

## **Strengthening Regional Security Through The Establishment Of The Asean Counter Terrorism And Peacekeeping Task Force Led By Indonesia In Collaboration With The United States**

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### **Abstract**

*In recent years, the Southeast Asian region has witnessed an increase in terrorism threats, posing significant challenges to its security and stability. To address this pressing issue, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has taken a proactive approach by establishing the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force. This research aims to explore the formation of this task force, with a specific focus on Indonesia's key role in cooperation with the United States, and assess its impact on strengthening regional security. The main objective of this research is to examine the reasons behind the establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force and understand the factors that underlie Indonesia's selection as the leading sector. Using qualitative research methods, this study seeks to gather insights into the motivations, strategies, and goals of this collaborative effort. The research findings will elucidate the importance of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force, where Indonesia plays a crucial role as the leading sector in maintaining regional security stability in ASEAN, collaborating with the United States. Through close partnership with the United States, Indonesia has the potential to become the leading sector in the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force.*

**Keywords:** ASEAN, ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force, regional security, Indonesia, United States.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The study of international security aims to understand the reasons and ways in which actors strive to create a threat-free environment. Within the context of international security studies, there are several ideas and concepts used to analyze current challenges. One concept frequently applied in the study of international security is cooperative security. Cooperative security is an idea that seeks to create security through dialogue, consultation, and the establishment of mutual trust, without necessarily involving formal institutions. The concept of cooperative security aims to build relationships based on shared values about security, where each actor has a responsibility as part of the international community. One example of implementing the concept of cooperative security is the cooperation among states in the Southeast Asian region in addressing the threat of terrorism. Through this cooperation, these states work together to collectively confront and counter the threat of terrorism (Katsumata, 2006). This approach involves the exchange of intelligence information, training of security personnel, and operational coordination in dealing with terrorism in the region.

Terrorism is a serious problem that needs to be addressed within the context of security in Southeast Asia and the operations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Militancy and violence associated with separatist movements and religious organizations have long occurred in various Southeast Asian countries. Terrorist attacks on the Philippines, Indonesia, and other countries in the region have occurred in the past. In the southern Philippines, for example, Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have been fighting to

establish an independent Islamic state. Laskar Jihad has sent extremist Muslim militants to Ambon, the capital of the Maluku province, where Christian and Muslim groups clashed (Emmers, 2009). While the events of 9/11 have caused a sense of insecurity in many Southeast Asian countries, the Bali bombings on October 12, 2002, which claimed the lives of 202 people, indicated a shift from hard targets to soft targets and highlighted the threat of Islamic terrorism in Southeast Asia. Various researchers have recognized Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) as a key organization linked to al-Qaeda since 2002 (Gunaratna, 2007). Established in the 1990s by Abdullah Sungkar and Abu Bakar Bashir, JI is said to support the establishment of the Daulah Islamiah Nusantara, a pan-Asian Islamic state encompassing Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, as well as parts of Cambodia, southern Philippines, and southern Thailand (Ramakrishna, 2005). JI has been implicated in the attack on the Philippine embassy in Indonesia in August 2000, the Bali bombings in 2002, and the J.W. Marriott hotel bombing in Jakarta in August 2003. Recent incidents include the bombing of the Australian embassy in Jakarta in September 2004 and the Bali bombings in October 2005 (Emmers, 2009).

Terrorism in Southeast Asia is a significant problem for ASEAN countries. The presence of international terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the growing local terrorist networks, has caused significant losses in terms of human lives and socio-political stability (Solomon, 2020). To address this issue, ASEAN needs to develop comprehensive cooperation. However, ASEAN still faces several challenges in building multilateral cooperation to combat the terrorism threat (Saragih, 2017). First, ASEAN member states have different perspectives and approaches in dealing with terrorism (Pradnyana, 2022). Second, the defense capabilities of ASEAN member states differ in terms of defense infrastructure and counter-terrorism skills (Kaura, 2018). These issues can lead to terrorism proxies, which occur when governments fail to eradicate terrorism within their own countries, resulting in terrorism spreading to other nations (Olsen, 2014). To overcome these barriers, multilateral ASEAN cooperation is needed to encourage debate, discussion, and enhance defense capabilities in fighting terrorism. With the increasing activities of terrorist groups in Southeast Asia, defense and security have emerged as major challenges in ASEAN. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has taken an important step by establishing the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force, motivated by the awareness of the need for multilateral cooperation at the ASEAN level to address defense and security issues, including terrorism (Saptono, Sumertha, Alexandra, & Widodo, 2023).

