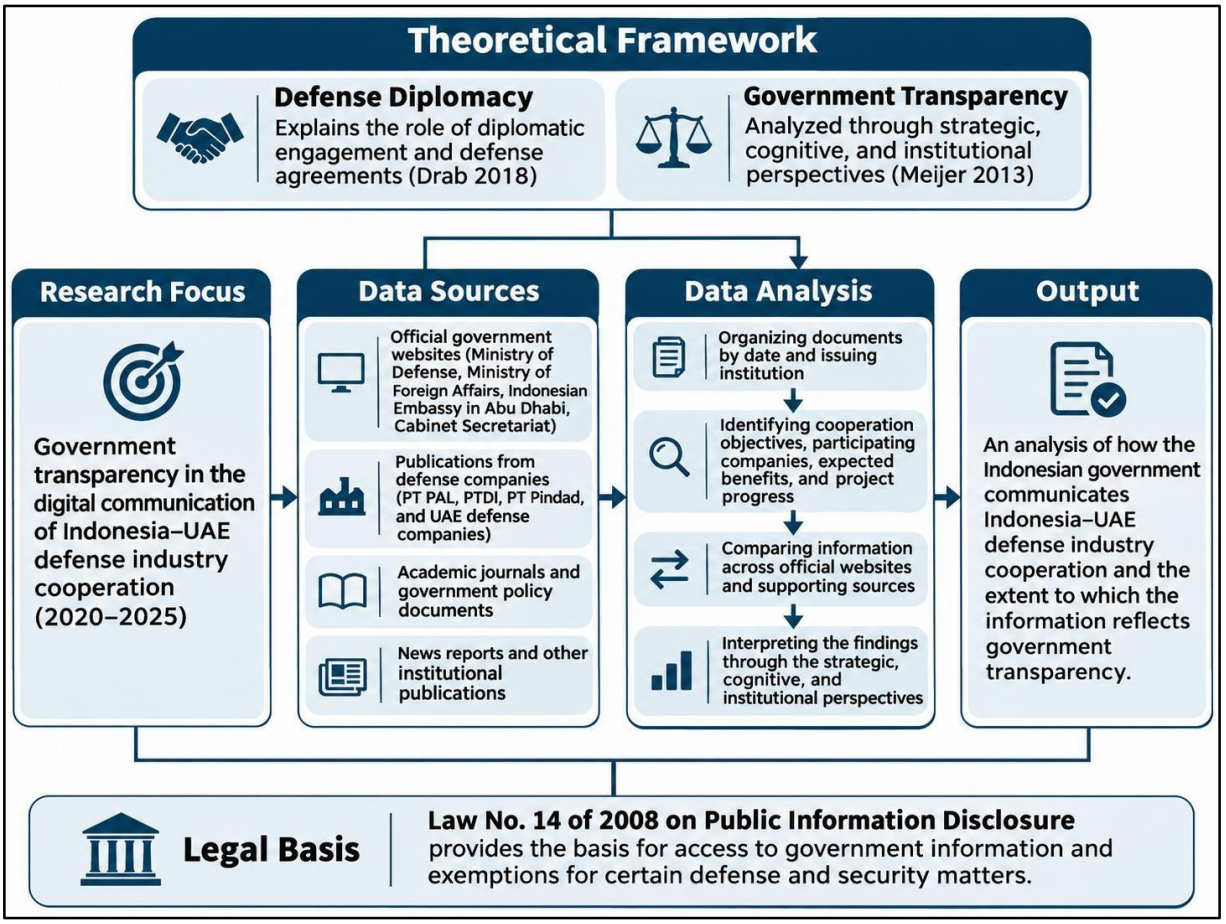
The research draws on official publications from the Indonesian Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Cabinet Secretariat. These documents cover activities from 2020 to 2025 and provide information about diplomatic meetings and defense industry agreements along with technology cooperation and project developments. Government publications serve as the main sources because its represent the information communicated by public institutions. Reports from PT PAL, PTDI, PT Pindad, and UAE defense companies provide additional details about partnerships and related activities. Academic journals and government policy documents support the discussion through relevant literature and regulations. News reports and other institutional publications provide additional information for comparing developments across different sources.

