



African Continental Free Trade Area in Indonesia: Analyzing Its Impact

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v9i8.3928>

Abstract

All States which joined in African Union would like to conduct a huge agenda regarding their economic journey, both for long and short term. The main purpose of this road-map is to boost their internal economic activity, including economic integration among African Countries. This study will elaborate the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) design and the road-map of the project with Indonesia point of view as their economic counterpart. The study would provide results regarding AFCFTA impact to Indonesia after the Agenda settled and started to implemented. All of the States in Africa Region are important partner to Indonesia. In historical context, Indonesia have built up some bilateral cooperation among African Nations. With all of the reality, the presence of the AFCTA would bring a brand new journey with some adjustment. In short, it will create several impact to Indonesia. Moreover, Indonesia involved directly on AFCFTA establishment, Indonesia Africa Forum already held in Bali on 2018 as the medium of the cooperation between Indonesia and several African Countries, the forum full of upcoming economic cooperation proposal discussion among states. This article also aims to reviews and investigates how Indonesia will deal with current and further condition. Based on the theoretical approach used, this article argues that Indonesia will constructs a positive trend toward AFCFTA. Its proven with data which show us Indonesia and African States economic activities have increase during the period of the AFCFTA implementation. Moreover, Indonesia always give their strong commitment upon each step of AFCFTA journey.

Keywords: *African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA); Economic Cooperation; African Union; Indonesia Africa Forum; Positive Trend Toward AFCFTA*

1. Introduction

International Relations itself have its own unique characteristic, the subject divided into several grand concentrate. However, the concentrate itself attract some actors to do a research regarding occurrence cases which give some impact to the international interactions on world order, all of the variable from the root causes will be studied immediately. This kind of trend still exist from the conventional one until our modern era. Economic cooperation is one of the concentrate on international relations subject. Economic sector always has its own appeal side. It is because one of the main purpose among all nations is to strengthen their economic growth for their existence stability.

There were so many economic agreement scheme which exist in our world order, each day will be a new chapter for some agreement, it cant be separated from our world order. Treaty which bind more than two countries (bilateral relations) is a common thing in our modern era. Basically, international trade

philosophy stated “trading is one of the fundamental freedom, with this kind of freedom context everyone could be an actors to join the trading system itself. This freedom is detached from several distinction, for instance but not limited to religion, ethnic group, faith, juristic stuff, and so on. This statement is a parallel opinion with have mentioned by free market followers, which put their focus on trading right is also a native right (Doing M, 2016, 67-74).

Agreement scheme occurrence for sure cant be separated from states’ national interest motif, its should be taken by the promoter to fulfill their main goals. The agreement scheme which has a focus on economic sector is a vital tools for a nations, it will give a huge impact to the related nations itself, not only on their economic aspect, but also several aspects which is significant for a country. The trend of blooming of economic agreement leads international system to determine some regulation and convention upon the activities which will regulated involved parties. This is a preventive solution to keep our international system stay on the track, have a good stability, and getting better for all of its society. It will prevent a monopoly dispute, market protection with unreasonable reason, and some other kind of destructive action towards economic activities. In the other hand, the system want world economic activities index increased day by day.

One of the common existing scheme in our international economic activities is for sure free trade agreement between countries or among nations in certain region or even including some actors which already cross the region border itself. The truth definition regarding free trade agreement based on United States International Trade Administration statement is A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is an agreement between two or more countries where the countries agree on certain obligations that affect trade in goods and services, and protections for investors and intellectual property rights, among other topics.

As what this article have mention above, regulation and convention that arrange all of the point regarding international economic activities which conducted by certain institution is necessary to keep the stability of the scheme that related to our international economic activities for instance, free trade agreement. All of the terms that world order needed already composed by World Trade Organization (WTO), and its parallel organizations. WTO itself established after General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) do exist. GATT somehow become a particular forum for years before we have WTO or other organizations which could take a control regarding international economic activities regulation.

