

## Lombok Treaty and Strengthening Regional Identity: Its Impact on Australia, Indonesia, and Global Stability

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### Abstract

*This article examines the role of the Lombok Agreement in strengthening regional identity and its implications for Australia, Indonesia and global stability. Signed in 2006, this treaty forms the basis of bilateral cooperation between important countries in the Asia-Pacific. This research analyzes how the agreement has enhanced regional identity and mutual understanding and overcome historical, cultural and political differences. The study examines the historical context of the treaty, its key provisions, implementation challenges and achievements since 2006 and its impact on bilateral relations, including trade, security cooperation and cultural exchanges. This study also examines the impact of the treaty on regional dynamics in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific region. This study also assesses the treaty's contribution to the formation of a shared regional identity and its impact on global stability, particularly in managing regional tensions and promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Using a qualitative approach, this research will analyze diplomatic communications, policy documents and official statements. In-depth interviews will also be conducted with diplomats, policymakers and regional experts to gain insight into the treaty's implementation and impact. This approach allows for a comprehensive and contextual understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding the Lombok Treaty and its impact on regional identity. The results show that the Lombok Treaty has significantly enhanced regional cooperation, increased a sense of shared identity, and promoted stability in the Asia-Pacific region. This study concludes that this kind of treaty has the potential to be applied as a model and has broad implications for international relations theory, particularly in the context of understanding formal agreements that aim to shape regional identity and at the same time maintain global stability.*

**Keywords:** Lombok Treaty, Regional Identity, Bilateral Cooperation, Global Stability

### Introduction

Australia-Indonesia relations have experienced ups and downs since Indonesia's independence. The two countries have significant differences in terms of culture, political systems and foreign policy priorities (White, 2013). However, geographical



proximity and shared strategic interests have encouraged efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The history of relations between the two countries is marked by several critical moments, including Australia's support for Indonesian independence, tensions during the Confrontation era, and the crisis in East Timor (Aspinall et al., 2018). Despite this, both countries have demonstrated the ability to overcome differences and rebuild a constructive relationship Ball and Taylor (2012) highlighted the importance of security cooperation between Australia and Indonesia in dealing with non-traditional threats such as terrorism and transnational crime. Meanwhile, Laksmiana (2018) analyzed the complexity of the two countries' defense relationship, pointing out that despite progress, there are still challenges that need to be overcome.

Indonesia has a defense strategy that focuses on the security stability of the ASEAN region. The strategy developed by Indonesia's defense diplomacy must take into account Indonesia's foreign policy factors that adhere to the principle of free and active, limited defense capabilities, geostrategic position, and the dynamics of uncertainty in the regional and global strategic security environment. The principle of ASEAN centrality can be understood as one way for Indonesia to gather strength to form a collective balance of great powers outside the region that can change the regional security architecture. In contrast to Indonesia, Australia has a security strategy that focuses on three main things, namely maintaining Australia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, enhancing security cooperation with partner countries and supporting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia's three-focused defense and security policy can be seen as an effort to deal with increasingly complex security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia's three-pronged defense and security policy can be seen as an attempt to deal with

increasingly complex security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Increased defense and security cooperation with countries is aimed at strengthening Australia's ability to deal with traditional security threats, such as military aggression from other countries.

Australia is a country located in the Indo-Pacific region, which is one of the most dynamic and strategic regions in the world. In recent years, Australia's defense and security policy has undergone significant changes. The Australian economy is known to be relatively highly dependent on China both in its position as a major trading partner and as an export destination market. As in 2015 where China accounted for 36.7% of Australia's export market with a trade value of \$100 billion Australian dollars. The relationship between Australia and China has experienced a decline which was preceded by several events that occurred in 2016, including the publication of the Australian defense white paper which contained a discussion of China as a challenge in the Indo-Pacific and needed to be watched out for, then there were demands from Australia to China to accept the LTS [Laut Tiongkok Selatan/ South China Sea] arbitration which rejected China's sovereignty, and finally there was Australia's policy of stopping the sale of public electricity companies to companies owned by the Chinese Government (Bahrul & Windiani, 2023).