The collected documents were examined through qualitative document analysis. The process began by organizing publications by date and issuing institution, then reviewing the information in each report. The analysis identified cooperation objectives and participating companies as well as expected benefits and reported project progress. Particular attention was given to the differences between signed agreements and activities carried out after these commitments. Information from official websites was compared with supporting sources to examine the details reported about the same partnerships. The results were then analyzed using the strategic, cognitive, and institutional perspectives to understand the information provided by government institutions about cooperation objectives and project developments.

Indonesia's Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure provides the legal basis for government transparency while protecting sensitive information related to national defense and security. This study considers these legal provisions when examining government

reports on bilateral agreements and the progress of Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation.

Figure 1.



Research Methodology Framework

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesia–UAE Defense Diplomacy and Government Digital Communication

Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have strengthened their defense relations through diplomatic engagement and cooperation between defense institutions and companies. On 24 February 2020, both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering information exchange, defense technology, capacity building, and institutional cooperation. The partnership continued with the signing of a defense industry development protocol in June 2022. This protocol introduced further opportunities for joint research and production, as well as investment and technology development (Biro Humas Setjen Kemhan 2022a; Kemhan RI 2020). These agreements established the basis for

cooperation between the two countries encouraged further engagement in the defense sector.

Defense diplomacy plays an important role in strengthening bilateral relations. Drab (2018) describes its contribution to foreign policy through cooperation between governments and defense institutions. Indonesia applies this approach by developing partnerships between domestic defense companies and their counterparts in the UAE. PT PAL Indonesia, PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI), and PT Pindad have entered agreements concerning shipbuilding and aerospace development as well as armored vehicles and defense technology. These partnerships connect diplomatic engagement with opportunities for developing national defense capabilities. They also demonstrate the role of international cooperation in supporting Indonesia's defense industry.

Official government websites provide information on these diplomatic and defense-industry activities. The Indonesian government publishes reports on bilateral meetings and signed agreements along with the institutions involved and the objectives of cooperation. Such publications help citizens follow government commitments and developments in Indonesia–UAE relations. The information is collected from several institutions. Their respective roles influence the subjects and level of detail presented through each platform.

The Ministry of Defense reports ministerial meetings and agreements involving Indonesian defense companies. Its Directorate General of Defense Potential provides more specific information about international exhibitions and defense industry projects. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi publish reports on diplomatic activities and bilateral partnerships. Presidential meetings and major agreements are covered by the Cabinet Secretariat. Together these institutions provide public information about defense cooperation through their official communication channels.

Following the signing of the 2022 defense industry protocol, Indonesia and the UAE continued their cooperation through diplomatic meetings and defense industry activities. In February 2023, the Ministry of Defense reported Indonesia's participation in the International Defense Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) in Abu Dhabi. It was the largest biennial defense and military technology exhibition in the Middle East. This event give Indonesian defense companies opportunities to present their products and explored opportunities to work with foreign partners (Biro Humas Setjen Kemhan 2023).

It was followed by the meeting between Indonesia's defense minister and the UAE president in May 2024. It was reported in defense official websites(Biro Humas Setjen Kemhan 2024). This report shows that Indonesia and UAE have continued their relationship in the defense sector. A better understanding of the official websites used to communicate these developments, as well as the role of each government institution in providing information to the public, will be presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

Government Digital Platform	Communication Role	Information in Selected Publications	Research Relevance
Ministry of Defense (Kemhan RI)	Communicates defense policy, ministerial meetings, and bilateral defense cooperation.	The 2020 defense agreement, 2022 industrial development protocol, and agreements involving PT PAL, PTDI, and PT Pindad.	Explains government commitments, cooperation objectives, participating industries, and expected benefits.
Directorate General of Defense Potential (Ditjen Pothan), Ministry of Defense	Reports defense industrial development, international exhibitions, and institutional coordination.	Indonesian defense industry participation in IDEX/NAVDEX 2023, industrial partnerships, and the 2023 Joint Working Group.	Provides information about industry engagement and reported follow-up after bilateral agreements.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi (Kemlu RI/KBRI)	Communicates diplomatic engagement and facilitates bilateral relations, including industrial partnerships.	Presidential diplomacy, bilateral agreements, and cooperation involving Indonesian defense companies and UAE partners.	Shows how defense industrial cooperation is communicated within broader diplomatic relations.
Cabinet Secretariat (Setkab RI)	Reports presidential activities and agreements made during official bilateral meetings.	The announcement of eight Indonesia–UAE agreements in April 2025, including an MoU involving PT Pindad and Ninety Degree General Trading LLC.	Identifies cooperation announced at the presidential level and the information provided about its scope.

