

Drivers that lead to Sustainable Security

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SUMMARY

In today's globally connected world, a sustainable national security policy cannot be achieved through national capabilities alone. Security actions or resolutions based merely on containment would be ineffective in the long run as it will only create a pressure cooker effect. Chris Abbot of the Oxford Research Group singled out four main drivers of insecurities that sustainable security should focus which are Extreme climate changes, Race for resources, Marginalisation of the `majority world` and Global militarization.

Bilateral and multilateral engagement through defence diplomacy between AMS plays a pivotal role in addressing current security threats. Managing distrust (trust deficit) and building trust between AMS and other partners must be ramped up through more practical CBM. Escalating ethnic and religious conflicts within the region have caused the mass exodus of marginalized communities to flee and seek refuge in the neighboring states. This catastrophic humanitarian crisis has also greatly impacted Malaysia's social structure with emerging social issues such as the involvement of illegal refugees in transnational organized crimes, spread of epidemic diseases. AMS need to seriously work together in addressing the continuous influx of illegal immigrants and resolve it based on humanitarian grounds and adherence to human rights principle.

While terrorism has been recognized as serious threat to regional security, its impact on the economy cannot be disregarded. The launching of the Our Eyes Initiative (OEI) or ASEAN Our Eyes Initiative (AOEI) underscores the importance of multilateral cooperation given the transnational nature of the threat. Although there would be challenges in the operationalisation aspect of it, AMS should contribute expeditiously towards the full realization of this platform. The complexity of the South China Sea issue has increased with major powers confrontation, airspace over flights and issues of freedom of navigation. In order to preserve ASEAN Centrality and its leading role as a meaningful actor in the SCS issue, it is essential for it to achieve the peaceful resolution it has stressed in particular the Code of Conduct (COC).

For the past years the importance of HADR has been highlighted in numerous paragraphs within the Joint Declaration of the ADMM. Furthermore, AMS leaders at the highest level have all signed the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response in September 2016. Malaysia being the initiator of ASEAN Military Ready Group (AMRG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (AMRG on HADR) is currently in the process of operationalising and testing the AMRG on HADR SOP. It is hoped that AMS will give full support in providing relevant personnel during the testing of AMRG on HADR SOP.