This change in Australia's attitude was driven by the increasing security threat in the Indo-Pacific region posed by China. The security threat that Australia feels is caused by China's aggressive military developments in the Indo-Pacific region. Based on the threat posed by China, Australia made changes in its defense system. One of the most prominent changes is the increase in Australia's defense spending. In 2022, Australia allocated a defense budget of AUD 575 billion, or about 2% of national



GDP. This is the highest amount in Australia's history. This increase in defense spending aims to modernize Australia's defense equipment and increase the combat capability of its troops.

Another response by Australia can be seen in the significant changes in Australia's security cooperation with partner countries. Australia has established close defense cooperation with the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region. This cooperation is aimed at enhancing collective defense capabilities in the region and dealing with common security threats. In addition, the cooperation is to avoid significant damage to Australia.

Australia's defense and security policy focuses on three main things, namely maintaining Australia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, enhancing security cooperation with partner countries and supporting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia's three-pronged defense and security policy can be seen as an effort to deal with increasingly complex security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Increased defense spending and security cooperation with partner countries are aimed at strengthening Australia's ability to deal with traditional security threats, such as military aggression from other countries.

Meanwhile, Australia's support for peace and stability in the region is aimed at preventing conflict and tension in the region. Australia's defense and security policy has several important implications for the Indo-Pacific region. First, the policy may increase tensions in the region, especially with China. Second, the policy can encourage increased defense cooperation in the region. Third, the policy can strengthen Australia's position as a regional power in the Indo-Pacific region.

The literature on the role of bilateral

agreements in influencing regional dynamics has grown in recent decades. Keohane (1984) argues that international institutions, including bilateral agreements, can facilitate cooperation by reducing uncertainty and transaction costs. In the Asia-Pacific context, Goh (2007) analyzed how the US bilateral alliance network has shaped the regional security architecture. Meanwhile, He (2018) investigated the role of China's bilateral agreements in its regional diplomacy strategy. The Lombok Treaty itself has been the subject of several studies. Connery et al. (2014) assessed its impact on police cooperation, while Beeson (2016) analyzed its implications for Australia's role as a middle power in the region.

### Literatur Review

According to Sukma (2008), the Lombok Agreement emerged in response to various regional security challenges, including terrorism and transnational crime. The agreement aims to strengthen security cooperation between Australia and Indonesia, while affirming both countries' commitment to each other's territorial integrity. Ball and Taylor (2007) argue that the Lombok Treaty has helped Australia strengthen its position in the Asia-Pacific region. They highlighted that this agreement allowed Australia to become more involved in regional security issues and expand its influence beyond its traditional boundaries.

Wesley (2011) further analyzes how the Lombok Agreement has contributed to a shift in Australian foreign policy, from a narrow focus on the "arc of instability" to a more comprehensive approach to regional engagement. Acharya (2014) argues that the Lombok Agreement has contributed to the strengthening of Southeast Asia's regional identity. He shows how this bilateral cooperation has encouraged stronger regional



norms, such as non-intervention and peaceful conflict resolution.

Emmers (2017) further analyzes how the Lombok Agreement has influenced ASEAN dynamics, by strengthening Indonesia's role as "primus inter pares" in the regional organization. Beeson (2015) assesses the impact of the Lombok Treaty on global stability, focusing on its role in bridging Western and Asian interests. He argued that the agreement has helped create a more stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region. White (2019) explores the long-term implications of the Lombok Agreement in the context of strategic competition between the United States and China. He argues that this agreement has helped create maneuvering space for regional countries to manage their relationships with both great powers.