Official Government Digital Platforms for Indonesia–UAE Defense Industrial Cooperation (2020–2025) Source: Author Analysis. Kemhan RI (2020, 2022a, 2022b, 2023a, 2023b), Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI (2023b), Kemlu RI (2025), and Setkab RI (2025)

Table 1 presents the different roles of government institutions in communicating Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation. The Ministry of Defense publishes information about bilateral agreements and partnerships between defense companies. In July 2022, the

ministry reported agreements involving PT PAL, PTDI, PT Pindad, and their UAE partners covering shipbuilding, aircraft development, and armored vehicles (Biro Humas Setjen Kemhan 2022b). This publication identifies the participating companies and explains their planned activities. It also provides information about the expected benefits of cooperation for Indonesia's defense industry.

The Directorate General of Defense Potential provides more detailed information about the development of bilateral partnerships. In a November 2023 publication, the report reported the Joint Working Group meeting in Abu Dhabi where representatives from Indonesia and the UAE reviewed existing agreements and discussed ongoing defense industry projects (Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI 2023b). The meeting shows that both countries continued their coordination after signing the 2020 MoU and 2022 protocol. Government reporting on these activities helps the public follow the progress of cooperation and understand the role of participating institutions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi communicate diplomatic meetings and partnerships involving Indonesian and UAE institutions. The Cabinet Secretariat provides information about agreements announced during presidential activities. In April 2025, the Cabinet Secretariat reported eight agreements between Indonesia and the UAE including an MoU involving PT Pindad and Ninety Degree General Trading LLC (Setkab RI. 2025). This report identifies a new commitment in defense industry cooperation at the presidential level. The publication informs the public about the agreement and the companies involved, but provides little detail on the progress of the planned activities.

Several government institutions have provided information about Indonesia–UAE defense cooperation through their official websites. For example, The Ministry of Defense and Directorate General of Defense Potential have reported defense agreements and activities that involve defense industry. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi provide information about diplomatic meetings and bilateral partnerships. The Cabinet Secretariat reports agreements reached during meetings between the leaders of both countries. Each institution shares information about different parts of the cooperation based on its responsibilities. These reports help the public understand the activities carried out by the Indonesian government and the companies involved. However, information about the same partnership is often spread across several websites. Connecting earlier agreements with reports on project progress would make it easier for the public to follow the development of Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation.

Government Communication on Defense Industrial Agreements and The Progress

Official government websites provide information about the development of Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation. The published reports cover bilateral agreements and partnerships between defense companies as well as international exhibitions and government meetings. Through these publications, the public can identify the institutions involved and understand the objectives and expected benefits of cooperation. Several reports document activities undertaken after the agreements were signed. Table 2 presents findings from selected government publications on defense industry agreements, their expected benefits, and reported project progress and evaluation.

Table 2.

Government Source	Information Communicated	Expected Benefits	Reported Activities and Progress	Evaluation and Information Gaps
Kemhan RI (2020) Defense Cooperation Agreement	Reports the signing of the defense cooperation agreement on 24 February 2020. It explains cooperation in information exchange, defense technology, institutional visits, and human resource development. The publication presents the agreement as a basis for stronger relations between both countries.	Stronger defense relations, knowledge exchange, improved defense capabilities, and opportunities for future industrial partnerships.	Confirms the formal agreement and areas of cooperation. The publication provides a starting point for later defense diplomacy and industrial activities.	The publication does not provide project targets, schedules, or industrial performance results. As an initial agreement announcement, it cannot establish whether future benefits were achieved.
Kemhan RI (2022a) Defense Industrial Development Protocol	Explains the protocol signed in June 2022. It covers joint research and development, joint production, international marketing, technology licensing, industrial planning, and investment in human resources. It also refers to earlier cooperation through	Development of defense industrial capabilities, stronger technology cooperation, improved production opportunities, and long-term partnerships between Indonesian and	Confirms the signing of the protocol and reports that bilateral discussions had taken place before the agreement. It also identifies the types of industrial cooperation that both governments intended to support.	The report explains the agreement's scope but provides no project budget, production target, implementation schedule, or measured industrial result.

