

DRIVERS THAT LEAD TO SUSTAINABLE SECURITY: AN ASEAN CONTEXT

Overview

In an increasing integrated, interconnected and interdependent world, countries and the region are not free from global risks in political, security, economy and technological aspects. Today's regional security environment is increasingly uncertain and unpredictable. There are more complex trends that crosscuts issues of concern. The concept of sustainable security identifies underlying drivers of insecurity which could range from climate change, competition of resources, socio-economic marginalisation and global militarisation. In ensuring sustainable security, navigating and managing these trends is crucial where countries and the region-wide identify opportunities and threats and possible strategies to deal with them.

Drivers of sustainable security in ASEAN

ASEAN wide

Within the wider ASEAN context, drivers for sustainable security has been rooted since its formation in 1967. This could be identified through firstly, ASEAN's collective leadership and political equality. ASEAN recognises the strength in unity through diversity and have evoked the ASEAN way of consultation and consensus. With equal footing, each ASEAN member states have a say in shaping the region's future.

Secondly, ASEAN has taken a comprehensive approach to security in which it is cognizant that the three pillars of ASEAN Community in Political Security Community, Economic and Socio-Cultural are interlinked and interdependent in building ASEAN Community. In this regard coordinated and collaborative efforts have undertaken in all three pillars. The cooperative feature in ASEAN framework has built resilience and cultivated trust and comfort level through various initiatives and efforts in confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy.

Thirdly, ASEAN has placed importance on cohesiveness and inclusiveness at both levels within internal ASEAN to become a more people-centered and oriented community. Externally, ASEAN aims to be open, flexible and outward looking in close cooperation with its dialogue partners and friends.

ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC)

In the realisation of APSC, ASEAN has underscored the importance to build the Community that is based on shared norms and rules of good conduct in inter-state relations, effective conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms and post-conflict peace building activities.

The shaping and sharing of norms developed over the years adheres to various principles. This includes non-alignment, fostering of peace oriented attitudes of ASEAN member states, conflict resolution through non-violent means, renunciation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and avoidance of arms race in Southeast Asia; and renunciation of the threat of the use of force. All of

these are embedded in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Declaration, the ZOPFAN, the TAC and the SEANWFZ regimes.

ADMM and ADMM Plus

From the defence aspects, drivers of sustainable security lay importance of establishing and reaffirming good ties between defence and military organisations. Looking at the defence and military platforms, ASEAN have progressed well at various levels of diplomacy and cooperative efforts in bilateral, regional and international arena.

DEFENSE/MILITARY DIPLOMACY & COOPERATION

ASEAN	ASEAN with Dialogue and Partners	Cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 ACAMM • 2001 ACDFIM & ANCM • 2002 AMIM • 2004 AACC • 2007 ADMM Retreat, ADSOM, ADSOM WG • 2011 ACMMC, AMOIM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1997 ARF HDUCIM • 2002 ARF DOD • 2002 SLD • 2005 ARF APSC • 2010 ADSOM Plus & ADSOM Plus WG • 2010 ADMM EWG MS, CT, MM, HADR • 2009 ASEAN-Japan Vice Minister Defense Forum • 2014 ASEAN-US Defense Ministers Informal Meeting & ASEAN-Japan Defense Ministers Roundtable • 2015 ASEAN-China Informal Defense Meeting • 2016 ASEAN-Russia Defence Ministers Informal Meeting • 2019 ASEAN-ROK Vice Defense Ministers Talk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1991 AARM • 2005 ARDEX • 2009 ARF DiREX • 2013 ADMM+ Exe HADR/MS & ADMM+ EWG HMA • 2016 ADMM+ Exe MS/CT & ADMM+ EWG CS • 2018 ASEAN-China Maritime Exercise • 1998 CHOD • 1999 WSPNS • 2010 PJ Forum • 2011 JIDD • 2012 SDD & International Security Moscow Conference • 2014 Xiangshan Forum

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ASEAN member states, through ADMM and ADMM Plus has made significant progress. Based on the principles, amongst others, for ADMM to be as the primary driving force and collective responsibility among ASEAN defence and military through development of common understanding on security issues.

Over the years, there is growing and stronger support towards the process. This is reflected with ADMM Plus Cooperation not only in its expanding EWGs but also the high-level exchanges among ASEAN ministers and vice ministers with their dialogue counterparts. There are also interest from countries like the UK, France, Canada and EU to be part or as an observer of the ADMM Plus. This in part is a recognition to the ASEAN that brings together partners for strategic dialogue that contributes to mutual trust and confidence.

The defence and military in ASEAN has moved from dialogue to a more action-oriented cooperation. In the last few years, the region saw multilateral exercises done between ADMM and ADMM Plus. This includes the HADR and MM Exercise in 2013, MS and CT Exercise in 2016, MS Exercise in 2016 and ASEAN-China Maritime Exercise in 2018 that aimed to improve their cooperation, coordination and

interoperability; enhances knowledge based on the sharing of best practices; and most importantly to reduce strategic mistrust among one another.

Yet there are challenges in managing the expectations of ADMM and ADMM Plus specifically as an emerging security architecture. Today, ASEAN increasingly faces delicate balance between national or domestic responsibility vs regional commitment as society becomes more involved and the broader interest of other countries for ASEAN to play a more prominent role. The use of ASEAN platforms such as the ADMM Plus, ARF and EAS to further their respective strategic interests calls for ASEAN to keep the agenda focused on the long- term vision to build on the ASEAN Community.

In practical terms, issues such as HADR, Counter-Terrorism and Maritime Security are also discussed in existing multilateral processes namely the AMM, ARF and EAS as well as within ASEAN+ 3 and cooperation with individual Dialogue Partners. The ADMM and ADMM Plus often overlaps in its agenda focus and cooperation with the ARF, only region-security dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region. There is no clear distinction between defence and security yet there is a need for synergy especially in light of constraints in resources and capabilities must be prioritised. The commitments towards practical cooperation particularly in planning of major exercises needs careful consideration and include scenarios that will enhance civil military readiness and response.

Conclusion

As the concept of sustainable security identifies underlying drivers of insecurity and place emphasis on preventive strategies to manage and resolve conflicts in addressing the future of security. This underscores the importance of resilience, early detection and fast recovery so the region remains agile and anticipatory to challenges ahead.

NADI could further contribute in defence and security discourse on strategic challenges with implications to ASEAN. This could cover developments of FoNOPs in East Asia, 'new' strategic concepts such as the Indo-Pacific Strategy of different extra-regional powers, understanding impacts of 4IR technologies and the impact of defence diplomacy towards building APSC and ASEAN Community as a whole.