Driven by the awareness of the need for multilateral cooperation at the ASEAN level in addressing defense and security threats, including terrorism, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has taken significant steps by forming the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force (Saptono, Sumertha, Alexandra, & Widodo, 2023). Indonesia, as a leading country in the Southeast Asian region, plays a crucial role in tackling security challenges, particularly in the fight against terrorism (Darajati & Syafei, 2019). With a strong commitment to regional stability and a history of grappling with domestic security threats, Indonesia has emerged as a key player in combating terrorism and fostering cooperation among ASEAN member states. This has paved the way for closer collaboration with the United States, an important partner in the establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force (Murphy, 2010). Indonesia's advantage in ASEAN stems from its strategic location, large population, and robust economy (Ali, Prakoso, & Sianturi, 2021). As the largest country in Southeast Asia, it holds significant influence over regional affairs. Additionally, Indonesia has made substantial progress in combating terrorism through the establishment of specialized counter-terrorism units, the implementation of comprehensive strategies, and ongoing efforts to promote deradicalization.

Realizing Indonesia's commitment and expertise in combating terrorism, the United States (US) has formed a strong partnership with the country to enhance regional security. The ASEAN-US cooperation, essentially, began in 1977 (kemlu.go.id, 2018). They have developed extensive collaboration based on the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015). The ASEAN-US cooperation framework encompasses 21 priority areas that support the formation of the ASEAN Community, consisting of three main pillars (kemlu.go.id, 2018): 1) Transnational Crimes, including Counterterrorism, 2) Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights Promotion, 3) Other Political and Security Cooperation, 4) Trade and Investment, 5) Financial Cooperation, 6) Intellectual Property Rights, 7) Small and Medium Enterprises, 8) Information and Communication Technology, 9) Transportation, 10) Energy Security and Clean Energy, 11) Science and Technology, 12) Disaster Management, 13) Public Health, 14) Environment, Biodiversity, and Climate Change, 15) Food Security, 16) Education and Human Resources, 17) Culture and Interpersonal Exchange, 18) Social Justice and Human Rights, 19) Social Welfare and Family Development, 20) Partnership for Development, and 21) Cross-Sectoral Cooperation. The friendship between the United States and ASEAN has been marked by trust, shared interests, and common goals to ensure peace and stability in the region. The United States has long recognized the importance of Southeast Asia as a strategic region and has actively engaged with ASEAN member countries to address common security challenges.

Furthermore, this collaboration has materialized in the establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force, where the United States has expanded its support and expertise to strengthen regional security efforts. Through this joint initiative, the United States aims to enhance the capacities of ASEAN member states in combating terrorism and contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. This partnership leverages advanced US counterterrorism capabilities, intelligence-sharing networks, and technical expertise to complement Indonesia's local knowledge and experience. The formation of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force represents a significant step toward a more coordinated and effective response to terrorism in Southeast Asia. By pooling resources, sharing intelligence, and conducting joint operations, ASEAN member states, led by Indonesia, can collectively address the evolving threat landscape and prevent terrorist actions more efficiently.

This research aims to examine the implementation and effectiveness of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force as a regional cooperation mechanism in addressing terrorism threats in Southeast Asia. By analyzing the cooperation between Indonesia and the US as a case study, this research is expected to contribute to understanding the importance of regional cooperation in maintaining security stability and combating terrorism in the region.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The primary objective of this research is to examine the rationale behind the establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force and understand the underlying factors that led to the selection of Indonesia as the main sector. Using qualitative research methods, including interviews, document analysis, and expert opinions, this research seeks to gather insights into the motivations, strategies, and objectives of this collaborative effort. Additionally, a literature review will be conducted to examine relevant literature and existing policies related to counterterrorism and peacekeeping in the Southeast Asian region. After data collection, the author will conduct qualitative data analysis using content analysis techniques to

uncover patterns and themes that emerge from the data. It is expected that this study's approach will provide a more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the partnership between Indonesia and the United States in forming the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force to ensure regional security in Southeast Asia from terrorism.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

According to Emmers (2009), when examining how Southeast Asian countries respond to terrorism, it is crucial to focus on key countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia. These governments have concerns about terrorism and the emergence of extremism. To effectively address terrorism, countries must collaborate, starting with strong domestic laws and law enforcement (Haacke & Morada, 2010). This section looks at how these countries approach terrorism holistically, utilizing a combination of security, law and order, socio-economic, ideological, and educational approaches. While their policies vary, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore have adopted holistic strategies, while Thailand and Malaysia rely more on direct counter-terrorism actions.