	the Joint Defense Cooperation Plan.	UAE industries.		
Kemhan RI (2022b) PT PAL, PTDI, and PT Pindad Agreements	Identifies agreements involving three Indonesian defense companies. PT PAL entered cooperation concerning an LPD for the UAE Navy. PTDI and Calidus agreed on CN235 and N219 marketing, aircraft development, and engineering activities. PT Pindad and Calidus agreed to develop an 8×8 combat vehicle, including design, technical support, and component supply.	Wider international markets for Indonesian defense products, aircraft development, improved armored vehicle technology, and stronger domestic industrial capabilities. The publication includes statements from company representatives about these expected benefits.	Confirms the participating companies, agreements, and planned industrial activities. The LPD arrangement is reported as a procurement contract, while the PTDI and PT Pindad agreements describe areas for future cooperation.	The publication provides details about planned work but does not report completed aircraft development, vehicle production, or measured technology transfer. Its statements about benefits remain expectations rather than proof of results.
Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI (2023a) IDEX/NAVDEX Exhibition	Reports the participation of nine Indonesian defense industries at IDEX/NAVDEX in Abu Dhabi. It identifies defense products presented at the exhibition and several agreements involving PT PAL and UAE partners, including Marakeb Technologies, Iridium, and Tawazun Strategic Development Fund.	Promotion of Indonesian defense products, new business partnerships, wider access to international markets, and stronger industrial cooperation with foreign companies.	Provides evidence of exhibition participation and agreements signed during the event. The publication links these activities with the government's support for Indonesian defense industries.	The report identifies promotional activities and agreements but does not explain subsequent project results, export values, or whether the partnerships achieved their business targets.
Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI (2023b) Joint Working Group	Reports the first Indonesia–UAE Joint Working Group held on 21–23 November 2023. It identifies government representatives, Indonesian defense	Continued industrial partnerships, stronger coordination between institutions, and further	Provides information about follow-up after the 2020 MoU and 2022 protocol. It identifies industrial	The publication provides more detail about ongoing cooperation than earlier agreement announcements. However, it does

	companies, and UAE partners. The meeting reviewed existing cooperation and discussed industrial projects, including the 163-meter LPD, vessel-related activities, training, simulators, and supply chain cooperation.	development of defense technology and production activities.	activities under discussion, the participating companies, and plans to continue bilateral coordination.	not present a complete evaluation of project costs, technical achievements, production results, or technology transfer outcomes.
KBRI Abu Dhabi (2025) IDEX/NAVDEX Exhibition	Reports the opening of the Indonesia Pavilion at IDEX/NAVDEX 2025 and participation of eleven Indonesian defense industries, including PT PAL, PTDI, PT Pindad, Infoglobal, DAHANA, and LEN. It explains the embassy's support for international promotion and cooperation.	Greater international recognition of Indonesian defense products, export opportunities, new industrial partners, and stronger defense relations with the UAE and other countries.	Confirms Indonesia's participation in the exhibition and identifies the companies and defense products being promoted. It also shows diplomatic support for Indonesian industries in international markets.	The report mainly discusses promotion and participation. It does not provide completed sales figures, confirmed export results, or evaluations of earlier bilateral industrial projects.
Setkab RI (2025) Eight Indonesia–UAE Agreements	Reports eight agreements announced during the presidential meeting in Abu Dhabi on 9 April 2025. The agreements cover several sectors and include an MoU between PT Pindad and Ninety Degree General Trading LLC. The publication presents this cooperation as part of broader strategic relations.	Stronger bilateral relations, new investment and business opportunities, and continued cooperation between Indonesian and UAE institutions.	Confirms the announcement of eight agreements and identifies the institutions involved. It provides evidence of a new defense industrial commitment involving PT Pindad.	The publication does not explain the detailed work plan, production activities, or later results of the PT Pindad agreement. It reports the commitment rather than an evaluation of project implementation.