This article would like to elaborate briefly the history of GATT and WTO existence in our world order particularly in our international economic communities. Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act is a United States policy which ruled regarding import tax and duty to protect their domestic economic growth. This policy in charged since 17 June 1930. United States take this kind of action as a form of their response regarding world great depression at the time. Other countries somehow triggered to take same action as United Stated did, they want to form a protection policy regarding their domestic goods and market. As of 29 March 1934, “House of Representatives” of United States agree to the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act Policy, this Policy give Franklin D Roosevelt (the 32nd president of the United States from 1933 until 1945) rights to determined all of the tax and duty amount, beside of that, Franklin also have a right to conduct economic bilateral agreement without United States Congress feedback. International actors love this policy, the policy successfully become an answer to all tackles all of the great depression issue at the time, its a sunshine in a nightmare.

Pots the world war II tragedy, international economic conditions getting better day by day. On 18 February 1956, Economic and Social Council of the United Nations declares to conduct an International Conference which purpose to discuss all of the world needed regarding international trade activities. At the same time, Economic and Social Council of the United Nations already formed special committee to traverse “International Trade Organization”. The international conference be held for less than a year, from 21 November 1947 until 24 March 1948. The final result of this meeting is Havana Charter. Beside of give their focus on establishing a international trade organization existence who can become a person in charge on our international economic activities, they have bring out GATT first as the outcome of their agenda, GATT do exist at the time because all of the party who involved on the conference don’t want to wait for the International Trade Organization without doing anything. By data, there were 23 countries

who give their sign on the first GATT blue print, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Myanmar, Canada, Ceylon, Chili, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, South Rhodesia, Syria, South African Union, England, and United States. GATT is a form of international trade agreement at the time. Inside GATT blue print we can find out some policies regarding international trade management.

On 21 April 1951, international economic activities increased significantly, in this year we could find 147 agreement among nations which involved more than 8.700 goods on the agreement itself. On June 1953 there were another 33 countries who give their sign on GATT. Its a proof that GATT take an important role on the enhancement of the international economic activities. All of the materials inside the GATT blue print and all of the variable aspects observed as good values because GATT could become a positive stimulus to enhance the international economic activities. The initiative of GATT establishment rated as a right decision at the time. By the time of 1986 the GATT discussion and negotiations already held 8 times, in 1947: Geneva, in 1949 : Armecy, in 1950/1951 : Torquay, in 1955/1956 : Geneva, in 1961/1962 : Diflon Round, in 1963/1967 : Kennedy Round, in 1963/1979 : Tokyo Round, in 1986 : Uruguay Round.

In 1994 GATT already have 128 countries as its signatories. By the time of 1995, finally WTO officially established to take the GATT role which already running since 1947. WTO construction is inaugurated on Uruguay Round which conducted on 1986 until 1994. After WTO officially running it our world order they immediately take an action to launch the new blue print of GATT, with several adjustments and additional points, this blue print name is GATT 1994. GATT 1994 replace the old GATT to take in charge for all of the international economic activities. On this timeline, all of the countries who already give their signatories to the old GATT officially become WTO member states, WTO also give their warm welcome for the new joiner.

Beside of GATT itself, we also could find out about The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which also become the regulations parameter of our international trade activities. GATS start running on January 1995, this product established as one of the result on Uruguay Round. GATT and GATS put their focus on hard-material that related to goods and services, in the other hand TRIPS put its focus on soft-materials stuff which related to intellectual property, including but not limited to Science, Knowledge, and Creativity. Both GATS and TRIPS, are the product which formed as the result of Uruguay Round. Both of it become a trending topic to be discuss on 1986 until 1994.

With all of the regulations and policies facility after the establishment of WTO it becomes a turning point for all of the nations, all of the nations want to enhance their economic activities on international market through this facilities, all of them conduct some new free trade agreement between or among countries and its actors. A country with a developing status wont left behind, on the contrary they are actively contributed on international market to increased their status level and existence. They have one main purpose to increase their economic standard to the whole new level. One of the requirement to have a good penetration in international market is the integration without borders within particular states (Juned & Salam, 2018, 363-369).