For instance, before the Bali bombing in 2002, Indonesia initially denied the existence of terrorist networks within its borders. Since then, Indonesia has amended its anti-terrorism laws, leading to the arrest of militant suspects (Goh, 2008). Indonesia has also developed "deradicalization" programs, where Muslim scholars and instructors are sent to conflict zones to counter radical ideologies (Muhammad & Hiariej, 2021). The government has recruited rehabilitated radicals to cooperate with law enforcement and encouraged hardline groups to distance themselves from violence.

### **The Urgency of Strengthening Regional Resilience for Countries in the Southeast Asian Region.**

After the 9/11 attacks, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines classified Abu Sayyaf as an international terrorist movement and requested military assistance from the United States to attack the group. To address the root causes of terrorism, particularly poverty, the country has implemented socio-economic policies and development projects (Emmers, 2009). However, the effectiveness of these programs has been questioned as terrorist attacks by groups like Abu Sayyaf continue. Furthermore, Singapore has adopted a holistic approach to national security, emphasizing total defense and embracing the concept of "homeland security" after 9/11. The city-state has detained terrorist suspects, enhanced interagency coordination, and adopted ideological, educational, and financial counter-terrorism measures (Aldis & Herd, 2006). The Muslim community has actively participated in these efforts, with scholars and groups condemning extremism, developing counter-ideology materials, and engaging in interfaith discussions. On the other hand, Thailand and Malaysia have primarily focused on direct security responses to terrorism. Thailand has been addressing Islamic extremism in its southern districts since 2004, mostly relying on security measures and paying less attention to comprehensive strategies (Mauzy & Job, 2007). Malaysia has also opted for a more direct approach, relying on anti-terrorism tactics rather than broader strategies.

The relationship between national and regional resilience is crucial in managing terrorist threats in Southeast Asia. The need for synergy between local and regional initiatives has been recognized by ASEAN member states. ASEAN takes a bottom-up security approach, emphasizing the importance of national resilience before building broader regional resilience. ASEAN has developed collaborative cooperation mechanisms and capacity-building to complement its own policies, reaching out to dialogue partners such as the United States and



China (Dinnata & Nuraeni, 2020). Declarations and coordinated actions have been developed to collectively condemn terrorism and address operational issues (Chow, 2005). Although these announcements have symbolic and political significance, they have had limited success in combating terrorism. Various efforts have been made both within and outside the ASEAN framework to enhance intelligence information sharing (Emmers, Comprehensive security and resilience in Southeast Asia: ASEAN's approach to terrorism, 2009). Informal meetings and retreats have been conducted to strengthen regional coordination in combating terrorism. However, instead of regional coordination, counter-terrorism cooperation has relied more on bilateral intelligence relationships.

ASEAN Security Community (ASC) is a project that represents ASEAN's emphasis on the principles of total security and non-interference. Through measures such as the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, the ASC aims to effectively respond to various non-traditional security issues, including terrorism (Haacke, The ASEAN Regional Forum: from dialogue to practical security cooperation?, 2009). However, the strength and influence of the ASC institution are still debated, and its formation is not expected to occur before 2020. ASEAN has also developed cooperative relationships with other countries. In a joint declaration with the United States, the importance of collaboration, intelligence sharing, and capacity-building in countering terrorism is emphasized. Collaboration with China and the European Union has also been sought to address non-traditional security issues. Overall, ASEAN's counter-terrorism strategy combines national resilience, regional cooperation, and coordination with foreign partners. Although various efforts have been made to enhance collaboration and address operational issues, further progress is needed in Southeast Asia to achieve comprehensive and effective counter-terrorism measures. Therefore, the importance of forming the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force will be elaborated upon, as it serves as a useful task force to support security stability in the Southeast Asian region, with Indonesia acting as the leading sector based on the cooperation between Indonesia and the United States in addressing domestic terrorism threats.