Government Reporting on Indonesia–UAE Defense Industrial Cooperation (2020–2025)(Source: Author's analysis of official government publications from Kemhan RI (2020, 2022a, 2022b), Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI (2023a, 2023b), KBRI Abu Dhabi (2025), and Setkab RI (2025))

Table 2 shows that government publications focus more on defense agreements and diplomatic activities than on the results of cooperation. The Ministry of Defense reports explain

the objectives of Indonesia–UAE partnerships. It includes defense technology development, joint production, and opportunities to expand Indonesian defense products into international markets. These publications help the public understand government commitments and the expected benefits of cooperation. However, the reports still lack detailed information about project achievements, such as completed production and technology transfer results. This makes it difficult for the public to understand the progress of defense industry projects and the results achieved after the agreements were signed. Providing more information about project developments and completed activities would help explain the implementation of Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation.

Although government publications provide limited details about the results of defense industry cooperation, reports from the defense industry offer additional information about the development of these partnerships. PT PAL provides an example through its publications on cooperation with UAE defense industries in shipbuilding and marine defense systems for the international market in February 2023 (PALCOID 2023a, 2023b). The UAE's Strategic Development Fund also announced a USD 100 million supply chain financing arrangement to support PT PAL's defense industry activities (Emirates News Agency 2023). These reports show that the partnership involved commitments to develop maritime defense projects and provide financial support for their implementation. PT PAL's publications also play an important role in public communication by providing further details about the cooperation and the support planned for its development. However, the available reports still provide limited information about completed projects and the implementation of the announced financing arrangement.

Reports from other defense industries also provide additional information about Indonesia–UAE cooperation in the aerospace and land defense sectors. In 2025, PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) reported plans to provide maintenance services for the UAE's CN235 aircraft and expand cooperation with Calidus in aircraft development and production (Indonesia Aerospace 2025a, 2025b). PT Pindad reported agreements with UAE partners on ammunition and investment. It was announced during IDEX 2025 (PT Pindad 2024, 2025). UAE-based EDGE Group also reported partnerships with PT Pindad in 2024 and with Republikorp in 2025 (EDGE Group 2024, 2025). In the defense electronics sector, Infoglobal announced an agreement with AMMROC on avionics development in February 2025 (Infoglobal 2025). These publications show that defense industry cooperation covers several

sectors and involves commitments to technology development, production, and investment. They also provide more details about the activities and plans of participating industries, which are limitedly explained by government publications. This additional information helps the public understand the development of bilateral partnerships, although the reported agreements do not confirm that all planned projects have been completed.

The Indonesian government also reported the progress of defense cooperation through the Joint Working Group meeting held in Abu Dhabi in November 2023. Representatives from both countries discussed existing partnerships and reviewed defense industry projects following the agreements signed in 2020 and 2022 (Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI 2023b). This activity shows that bilateral coordination continued after the earlier agreements and gives the public information about their follow-up. Indonesia's participation in IDEX/NAVDEX in 2023 and 2025 offers further evidence of government support for international defense partnerships (Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI 2023a; KBRI Abu Dhabi 2025c). Through these reports, the public can follow Indonesian companies' involvement in international exhibitions and their efforts to develop cooperation with foreign partners.

The Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi documented several defense industry activities throughout 2025. Its official reports covered the agreement between PT Pindad and Ninety Degree as well as partnerships announced during Indo Defence 2025 and other cooperation involving companies from both countries (KBRI Abu Dhabi 2025d, 2025b, 2025a). Through these reports, the embassy provides information on the companies involved and the activities that support bilateral partnerships. The publications show that the Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi has provided information on the relationships within these cooperations. It helps the public to understand the progress of these partnerships from several publications.