This is on a line with Mckinsey Global Institute statement regarding data of African Region has a huge chance to increase their economic standard on this positive competition. This means, African Region soon or later will become an important actor with their new role on international market. This chance takes world prediction. All of the business actors on African Region give their warm welcome regarding this facts, they have increase their economic activities with the result of one billion US Dollar income each year (www.mckinsey.com, 2016). Africa will become a great sun shine on our international market, they will show us their gorgeous potential confidently. Clearly all of the countries on African Region wont left behind with another WTO member states. They want to increase their domestic activities, furthermore, they want to contribute in several aspects on international market system. They have a road-map to make it happen through a continental free trade area scheme. To have some deep research regarding the topic itself and also to comprehend the topic clearly literature review is strongly needed,

therefore all of the materials could be well delivered. It is an important point to make sure this article is on line with the previous article which discuss the same topic and do not have invalid substance.

The article which composed by Lenin Tinashe Chisaira with “AfCFTA 2018: The Continental Free Trade Area, Neo-Liberalism and Africa’s Resource Curses” title however strongly attractive to take into consideration. This article is published by Young African Leaders Journal of Development. This article shows us about AfCFTA timeline in a nutshell, from the process until the program is running on related region. We can find several things regarding African Region in this article including but not limited to African States characteristics commonly and some issues that they have been through. Based on this paper, even-though Africa have a massive amount of natural resources and raw materials as long as they still have some dispute on their region it could be their own obstacles to conduct an economic agenda including AfCFTA

This article also mentioned some states’ government in the African Region can’t cultivate and process their natural resources with well services, this also have a negative impact regarding the final results of their raw material because they are still lack on their management system. Not only give its focus on African States’ government problem, this article also served us some recommendations which African Region should take and implemented regarding their tightrope with several grand theories. The problem analysis is well served, that’s a good point so people who read this article could easily understand the main idea about the situation in African region including but not limited to their assets, chances, and also obstacle and challenge.

Although we can find several data regarding AfCFTA and also related countries, however this article didn’t mentioned at least once in respect of AfCFTA impact to another countries outside the region of Africa itself including Indonesia as their trade partner. The analysis on current AfCFTA situation is great, however this article didn’t put its focus on global market analysis. Beside of that, this article never mention about the trade agreements among Africa Countries besides AfCFTA, which this agreements already exist before the AfCFTA itself. Regional Economic Communities (REC) are have a massive growth on Africa Region, its important to point on all of them because their existence are also give impact to the continent itself through their regulations and provisions. It should be on line with AfCFTA policies.

2. Method and Methodology

Basically, conducting a research means to do several agenda chain systematically with particular process to develop results regarding the main issues which related to the research itself (Creswell, 2014). There are several approach which researcher usually use, it depends on their own research interest. However, in a common term, the method of the research basically use the qualitative method, quantitative method, and merged version of both previous method (Creswell, 2014). With serious consideration regarding the main issues, this article would like to use qualitative approach to tackle all of the questions which related to social issues. The qualitative term itself will elaborate the research process with data comprehension regarding social cases which happened in this world, therefore this method will give some display to deeply give the results to answer the article main topic, the final journey of this method is conducting an interview to particular respondent to gain a valid report regarding the topic situation which happened, therefore the researcher could speculate clearly after that (Iskandar, 2009). This statement stated clearly, qualitative method not only keep its focus on data but also valid reaction which related to assumption is needed. The data should be supported the assumption as the article legal bases, therefore data which have linear point of view with the assumption is considered as the ideal one to avoid ill-advised. Researcher should comprehend their own data before jump into conclusion to make a good connection between data and assumption, its irony if the data and assumption stated different argument.

Qualitative method could be conducted with several approaches: participatory research, discourse analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, case study, phenomenology, and narrative (Creswell, 2014). The topic of this article which researcher pop out is related to cooperation among Indonesia and several African Countries which joined the AfCFTA scheme. With qualitative approached, valid data which

supported the main idea is needed. There are so many information resources which supported the previous raw assumption, its a good news. Researcher could fix the incorrect assumption if in the writing process the researcher find out a data which stated on the contrary with the previous assumption. In the other hand, if all of the existent data are have the same point of view with the assumption it means, the assumption no need to be questioned anymore. Beside all of that, researcher would like to elaborate several context of AfCFTA, its historical journey, all of the process which AfCFA already going through, until the final result of the road-map. All of the relevant data which related to the main topic will be displayed in this article. All of the explanation in this article produced by merged all of the first assumption with the relevant data which gained while composed the article itself. Qualitative approaches is usually have in depth study regarding the tragedy, region, states, organizations, or even particular individual object (Bakry U. S., 2015).