**Indonesia's position as the Leading Sector collaborating with the United States in establishing the Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force in Southeast Asia to address the threat of terrorism signifies Indonesia's role as a key participant in combating terrorism in the region.**

Indonesia and the United States have collaborated to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia. Their collaboration includes joint exercises in Indonesia, demonstrating their commitment to preventing terrorist attacks in the region. These exercises aim to enhance the capabilities of both countries and serve as a deterrent against planned terrorist actions. Indonesia has also taken a leadership role in establishing the Joint Intelligence Body named "Our Eyes," which works in cooperation with five other ASEAN countries. Similar to the "Five Eyes" partnership, this body provides surveillance and early identification of potential terrorist threats in Southeast Asia (Saptono, Sumertha, Alexandra, & Widodo, 2023). The United States has assisted Indonesia in various ways, including lifting restrictions on training with the Indonesian military unit, KOPASSUS, assisting in the establishment of the special anti-terrorism force, Densus 88, within the Indonesian National Police, and supplying advanced weapons and equipment. The close partnership between Indonesia and the United States has allowed Indonesia to take a leading role in combating terrorism in Southeast Asia. Both countries aim to build preventive measures against terrorism in Indonesia and the Southeast Asian region through ongoing collaboration. To effectively address the threat of terrorism, it is crucial to establish a strong "Counter Terrorism Task Force" that brings together key agencies from both countries, including intelligence agencies, police, military, and special forces.

Therefore, Indonesia has a significant opportunity to position itself as the leading sector in the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force. Quoted from Saptono, Sumertha, Alexandra, & Widodo (2023), this is due to several indicators: First, qualitative indicators show that since independence, Indonesia has made significant progress in addressing terrorism. Until 2023, there have been no bomb attacks using high explosives for suicide bombings in Indonesia, with the last incidents being the Bali bombings in 2002 and the JW Marriott bombing in 2003. Second, indicators of the state apparatus' capacity in handling terrorism, particularly the fact that only a small fraction of terrorists who have served their sentences rejoin terrorist networks. The government has implemented a comprehensive approach involving massive arrests (hard approach) alongside deradicalization, rehabilitation, reeducation, and preventive justice programs (soft approach), resulting in a drastic reduction in terrorist incidents each year. Third, there are ideological, cultural, and sociological approaches, such as marrying convicted terrorists in prison, regular visits to former terrorist inmates under the framework of family visits, establishing mosques and Islamic boarding schools for key figures (leaders) who become teachers, recruiting children of former terrorists. These kinds of approaches may only happen in Indonesia in counterterrorism efforts. Additionally, in Indonesia, core figures from various generations of terrorists known as "thogut" can have dialogues and establish close relationships with state authorities, and they are even invited as guest speakers on television shows. Fourth, Indonesia and the United States have a long history of cooperation in defense and security. This serves as a bargaining value for Indonesia in safeguarding national sovereignty and as a deterrent factor, as Indonesia's military strength is highly regarded by other ASEAN countries.

### **The Framework for the Establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force with the United States and Indonesia as the leading sector to support security stability in the Southeast Asian region.**

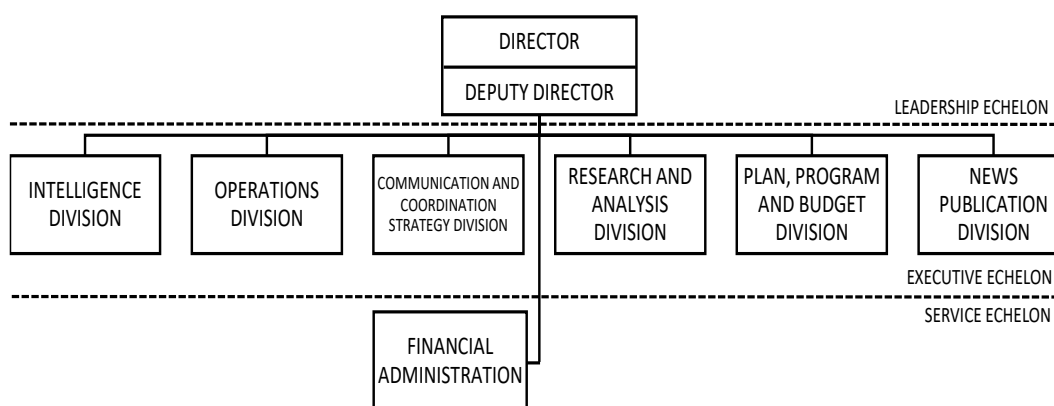
Currently, there is no universal and stable organizational entity for counter-terrorism cooperation, resulting in fragmented actions. In the field, various elements often lack coordination and even compete with each other, as seen in various agreements and exercises such as the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, Southeast Asia Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Agreement, ASEAN Joint Declaration on Counter-Terrorism, ASEAN Chiefs of Police, and ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The internal handling of counter-terrorism in Indonesia and regional cooperation within ASEAN have faced various challenges and yielded diverse results. To address this, further studies are needed aiming to replicate Indonesia's government approach to counter-terrorism in the formation of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force based on organizational and regulatory elements.