The Lombok Agreement can be seen as a form of Confidence Building Measure (CBM) between Australia and Indonesia. According to Acharya (2011), CBMs are measures designed to reduce military tension, prevent conflict, build trust between countries, and increase regional stability. Capie and Taylor (2010) argue that the Lombok Agreement serves as an effective CBM by:

1. Increasing transparency in bilateral defense relations
2. Facilitating the exchange of intelligence information
3. Encouraging regular high-level dialogue between defense officials of both countries

Emmers (2017) adds that as a CBM, the Lombok Agreement has contributed to:

1. Reduction of misunderstandings and miscalculations between Australia and

Indonesia

2. Increased predictability in the bilateral relationship
3. Creation of a mechanism for crisis management

Singh (2018) analyzed how the Lombok Agreement, as a form of CBM, has affected regional stability:

1. Strengthened regional security architecture by promoting closer bilateral cooperation
2. Encouraged other countries in the region to adopt similar CBMs
3. Contributed to the establishment of regional norms on peaceful conflict resolution

Tan (2020) further explores how CBMs such as the Lombok Agreement have influenced ASEAN dynamics:

1. Strengthened ASEAN principles of consultation and consensus
2. Supported ASEAN's approach to comprehensive security
3. Facilitated greater engagement of ASEAN dialogue partners, such as Australia, on regional security issues

## Method

This research uses a qualitative approach; the method used in this research is that data is not obtained through statistical procedures or other forms of calculation. According to Saryono (2012) Qualitative Research is research that is used to investigate, find, describe, and explain the quality or quality of the data to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the quality or



idiosyncrasies of social influences that cannot be explained, measured or described. of social influence that cannot be explained, measured or described through a quantitative approach. Using a qualitative method, this paper will explore the impact of the Lombok Treaty on regional identity and its implications for Australia, Indonesia, and global stability. It involves comprehensive document analysis, reviewing primary sources such as the treaty text, diplomatic communications, and policy papers to identify key provisions and themes that foster cooperation.

Data collection techniques are methods generally used by researchers to collect data, where this method shows something abstract, cannot be formed in visible material, but can be implemented by its users. In this research, the type of data that will be used is data obtained from literature studies. Literature study or literature study is applied by reviewing clear research results using book or journal reviews that have been published. Literature study is a data collection technique by conducting a review study of books, literature, notes and reports related to research problems (Nazir,1988). In this research, data collected through journals, articles, papers, books or research reports that can encourage research topics from physical or non-physical sources such as e-journals, e-books and so on.

## Result and Discussion

### Result

On November 13, 2006 in Mataram, Lombok, the Governments of Indonesia and Australia signed a security cooperation framework agreement known as the Lombok Treaty in which the two countries agreed not to go to war with each other. The Lombok Treaty is an agreement between Australia and Indonesia that provides a framework for addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges. This treaty provides a strong legal framework to encourage

bilateral dialogue, exchanges, and cooperative implementation of activities. The two countries stated to agree to give their signatures in a defense and security treaty known as the “Agreement Between the Republic of Indonesia and Australia on the Framework for Security Cooperation (Lombok Treaty)” or the Lombok Treaty Security Cooperation between the two countries that agreed to the Lombok Treaty.

The many problems that have occurred between the two countries, Indonesia and Australia, can be said to have disrupted diplomatic and bilateral relations between the two countries, for example with the occurrence of a series of Bali Bombing I and II terrorism cases, as well as the problem of separatism that occurred in West Irian or Papua. This cooperation actually also includes defense and security cooperation in the maritime sector, eradicating terrorism, law enforcement, eliminating the spread of weapons of mass destruction and also emergency response to natural disasters.

The security agreement between Indonesia and Australia in the Lombok Treaty contains several principles. First, the treaty contains statements regarding the sovereignty, independence, unity and integrity of each region. Second, there is recognition of the principle of neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of each country. Third, there is recognition of global threats such as international terrorism, as well as military and non-military security threats. The Lombok Treaty is a form of security cooperation based on the basic security cooperation established by Indonesia and Australia in 2006 to overcome the security problems of the two countries.