This article is belongs to the case study research type. In a nutshell, the reason why this article is belong to the case study research type is this article composed with several context which discuss some occurred phenomenon in our world order, beside of that this article also provide some relevant research data which related to the topic from reliable resources. This attached system contains several aspects, research could be done with a programme, tragedy, activity, or even an individual object (Creswell, 2014). The main topic of this article is AfCFTA impact to Indonesia's prior cooperation and in the future cooperation with African Nations, therefore the article would like to keep its focus only on that questions, without running out from the context. It will for sure help the researcher to be more bold on one phenomenon.

Data analysis technique is necessary to be conducted during composing this article to produced systematic results. To deliver a well structured papers, this article should be treated with a good systematic data because the data which provided before still need to be touched. It also help to gain a valid interpretation to answers all of the main questions in this article easily. Data which have collected before should be touched with particular approaches to become a data with good structured. It will help to verify this article main assumption regarding the topic. This article uses interactive approaches which contains data condensations, data presentations, last but not least pullout the conclusions (Huberman, 2014).

3. Results and Discussions

The will of increasing integration activity on Africa region is started in Organization of African Unity (OAU) vision. OAU established in 1963. Gamal Abdul Naser from Egypt, Kwane Nkrumah from Ghana, and Ahmad Sekounture from Guinea are the main actors who proposed the establishment of the OAU on 25 May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. On their first appearance OAU only have 32 state members. Although the main focus of this organization is an integration based system, however they only put their focus on political activities. They conduct this agenda because of some reasons which clearly occurred in African region, they have so many disputes among countries or even one country internal disputed which should be tackle. For instance, Somalia. Somalia is familiar with their own ethnic war which is a never ending story (Jatmika, 2016). OAU itself give their best effort to tackles all of the existing issues in the region, until 1993 this organization still working on genocide cases which happened in Burundi. that's why this organization never put their focus on another sector, they are really busy with the political one. They want to decreased the conflict on the continent to create an independent region. Time by time, OAU realized the importance of another sector, they start to pay their attention on stuff beside political matters. It can be assumed clearly by their 32 states members ambition who cooperate to develop public policies in several sectors, political, economic, social-cultural, health, science, defense and security. They develop this public policy to achieve their main agenda (Mahasiswa Pendidikan Sejarah Angkatan 2015 Universitas Sanata Dharma, 2018).

In a short period of time, their state members number increased to 53 countries. The position of this organization become more solid with their vision, it is written on OAU Charter which have all of the states member signatories in Abuja Treaty (1991). This is the main vision of AOU itself, promote and

integration and solidarity among countries, intensively build up some cooperation among countries to make a better environment of living in Africa citizen, respect each other sovereignty, wipe out all of the form of colonialism and apartheid actions, promote all of the cooperation activities on United Nations framework, and also make congenial policies among countries including but not limited to political, diplomacy, economic, education, social-cultural, health, members' wealth, science, defence and security among state members.

With all of this complex main agenda, OAU is judged no more suitable anymore. It should be transformed to tackle all of the contemporary issues which is more challenging than the conventional one which only have monotone issues. The organization should be positive development and Africa integration oriented. The region integrity have a high urgency condition to make a better economic activities among countries therefore they could make an impact on international market. African Union (AU) is the organization they are talking about, the debut of AU is replace their old brother OAU to answer all of the African countries needs. In historical background there are at least four summit prior the establishment of AU, Sirte Declaration on 9 September 1999 which held in Libya, Summit in Lome on 2000 which produced Constitutive Act of the African Union, Summit in Lusaka on 2001 which legitimize the AU implementation road-map, in the same time they approve the initiative to build up the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Last, AU is officially launch at Summit in Durban on 9 July 2002. The president Thabo Mbeki (South Africa) is selected as the first AU leader.