#### **a. Organization**

The organizational elements in this regard include the establishment of a leading sector, such as the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) in Indonesia. BNPT is a non-ministerial government institution responsible for counter-terrorism operations and was formed based on Presidential Regulation No. 46 of 2010. Previously, counter-terrorism operations were carried out by the Coordinating Board for Counter-Terrorism (DKPT). BNPT operates under the coordination of the Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs and is led by a Head who reports directly to the President of Indonesia. Considering the involvement of the Indonesian National Police (POLRI), the Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI), and the State Intelligence Agency (BIN) in counter-terrorism efforts, coordination becomes crucial. BNPT needs to establish effective communication with decision-makers, including the President, through various channels such as the Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, BIN, the National Police Chief, the Minister of Defense, and the TNI Commander. Lessons learned from

Indonesia's counter-terrorism efforts emphasize the importance of having a leading sector to address conflicts in legislation and interests.

At the ASEAN level, the establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force requires a leading sector to initiate the process. Approval from member states and the development of regulations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should follow. It is essential to clarify the concept and organization of the task force to overcome acceptance challenges. The goal is to form an effective ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force organization that facilitates joint decision-making, beneficial collaboration, decision implementation, and efficient communication. The organizational structure can be developed based on the Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) sponsored by the Malaysian government and aligned with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) model. The organizational structure of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force is as follows:



Picture 1 Organizational Concept  
Source: (Saptono, Sumertha, Alexandra, & Widodo, 2023)

Furthermore, the organizational structure can be adjusted based on various concerns or scenarios of terrorist threats that are determined to be collectively addressed, such as: 1) Investigation and Legal Aspects; 2) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Security, as well as Aviation Security, Maritime Security, and Transportation Crisis Management; 3) Rehabilitation and Prevention; 4) Terrorism Financing; and 5) Terrorism and Youth. As a result, this organization is formed by bringing together diverse individuals, units, and equipment owned by each ASEAN member according to the needs to respond to each regional threat.

## b. Regulation

Regulation in counterterrorism efforts in ASEAN began with the ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism in 2001, followed by the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) in 2007. The ACCT serves as the fundamental reference for ASEAN in addressing terrorism. ASEAN further developed the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism in 2009 as a continued step to combat terrorism. In 2015, the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) was established to achieve regional security in line with ASEAN's counterterrorism action plan. The APSC continues to strengthen its capacity and institutional presence in responding to security challenges. Within the APSC, there is a mention of the need for preventive measures to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia, including the recommendation to establish the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force. ASEAN also has

strategic agendas that include the implementation of the ACCT and ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, collaboration in deradicalization efforts, addressing the influx of foreign terrorist actors, cooperation with relevant institutions, information exchange, and capacity building in counterterrorism law enforcement. All of these are steps towards achieving the ASEAN regional security goal in counterterrorism.

Furthermore, the analysis of the formation of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force to support security stability in the Southeast Asian region, where Indonesia acts as the leading sector based on Indonesia's cooperation with the United States in addressing domestic terrorism threats, can be analyzed through the concept of Cooperative Security. Cooperative Security is a concept that emphasizes the importance of aligning efforts, operating under common standards, and sharing critical information related to the threat domain (Chang, 2011; Koga, 2018). This concept is a long-standing tradition throughout history to institutionalize security measures to protect sovereignty and national interests in the name of stability (Cohen & Mihalka, 2001). The variables involved in cooperative security theory include:

- a) **Collaboration:** Collaboration involves cooperation with allies and partners to achieve common security goals. It is important to share information and resources to address security challenges (Wilkins, 2008). The aspect of collaboration in the concept of Cooperative Security in this context involves cooperation among countries in the Southeast Asian region, with a focus on strengthening regional resilience and countering terrorism. ASEAN as a regional community has recognized the need for synergy between local and regional initiatives in addressing terrorism threats. Collaborative mechanisms and capacity development have been built to complement national policies and strengthen regional resilience. Collaborative efforts are carried out through declarations and coordinated actions to collectively condemn terrorism and address related operational issues. Additionally, Indonesia and the United States have actively collaborated in combating terrorism in Southeast Asia. This collaboration includes joint exercises, intelligence information exchange, and support in the formation of specialized anti-terrorism forces.
- b) **Common Standards:** This involves operating with common standards to ensure effective and efficient security measures. It is important to establish common protocols and procedures to ensure consistency in security measures across different organizations and countries (Dewitt, 1994). In the framework of forming the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force, several steps need to be taken, including organization, regulation, and coordination among member countries. For example, the establishment of national agencies such as the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) in Indonesia is one organizational effort to coordinate counterterrorism operations. At the ASEAN level, there is a need for agreement among member countries and the development of regulations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). It is important to clarify the concept and organizational structure of the task force and build effective communication among stakeholders, including through the leading sector.
- c) **Threat Domain:** Terrorism threat is one of the primary variables in the cooperative security concept. For example, there are terrorist groups like Abu Sayyaf that have been the focus of counterterrorism efforts by countries in Southeast Asia such as the Philippines and Indonesia. Terrorism threat involves acts of violence aimed at creating fear and instability within society for political, ideological, or religious purposes.
- d) **Tailored Approach:** This involves developing flexible approaches to security that can be adapted to the specific needs of different countries and organizations (Vetschera, 2007). It is important to recognize that each country and organization has different security challenges and priorities, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be effective. In the regional context,



ASEAN has adopted a bottom-up approach to security, with an emphasis on national resilience before building broader regional resilience. ASEAN has built collaborative mechanisms and capacity development to complement its own policies and work together with dialogue partners such as the United States and China. However, despite various efforts, the results have been limited in combating terrorism. To enhance counterterrorism cooperation in Southeast Asia, there is an urgency to establish the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force involving Indonesia as the leading sector. Indonesia and the United States have collaborated in combating terrorism in the region and have formed various institutions and initiatives such as "Our Eyes" and the Joint Intelligence Agency. The close collaboration between these two countries allows Indonesia to play a major role in counterterrorism efforts in Southeast Asia.

- e) Strategic, Coherent, and Effective: This involves developing a strategic, coherent, and effective approach to security that can address complex and unstable security environments. It is important to have a clear understanding of the security environment and develop comprehensive strategies to address various security challenges (Cohen & Mihalka, 2001). In the concept of cooperative security, strategic refers to planned and executed efforts by countries or groups to prevent and address terrorist threats. Examples of strategic approaches mentioned in the text include seeking military assistance from the United States and collaborating in designing the formation of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force. Coherent refers to alignment and consistency in actions taken by countries or groups in dealing with terrorism threats. Lastly, effectiveness refers to the success of efforts made in addressing terrorism threats. This can be assessed based on the success of programs resulting from the formation of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, the conclusion that can be drawn is that the urgency to strengthen regional resilience became a primary factor after the 9/11 attacks, where countries in Southeast Asia faced significant terrorism threats. Although counterterrorism efforts have been made by several countries, the success in addressing terrorism remains doubtful, and synergy between local and regional initiatives needs to be enhanced. In this context, Indonesia plays a crucial role as the leading sector in maintaining regional security stability within ASEAN. This can be seen from the collaboration between Indonesia and the United States, which has proven effective in combating terrorism in Southeast Asia, as well as the fact that Indonesia has led the establishment of the "Our Eyes" Joint Intelligence Agency with other ASEAN countries. This collaboration includes joint exercises, the formation of specialized anti-terrorism forces, and the provision of weapons and equipment from the United States. Through a close partnership with the United States, Indonesia has the potential to become the leading sector in the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force. The formation of this task force is highly important to support security stability in Southeast Asia.

The task force involves various key institutions from Indonesia and the United States, including intelligence agencies, police, military, and special forces. The Indonesian National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) can serve as a model to become the main sector within the ASEAN task force. To achieve this goal, effective coordination among relevant institutions at the national and regional levels is needed. At the ASEAN level, the agreement of member countries and the development of regulations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be crucial steps in the formation of this task force. Overall, this research emphasizes the importance of strengthening regional resilience in Southeast Asia in the face of terrorism threats.

Indonesia has played a leading role in collaboration with the United States and has the opportunity to become the leading sector in the establishment of the ASEAN Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Task Force. Good coordination among relevant institutions at the national and regional levels, as well as the establishment of an effective organizational framework and regulations, will be key factors in these efforts.

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