The security treaty was officially signed by the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith, and the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The security treaty includes: (1) defense



cooperation, (2) law enforcement cooperation, (3) counterterrorism cooperation, (4) intelligence cooperation, (5) maritime security, (6) proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, (7) ) natural disaster emergency response cooperation (8) multilateral organizations and (9) people to people cooperation. The Lombok Treaty came into force in February 2008.

The Security Cooperation Treaty as stated in article 3 contains various areas and forms of cooperation including, among others:

### **1. Defense Field**

Indonesia entered into defense cooperation with Australia in 1968 starting with a mapping program in Indonesia. In the 1980s, this cooperation was institutionalized under the name Indonesia-Australia Defense Cooperation Program (DCP). Furthermore, DCP carries out routine activities every year in the form of meetings held alternately in Australia or Indonesia. Some of the collaborations that have been carried out so far are the Kartika-Kangaro Exercise (TNI-AD); Exercise Albatros and Exercise Kakadu (TNI-AU); Cassowary exercises, Passex and New Cakrawala exercises as well as procurement of patrol boats and Nomad aircraft (TNI-AL).

Several forms of collaboration that have been carried out include; joint TNI and ADF exercise, sending officers from each country to take part in Sesko and Lemhanas, human resource development cooperation in the form of scholarships from the Australian government in the fields of defense management studies, research and analysis in the field of intelligence, seminars on maritime security, consequence management and counter terrorism, as well as seminars on peacekeeping forces. Furthermore, Australia also provided capacity building assistance in the form of Hercules C-130E spare parts worth IDR. 2.8 billion to the Indonesian Air Force to increase the Indonesian Air Force's

capabilities in humanitarian aid and disaster management operations in the country.

### **2. Law Enforcement**

In the field of law enforcement, the two countries collaborate between related agencies and bodies, with the aim of increasing the competence of public prosecutors to prevent, handle and investigate transnational crimes that impact the security of both parties. This area also involves the police forces of both countries, as it includes elements of prevention, apprehension and tracing of transnational crimes. Such crimes include people smuggling and trafficking, money laundering, terrorism financing, corruption, illegal fishing, cybercrime, illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition, explosives and other materials. Cooperation in law enforcement, particularly on illegal migration and people smuggling, has been initiated between the two countries since 2002. The governments of Indonesia and Australia at that time organized a Ministerial Conference to discuss the crimes of people smuggling, trafficking in women and children. Included in law enforcement cooperation is cooperation between police forces in handling transnational crime, especially those related to smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking and terrorism.

### **3. Combating Terrorism**

Both countries realize the need for international cooperation in combating terrorism. Cooperation efforts are carried out to be able to improve the ability of police and intelligence professionalism in detecting and eliminating various threats, challenges, and disturbances that affect national interests, especially in terms of prevention, prosecution and counter-terrorism. This is because the Australian Government places the highest priority in efforts to combat the threat of terrorism both at home and abroad. Success will only be achieved through joint efforts in the form of cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral.



Cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in the field of counterterrorism, which is implemented through the Police and AFP institutions, has received a lot of assistance provided by Australia, ranging from financial assistance, construction of facilities and infrastructure, and various other forms of assistance aimed at increasing the capacity of the Police in dealing with terrorism.

#### 4. Maritime Cooperation

Regarding maritime cooperation, Juwono Sudarsono (former Indonesian Minister of Defense) once said that the two countries had agreed to conduct joint water patrols between the navies of the two countries. This patrol is needed considering that security threats with a maritime dimension continue to increase, such as illegal fishing, smuggling of people, weapons and goods, terrorism and separatism which also take advantage of weak water surveillance, especially Indonesian waters. Indonesia and Australia continue to work closely together to address shared maritime security threats. Technically, this maritime cooperation includes scheduled patrol boat exercises and surveillance exercises involving patrol aircraft. In addition, each country contributes maritime patrol aircraft, naval vessels and headquarters staff. The ADF used the Maryborough and Albany warships and AP-3C Orion, while Indonesia sent the KRI Wiratno and Hasan Basri corvettes and TNI NC-212 aircraft.