Day by day the concern to make an integrity system in African region is getting stronger, we can validate this statement by looking on AU's Constitutive Act, article 3 which mentioned "Accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent". One of the method that AU use to make an economic integration is trade scheme. On the AU conference in 2012, heads of state government produced a decision which related to Intra-African Trade, which written on Assembly/AU/Dec.394(XVIII). We can find 7 top priority list in this meeting that relates to African state economic activities I.e, trade policies, trade facilities, productive capacity, trade infrastructure, trade outlay, trade information, and market integration.

On 2012 AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government decide to put their concern of Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) besides of common market & economic and monetary community, its form of an action to obey the order in Abuja Treaty regarding African integration. CFTA expected could handle the discrepancy policies among Regional Economic Communities (REC) which exist in African region massively. CFTA have its own road-map which will be conducted by AU, Tripartite FTA among East African Community (EAC) - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) - the Southern African Development Community (SADC) started on 2014, ompletion of FTA(s) by Non-Tripartite RECs, through Parallel Arrangements similar to the tripartite initiative or reflecting the preferences of their member states, between 2012 and 2014, Consolidation between Tripartite FTA and another regional FTA to become CFTA from 2015 until 2016, finally the forming of CFTA on 2017.

On June 2015 in AU 25th conference all of the leaders from AU states members in favor to create a negotiation on the creation of the continental free trade are (CFTA) started on 2017. Subsequently AU give an instruction to the African Union Commission (AUC) to supervise the process and give the reports periodically. AUC also instructed to cooperate with African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), dan another parallel parties to have comprehend studies and also technical support which will be advantageous in CFTA road-map.

If we take a look on CFTA road-map, it should be a concrete and right step to harmonize the difference policies among REC effectively, therefor they could achieve an economic integration on the region. Ultimately, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is negotiated in 10th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on AfCFTA on 21 March 2018 at Kigali, Rwanda. In this agenda, the commission leader of African Union, Moussa Faki Muhamat delivered his speech regarding the Africa region integration, which are the AfCFTA will running smoothly with Free Movement of Persons, single African air transport market (SAATM), and single currency protocol.

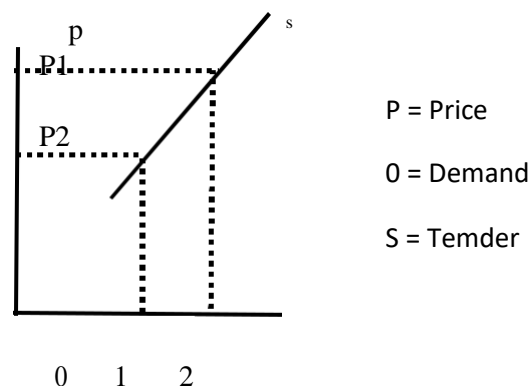
Africa region itself is something important to Indonesia, this is proven by Indonesia who be on the alert to become permanent observer on high-level conference of AU. International interaction among Indonesia and Africa countries is increased day by day. Retno L.P as the minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia also put her special concern in Africa region, after her election on 27 October 2014, Retno immediately come to Addis Ababa by herself to attend the 24th AU high-level conference. Based on historical story, it is the first time for Indonesia to have a minister visitation on Addis Ababa since Indonesia and Ethiopia start to have cooperation on 1961. The bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and several countries in Africa Region is escalate massively day by day, one of them is Ethiopia itself. One of the sector in Indonesia-Ethiopia cooperation is Economic. The trade between Indonesia and Ethiopia has positive trend, during 2013-2017 the trade activity is increase 2,6% and keep increase significantly year by year (Kemlu.go.id, 2019).

With the facts that Indonesia have several positive economic agreement with African Countries, for instance Ethiopia, therefore the establishment of AfCFTA would be give impacts to Indonesia regarding the on going agreement with several African countries. At this time, there were already 5 Indonesia's companies which have operational activity in Ethiopia, PT Sinar Antjo, PT Indofood, PT Bukit Perak, PT Sumber Bintang Rejeki dan Busana Apparels Group (Majid, D. H., 2022)

AfCFTA impact is more than near for Indonesia after the visitation of AU commissioner, Albert Muchanga in Indonesia Africa Forum as the speaker of the event which conducted at Bali, Indonesia on 10-11 April 2018. Muchanga delivered several chances in trade and industry sector which will be a good chance for both nation. Muchanga also stated that AfCFTA already signed by AU Member States at Kigali, Rwanda on April 2018. It's a proof of the AU member states commitment consistency regarding their market integration and free trade system vision in African Region.