The reports in this study show that government institutions and defense industries provide different information about Indonesia–UAE defense cooperation. Government publications focus on bilateral agreements and diplomatic activities. They include meetings and international defense exhibitions held by both countries. Reports from the defense industry provide more information about planned projects and the commitments made by both countries. It includes technology development, production, and investment to strengthen the projects. Both sources have helped the public to understand the development of defense cooperation. However, the information about completed projects and their results remains limited. The government needs to integrate government publications with information from the defense industry to provide a clearer picture of project progress and achievements.

Government Transparency and the Limits of Defense Cooperation Information Disclosure

The government also needs to examine information published on official digital platforms regarding Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation from 2020 to 2025. It could give information about the government communication to show the commitments and project developments to the public. Meijer (2013) discusses government transparency through three perspectives such as strategic, cognitive, and institutional. The strategic perspective focuses on the government's explanation to share the cooperation objectives and the benefits that are expected. The cognitive perspective examines the way official reports describe the activities and progress of defense projects. The institutional perspective examines the role of each government agency in reporting these activities and providing information through its official website. This study uses these perspectives to examine official reports on Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation. Table 3 presents the results of the analysis of bilateral agreements and the reported progress of defense industry projects.

Table 3.

Transparency Perspective	Focus of Analysis	Evidence from Government Publications	Information Gaps	Implications for Transparency
Strategic	Examines the purposes of government communication and the presentation of defense industrial cooperation as part of bilateral relations and national industrial development.	Kemhan's 2020 publication introduces bilateral defense commitments. Its 2022 reports explain the industrial development protocol and partnerships involving PT PAL, PTDI, and PT Pindad. The government presents technology cooperation, joint production, and wider markets as expected benefits. Setkab's 2025 publication places the PT Pindad–Ninety Degree agreement within broader bilateral relations.	The publications emphasize policy commitments and future benefits. They provide less information about achieved production targets, completed technology transfer, and the actual contribution of individual agreements. The documents do not reveal the government's internal communication strategy.	Government priorities and cooperation objectives are made public. However, the emphasis on agreements and expected benefits gives readers more information about policy direction than evidence of industrial achievements.

Cognitive	Examines the clarity and content of information available to readers, including the distinction between signed agreements, planned projects, reported activities, and completed results.	Kemhan's July 2022 report identifies industrial partners and cooperation areas in naval, aerospace, and land systems. Ditjen Pothan's November 2023 Joint Working Group report discusses existing partnerships, the 163-meter LPD project, supply chain activities, and plans for continued cooperation. Reports from IDEX/NAVDEX also identify participating industries and promotional activities.	The selected publications provide limited information about project schedules, completed production stages, technology transfer outcomes, and measurable results. Follow-up meetings and exhibitions confirm continued engagement but do not establish project completion.	Official reports help readers identify participating institutions and follow-up activities. More information about non-sensitive project milestones and reported outcomes would provide a clearer account of implementation. Actual public understanding cannot be determined from document analysis alone.
Institutional	Examines the role of government institutions in publishing information, the differences between their reporting responsibilitie s, and the continuity of information across official websites.	Kemhan reports defense agreements and industrial partnerships. Ditjen Pothan provides information about defense exhibitions and the Joint Working Group. Kemlu and KBRI Abu Dhabi communicate bilateral diplomacy and industrial promotion, while Setkab reports presidential meetings and major agreements, including those announced in April 2025.	Information about the same bilateral relationship appears across different government websites. The selected publications do not provide a single record connecting each agreement with later project developments and evaluation results. The available documents do not establish whether such a reporting system exists elsewhere.	Institutional responsibilities influence the scope and detail of public reporting. Clear references to previous agreements, subsequent developments, and responsible institutions could improve the continuity of government information without requiring the disclosure of sensitive defense data.