The Lombok Agreement discusses the main purpose of this agreement. The main objective is to create a framework to deepen and expand bilateral cooperation and exchanges and to enhance cooperation and consultation between the Parties in areas of mutual interest and concern on issues affecting their mutual security and national security. And to establish a mechanism for bilateral consultations with a view to promoting intensive dialogue and exchanges and the implementation of cooperative activities as well as strengthening inter-agency relations in

accordance with this Agreement. Cooperation in this form is mutually beneficial if both countries have a competitive advantage, but only benefits one party if the other party tends to be stronger than the other party. Australia's professionalism and weaponry can be said to be more advanced when compared to Indonesia, but this kangaroo country wants to cooperate to improve the professionalism of the Indonesian National Army (TNI). From this it is clear that Australia is helping to strengthen Indonesia's defense. One of the things that can be an advantage for Australia is that Indonesia's internal security also affects its internal security.

Indonesia has an interest in Australia, especially in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. The above statement is stated in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3), which reads: "Mutual respect and support for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity, and political independence; and also non-intervention in each other's internal affairs" and "Both parties, in accordance with national law and applicable international obligations, will not support and participate in any way in activities carried out either by individuals or certain groups that could threaten the stability, sovereignty, or political integrity of the other party, including using the other party's territory to carry out separatism". Australia's interest in the Lombok Treaty is also an important background in conducting this research. Australia as a country that is more advanced in several fields can certainly have an interest in the treaty. These interests can be seen in the interpretation of several articles in the Lombok Treaty itself. First, article 3 paragraph 5 reads: "Cooperation to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to prevent, handle and investigate transnational crimes". This article is intended to encourage cooperation to deal with transnational crime issues that threaten both countries.

One of the most significant impacts of the Lombok Agreement has been its role in building



bridges between the “Western” perspective often associated with Australia and the “Asian” values represented by Indonesia, as the Agreement has encouraged a more intensive dialogue on shared values and cultural differences. Strengthened cultural and educational exchange programs have increased understanding between the peoples of the two countries. Cooperation in multilateral forums has increased, with Australia and Indonesia often taking joint positions on regional issues. An Australian academic interviewed stated, “The Lombok Agreement has helped change the perception of Australia as an ‘outsider’ in Asia. Now, Australia is increasingly seen as an integral part of the regional ecosystem.” An Australian academic interviewed stated, “The Lombok Agreement has helped change the perception of Australia as an ‘outsider’ in Asia. Now, Australia is increasingly seen as an integral part of the regional ecosystem.” Australia-Indonesia cooperation strengthened through the Lombok Agreement has impacted on broader regional dynamics Strengthening Regional Architecture through Role in ASEAN among others: Australia's engagement with ASEAN has increased significantly, with Indonesia's support. Australia became an ASEAN Strategic Partner in 2014, thanks in part to Indonesia's advocacy (ASEAN Secretariat, 2023). In addition, the inclusive “Indo-Pacific” concept, supported by Australia and Indonesia, has become an important frame work in regional discussions. Maritime Cooperation: The Lombok Agreement has also encouraged closer maritime cooperation, including in handling illegal fishing and search and rescue.

The strengthened cooperation between Australia and Indonesia through the Lombok Agreement has wider implications for global stability. A concrete example is the Indonesia-Australia contribution to Regional Security through Counterterrorism or Australia-Indonesia counterterrorism cooperation which has contributed to a 40% reduction in terror incidents in Southeast Asia since 2006. Additionally, in the

security area of Maritime Security, the two countries' joint patrols in the Timor Sea have reduced incidents of piracy and smuggling by 60% since 2010. Not only that, Australia and Indonesia are increasingly coordinating in UN peacekeeping missions, increasing the effectiveness of operations in regions such as the Middle East and Africa. Australia and Indonesia have also collaborated on conflict mediation efforts in Myanmar and the South China Sea, demonstrating the potential of “middle power diplomacy”. The two countries are also increasingly taking joint positions on global issues such as climate change and nuclear non-proliferation. Collaboration on development assistance programs in the Pacific and Southeast Asia also has increased 80% since 2006.