3.1 Natural resources supply from Indonesia for African countries

Regional level trade agreement would make an integration among states process at its related area later or sooner, its necessary to be done to achieve the trade agreement effectively. The integration among African countries should be done with several fresh policies or the renewal version of the old regulations. The regional integration among all of the AU states would be give positive impacts to their trade partner who come from outside Africa region. The integration system would make the market become more huge, it will be on line with the increase number of productivity and distribution activity. The result will be increased as well. It will be become the stimulus to enhance economic activities between African countries and their non-African trade partner, including Indonesia. From all of the cases which exist regarding the increasing activity related to sector of natural resources supply and demand, this article would like to mention one of them. When African countries have level up their economic activities it will be in line of the increasing number of their demand related to existing supply. Before we jump into the case study regarding the natural resources itself, this article would like to elaborate the law of supply. The law of supply mentioned, the more expensive the item the more dealer would like to provide the amount of the item. In the other hand the cheaper the item itself, the dealer would like to decrease their offer regarding the related item. (Fahma, F., 2007)



The important things which we should take note regarding the continent of Africa is they can't provide all raw materials which they need by their-self. They also need parties who come from outside the African region to settle this issues. Indonesia is the countries who could help African states in this matters. Not only from African countries viewpoint, most of the nations in our world including China the giant power in modern economic have agreed that Indonesia is great not only on their amount of population but also on their natural resources (Juned & Saripudin, 2019, 231-246). In current situation we could take an example from Ghanaian cocoa butter manufacture companies. They realized the Indonesia beans potentials and use it as the main option for their sources (Tsowou, K., & Davis, J., 2021, 88-102.). After the AfCFTA running, the economic activities among African nations surely increased including Ghana itself. With this kind of situation, automatically Ghanaian cocoa butter manufacture needs more supply to support their activities, Indonesia would gain some advantages of this situation so they could provide more and more to increase their income. Beans only one examples regarding the raw materials which African states needs from Indonesia, there are more than just beans. With this case study, it is valid that Indonesia will get a positive impact because of the AfCFTA agenda regarding the increasing amount of Indonesia economic activities in African region. In the other hand Indonesia could fulfill their national interest without prejudice another parties since the context of this cooperation is international relations (Juned, 2019, 311).

Conclusion

In short, we can conclude that AfCFTA have a positive impact to Indonesia. However, the long path of AfCFTA should be controlled not only in the short-term period. It should be done so all of the parties which involved in the AfCFTA trade scheme have a great results. Indonesia still needs to achieve their national interest through AfCFTA program, in the other hand Indonesia want a sustainable cooperation, with this fact the African States satisfaction is need to be concerned. It will be so many obstacles along the road which occurred because this huge and long-term program still need some adjustments through their trial and error. The previous existing trade agreement which involved the countries who sign the AfCFTA agenda should be review once again, the regulations should be in line with the AfCFTA one. Briefly, the main purpose of the AfCFTA itself is to strengthen the intra-trade among African Nations with removing some trade barriers to make a low cost trade activity. It should be a chance and also a challenge for Indonesia, with African current situation the Indonesia market penetration eligibility will determine the final result itself. In the other hand African countries would like to get some support regarding investment and supplies. Indonesia can't be provide their supply or investment without do a deep research to avoid the worst case. This is the challenges which should be tackles by Indonesia. AfCFTA is the locomotive to create another upcoming trade agreements between Indonesia and African countries.

Qualitative approaches to compile several data before jump in to conclusion is a right move. We could conclude this article from several point of view with different perspective. Perspective from a sector beside economic itself will have a good role to make this article more comprehensive. It will be a beautiful result if they could merge to another smoothly. The cooperation implementation will determine the final result.

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