Government Transparency in Indonesia–UAE Defense Industrial Cooperation (2020–2025) (Source: Author's analysis based on Meijer (2013); Kemhan RI (2020, 2022a, 2022b); Ditjen Pothan Kemhan RI (2023a, 2023b); Kedubes RI Abu Dhabi (2025); and Setkab RI (2025))

Table 3 shows that government publications provide more information about defense agreements and objectives. It still lacks reports on completed projects and results. The strategic perspective shows that government publications explain Indonesia's plans to strengthen its defense industry through cooperation with the UAE. These plans include

technology development and partnerships between defense industries from both countries. The cognitive perspective focuses on the information provided about the progress of these partnerships. For example, the 2023 Joint Working Group report describes discussions on existing agreements and ongoing defense projects. This report shows that both countries continued their cooperation after the agreements were signed. However, the selected publications provide limited details about completed production and technology transfer results. This limitation is important because public access to information does not always ensure government accountability (Fox 2007). Providing clearer reports on project achievements would help the public understand the results of defense cooperation and assess the progress of government commitments.

The government has a responsibility to explain their decisions and actions to the public as part of government accountability (Bovens 2007). In the defense cooperation with the UAE, the Indonesian government has published information about defense agreements and activities. These reports help the public understand the development of defense bilateral partnerships between both countries. However, it still lacks detailed information about completed projects and the results. It creates difficulty for the public to assess the progress and achievements of government commitments. As a result, the government needs to improve accountability by providing more information about project developments and achievements while protecting sensitive matters related to national security.

The institutional perspective focuses on the role of government institutions in providing information about Indonesia–UAE defense cooperation through official websites. The Ministry of Defense and the Directorate General of Defense Potential have reported defense agreements and partnerships between defense industries as well as ongoing project activities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indonesian Embassy in Abu Dhabi provide information about diplomatic relations and bilateral cooperation. The Cabinet Secretariat also reports major agreements announced during presidential meetings. Each institution publishes information based on their responsibilities. As a result, reports about the same partnership can appear on different government websites. These publications provide information about cooperation activities. However, the reports remain fragmented across government websites and still lack an explanation about the progress of earlier agreements. Each government institution needs to coordinate to help connect this information and provide the public with a clearer understanding of project developments and achievements.

Government transparency in the defense sector must consider public access to information and the protection of national security. Indonesia's Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure gives citizens the right to access government information. However, certain information related to national defense and security can be restricted to protect national interests. Article 19 requires public institutions to assess the potential consequences of disclosing information before deciding whether to keep it confidential (Republic of Indonesia 2008). This means that restrictions on public access must consider the potential risks of disclosing sensitive information. The government needs to identify information that can be shared with the public. This can include reports on the progress and achievements of defense industry cooperation. It should not reveal the confidential details about the projects. Providing the selected information would help the Indonesian government strengthen transparency and improve public understanding of its defense cooperation with the UAE.

CONCLUSION

The Indonesian government has used official websites to report the development of defense industry cooperation with the UAE from 2020 to 2025. These publications provide information about industry defense agreements and partnerships that involve PT PAL, PTDI, PT Pindad, and several UAE defense industries. The cooperation began with a defense agreement in 2020 and developed further through the agreement on defense industry protocol in 2022. Furthermore, both countries strengthened their defense relationship by holding discussions through the Joint Working Group in 2023 and promoted defense industry partnerships at international exhibitions. These activities show that defense diplomacy has the role in maintaining bilateral relations and supporting cooperation between defense industries. The government reports allow the public to understand the defense agreements between both countries and the activities to strengthen their defense industries.

The government provides more information about defense agreements and planned activities than the results of their implementation. Official publications describe the expected benefits of partnerships between Indonesian and UAE defense companies, including opportunities for technology development and joint production. The selected reports contain fewer details on completed projects and technology transfer achievements, and offer limited discussion of project evaluation. Information about these partnerships also appears across different government websites because each institution reports activities related to its responsibilities. This makes it difficult for the public to follow the development of cooperation from the signing of agreements to the results achieved. Providing clearer updates on project

progress and completed activities would help the public understand the outcomes of Indonesia–UAE defense industry cooperation.

Improving government transparency in defense cooperation requires clearer information about the progress and results of bilateral agreements. Public institutions should report completed activities and project achievements so people can understand how earlier commitments have developed. These updates can focus on information that does not affect national security. By examining official digital communication, this study emphasizes the importance of reporting. Not limited to defense agreements but also the activities and results of their implementation. The research contributes to understanding government transparency in the defense sector and the role of digital communication in providing information about international partnerships. Future studies can examine how government institutions report project developments and how the public understands the information they provide.

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