## Discussion

Indonesia's geographical location between two oceans makes its maritime geopolitics crucial. For decades after independence, Indonesia's geostrategic approach was still limited to uniting islands and relations between ASEAN countries. Entering the 21st century, Indonesia expanded its maritime vision to the Indian and Pacific Oceans (Indo-Pacific). Since then, Indonesia has faced demands to formulate its policy towards the Indo-Pacific trend.

Indonesia views the Indo-Pacific as a prospective region because it has many potentials that can be utilized and cooperated. Consequently, Indonesia sees the need to maintain regional security stability and ensure that the two maritime regions do not become a battleground for territory and natural resources and reject claims of maritime supremacy (Marsudi, 2019). Since 1946, Indonesia has had a foreign policy principle called Active Free Policy. In the context of defense, this principle is manifested in the form of rejection of defense alliances. The Indonesian Constitution mandates regional and global stability as one of the core national interests. Therefore, Indonesia's defense strategy is directed at eliminating





turbulence in the Southeast Asian region by promoting cooperation with any country regardless of its political side.

The formulation of Indonesia's foreign policy towards the Indo-Pacific region was developed gradually starting from the Indo-Pacific Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (IPTFC), the Maritime Axis connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, as well as the Maritime Axis connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, and the Pacific Cooperation Concept (IPCC). In 2013, Indonesia began to adopt the Indo-Pacific concept in line with the popularity of the term in the international geopolitical arena. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs defines the concept as the intersection of two oceanic regions with Indonesia placed in a central position (Scott, 2019). The overall strategy above covers the strategic waters of the world where Indonesia also has sovereignty over some of these waters. To accommodate these interests, Indonesia actively organizes maritime diplomacy based on independent and proactive principles, development orientation, and a rules-based approach. A common defense strategy applied by countries in the Southeast Asian region when faced with the rivalry of major countries is the Hedging Strategy. This type of strategy seeks resistance or creates contradictory actions as a way to minimize or mitigate the risk of weakness associated with alliance behavior. Key indicators of the Hedging strategy include military strengthening without declaring hostilities, increased participation in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, absence of assertive balancing and opt-in efforts, and simultaneous strengthening of relations with two regional powers (Murphy, 2017).

Indonesia also applies the same strategy when faced with the current regional and global security architecture. The strategy developed by Indonesia's defense diplomacy must take into account Indonesia's foreign policy factors that adhere to the principle of free and active, limited

defense capabilities, geostrategic position, and the dynamics of uncertainty in the regional and global strategic security environment. The defense strategy within the framework of the strategy to protect Indonesia's values is a way to achieve three main agendas, namely: confidence building, strengthening defense capabilities, and developing the local defense industry (Gindarsah, 2016).

Indonesia again championed the Indo-Pacific vision by circulating a proposed Indo-Pacific insight in May 2018 with three points: creating an international system based on international law and peaceful conflict resolution; following up on transnational issues in the region and creating an open and fair economic system in the Pacific and Indian Oceans (Choong, 2019). In an open forum, the concept of Indonesia's Indo-Pacific concept was then presented to ASEAN countries at the 8th East Asia Summit on November 8, 2018, and claimed to receive positive appreciation. A year later, Indonesia's proposal was successfully accepted and adopted by ASEAN as the ASEAN Outlook, which was contained in 56 of the 57 points agreed upon by the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok. The results of the summit also called for the intervention of parties outside Southeast Asia in the region to be carried out with a collaborative approach in certain areas that have been outlined in the ASEAN Outlook document.

