

# Tools and Techniques for Conflict Resolution

## Their Applicability in the Asia-Pacific Region

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15 October 2014

# Types of Conflict

- Domestic conflicts
- Political/diplomatic conflicts between states
- Military/forceful conflicts between states

# Unilateral Approach

- Military power/forceful means
  - Use of force
  - Threat of the use of force
  - Muscle-flexing
- Economic statecraft
  - Sanction/Coercion
  - Inducement/reward
- Political/diplomatic means
  - Threats or awards for official ties
  - Influence the other party's domestic situation

# Bilateral Approach

- Self restraint
- Containing conflict
- Hotline communications
- Secret diplomacy
- Special envoy/mission
- Non-official communications
- Track-two channels
- Negotiations/talks: give and take; issue linkages

# Third Party Role: Operational Soft Approach

- Statement
- Appeal
- Proposal
- Mediation
  - Enquiry
  - Observer missions
  - Fact finding missions
  - Good offices
  - Special envoys
  - Humanitarian assistance
- Arbitration

# Third Party Role: Operational Hard Approach

- Humanitarian intervention (R2P)
- Peacekeeping
- Preventive deployment
- Demilitarized zones
- Air/maritime keep-out zones
- Limits on personnel numbers, equipment deployment and movements
- Preventive humanitarian action
- Compulsory judicial settlement

# Third Party Structural Approach

- Prior confidence building measures
- Prior preventive diplomacy
- Regional institution-building
- Regional norms
- Regional socio-economic integration
- Poverty alleviation/developmental programmes
- Protection of minority rights
- Security sector reform
- Capacity building
- Promotion of democracy
- Peacebuilding

# The United Nations

- Soft Approach
  - Secretary-General: good offices, special envoy, mediation
- Hard Approach
  - Condemnation
  - Security Council resolutions
  - Sanctions
  - Forceful interventions
  - Peacekeeping



# Other Parts of the World

- Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- African Union
- Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

# Possibilities of Third Party Role in Regional Conflict Resolution

- The ARF EEPG
- The Friends of the ARF Chair
- Expanded role of the ARF Chair
- ASEAN: statements, venue, agenda-setting
- Strategic rivalry
- Divides among ARF members: active vs. reluctant on PD
- ASEAN way
- Sovereignty
- Non-interference in domestic affairs

# The Reality in Asia-Pacific

- Strategic deterrence
- Major-power rivalry
- Economic interdependence
- Imperative of regional stability
- Some/limited security cooperation
- Cases of judicial settlement
- Focus on security/crisis management

# Discussion Questions

- What's your assessment of the possibility of a major conflict taking place in the region?
- Is there any meaningful role at all for a third party if a conflict occurs?
- What could be done to develop more effective measures of conflict resolution in the region?