



Ratification of Treaties by Indonesia

On 17 Jan 2023, Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong in his Facebook post welcomed Indonesia's ratification of three agreements, which he had signed with Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat on 25 Jan 2022.

These agreements are: the Treaty for the Extradition of Fugitives (ET), the Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA), and the Agreement on the Realignment of the Boundary between the Jakarta Flight Information Region (FIR) and the Singapore FIR.

Indonesia had ratified the FIR Agreement in Sep 2022, followed by the DCA and ET in Dec 2022.

“Indonesia's ratification of all three agreements... is a clear sign of the strength and maturity of our bilateral relationship, and our commitment to work together as close neighbours.”

MFA's statement on 17 Jan 2023

“The ratification of these agreements is a major step in resolving these three longstanding bilateral matters and lays a strong foundation for future cooperation.”

Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong in his Facebook post on 17 Jan 2023

DCA

- Allows the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to continue to conduct military training and exercises in Indonesia, with full respect for Indonesia's sovereignty over its territory, and in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Bilateral exercises such as Exercise Safkar Indopura (since 1989) and Exercise Elang Indopura (since 1980) provide an opportunity for both militaries to train together, build up their inter-operability and forge stronger personal and professional ties.

FIR Agreement

- Both countries agree to realign the boundary between the Jakarta FIR and the Singapore FIR.
- Indonesia will delegate to Singapore the provision of air navigation services in part of the airspace within the realigned Jakarta FIR.
- The Agreement will remain in force for 25 years and can be extended by mutual consent.

ET

- Fugitives from both countries who had committed 31 types of crime will be liable to be extradited. This applies to offences committed up to 18 years ago.

Sources: PM's FB page, MFA, ST & CNA, 17 Jan

Terrorism as a Pertinent Threat in Singapore

In Oct 2022, 38-year-old teacher with the Ministry of Education, Mohamad Khairul Riduan Mohamed Sarip, was arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for his intent to travel to Palestine to carry out armed violence against Israel.

Khairul's interest in the Israel-Palestine conflict had been piqued in 2007 after viewing social media videos on purported Israeli acts of aggression against Palestinians.

Khairul also used social media to call on others to join him in carrying out armed violence.

Khairul was not the first Singaporean to have intended to carry out armed violence due to the Israel-Palestine conflict. In Feb 2021, 20-year-old Amirull Ali was arrested for planning to carry out a knife attack on a Jewish synagogue at Waterloo Street.



“Our people’s sense of the threat (terrorism) is reducing when in actuality, the risk is increasing.”

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K. Shanmugam, in his speech at Home Team Academy on 18 Jan 2023



“It is important for the public to remain vigilant to signs that someone around us may have become radicalised, so that we can intervene early to avert a tragedy.”

MHA's statement released on 11 Jan 2023

Remarks by Minister K Shanmugam

- In a speech on 18 Jan 2023, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr. K Shanmugam cited Khairul’s and Ali’s incidents as examples of how terrorism remains a pertinent threat to Singapore.
- Citing a 2021 Ministry of Communications and Information survey, Mr. Shanmugam highlighted that there was a seven-percentage-point drop among respondents who believed that Singapore is a target for terrorists, compared to when the survey was last done in 2019.
- This indicates that Singaporeans might not be as mindful of the threat of terrorism despite its increased risks.

Sources: MHA, CNA, 11 Jan



Importance of Regionalism to Peace and Security

The 11th IISS Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) Sherpa Meeting (Sherpa 2023) was held from 15 to 17 Jan 2023 at the Shangri-La Hotel, with approximately 96 government and non-government delegates from 27 countries, regional groupings, and international organisations in attendance.

This year, Senior Minister of State for Defence Mr Heng Chee How delivered the keynote address. In his speech, he highlighted how regionalism could help countries stabilise and strengthen regional cooperation and the regional security architecture amidst geopolitical uncertainties.

SMS Heng acknowledged that regionalism is under stress due to great power rivalry, protectionism, and militarisation. Recent challenges to the international rules-based order also undermine the robust functioning of regional organisations.



Sources: MINDEF, IISS



In a tumultuous world, ... effective regionalism can be a bulwark and a stabilising force. ... We must think ahead and work together to secure peace and stability for the good of all.

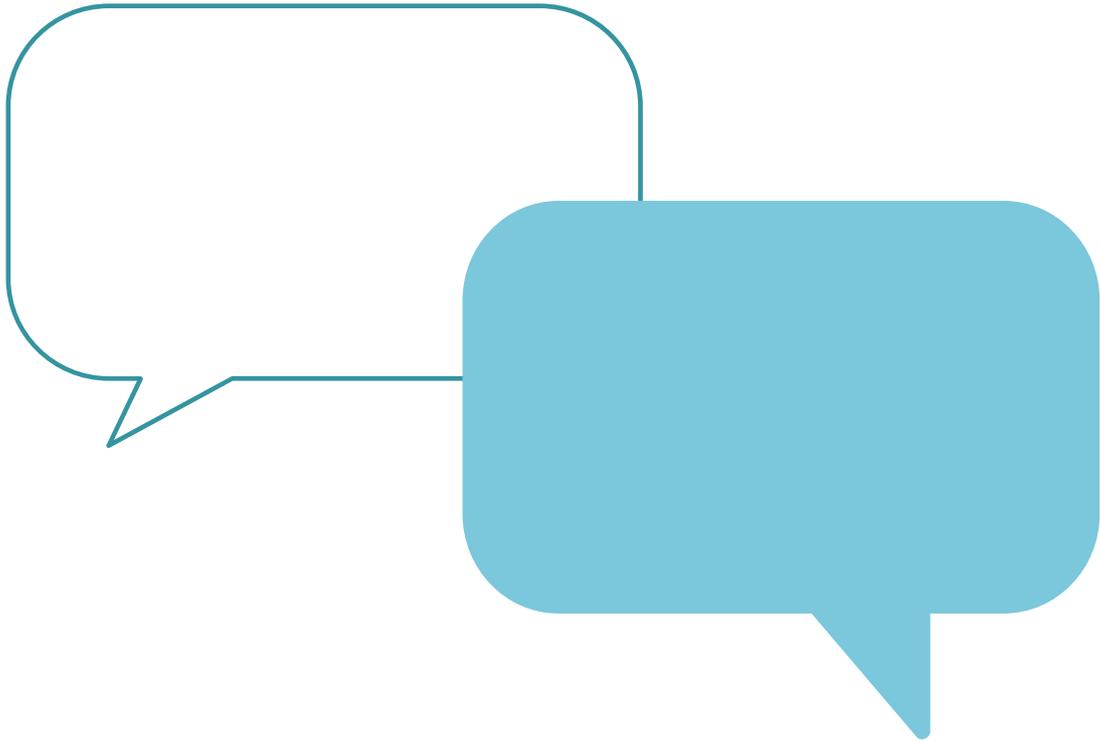


Senior Minister of State for Defence Mr Heng Chee How in his Keynote Address at Sherpa 2023

Main Points of Keynote Address

SMS Heng emphasised that regionalism has to adapt to the times, and offered three ways that effective regionalism can be achieved:

- **First**, countries have to revitalise a collective commitment to building a cohesive region via existing regional institutions. For ASEAN, this would be expressed in how member states should work for the collective interest of the regional group even as individual states pursue their national interests.
- **Second**, sub-regional groupings can be effectively harnessed to target specific issues that may not affect every regional member, but will still contribute to the overall security in the region.
- **Third**, regional organisations must be prepared to “adapt their internal mechanisms and adjust to new external realities”, such as when geopolitical arrangements or tensions from outside the region arise.



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