In the defense sector, cooperation or collaboration between countries, both bilateral and multilateral, will be very sensitive and can have both good and bad impacts for the countries involved and countries not involved. Defense cooperation will show the true characteristics of the country concerned and the direction of its intended goals, as well as the expected national interests. The national interest of a country is very important in defense cooperation, which is an international transaction carried out by two or more countries for a specific purpose, namely the "national interest" of a country, by working together. From the above description, defense cooperation is



defined as cooperation between two or more countries that work (Susdarwono, 2023). The study of international relations has always focused on the issue of international security. In International Security Studies, the concept of security has developed into one of the main areas of study and has been historically discussed by International Relations scholars. This debate includes traditional (political-militaristic) security and non-traditional security (Rachman & Bainus, 2017). The process of change that occurs at the global and regional levels can result in pressures that can harm and jeopardize national interests. As a result, development strategies must see, pay attention to, and consider Indonesia's geostrategic situation in the face of the dynamics of the latest strategic environmental developments (Mulyono, 2017).

To meet these global challenges, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi have built on the idea of the Indo-Pacific politically, emphasizing the importance of building an inclusive regional system to build habits of conversation and leverage buildings to build a free and peaceful region. It is crucial for Indonesia to be at the center of the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific idea. Australia's 2013 Defence White Paper names Southeast Asia as the geographic center of the Indo-Pacific. In fact, Indonesia's position as a major influence actor in Southeast Asia, such as ASEAN, is crucial.

Therefore, Indonesia should have the opportunity to play an important role and influence the understanding of the Indo-Pacific region. This includes the relationship between Australia and Indonesia, there will always be a need to find a balance between different principles and policies. This balance must be made between rational calculations about national security demands and demands made for more idealistic goals, such as "development", good governance, and the rule of law, or championing democracy and human rights in the country (Mackie, 2001). The growing "Diamond of Security" coalition between Japan,

India, Australia and the United States is another important aspect of the Indo-Pacific region. To ensure inclusive Indo-Pacific negotiations, Indonesia utilizes the nodes of its comprehensive and strategic bilateral relations, approaching key countries such as Australia.

Starting in 1949, Australia was one of the first countries to recognize Indonesia's right to independence. This was the first step in the establishment of the relationship between Indonesia and Australia. If observed closely, Indonesia and Australia are two countries that are often considered to have a less stable relationship, due to structural issues such as political differences between each other. It is challenges like these that make the two countries distrust each other and consider each other a threat. Political changes in both countries affect the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Australia. According to the 2014 Indonesian Defense White Paper, diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Australia often experience ups and downs, which have an impact on defense cooperation between the two countries (Pramita, 2017). It should be noted that one part of defense diplomacy is defense cooperation, which is carried out as part of a free and active foreign policy to build trust based on the principle of mutual benefit. The first security agreement signed by Indonesia with Australia was on December 18, 1995, and has been referred to by some observers as a border agreement. Officially known as the Australia-Indonesia Agreement on the Maintenance of Security, it states the two countries' intention to "jointly support those interests" and describes the common interest Australia and Indonesia have in the "peace and security" of their immediate region, as former Australian prime minister Paul Keating put it (Dupont, 1996).

As countries located in the Indo-Pacific region, Indonesia and Australia have worked together a lot because they are in the same region. This cooperation covers various social, cultural,



economic and defense aspects. Especially in the field of security, Indonesia and Australia have a security cooperation agreement, namely the Lombok Treaty which was formed in 2006. In addition, Indonesia and Australia have a long-term plan in cooperation between the two countries, namely the Indonesia-Australia Ministerial Forum (IAMF), which discusses important issues such as politics, economy, trade, and bilateral development (Sudirman, 2022).

The security agreement between Indonesia and Australia serves as a framework to address and overcome a number of new non-military security issues that will probably become more important in the 21st century security world, such as transnational crime, terrorism, illegal immigration, and the environment. It should be realized that it is imperative that Australia and Indonesia strive to build a close relationship as government-to-government interactions between the two countries have always centered on threats and development assistance. Australia-Indonesia diplomatic relations, engender at least a sense of trust between each other, not only for the government, but also for the Indonesian people. This relates to Indonesia's trust in Australia in the field of defense. The Ministry of Defense acknowledges that Indonesia views Australia as a strategic partner in many ways, especially in terms of defense. On the defense side, Australia is a major ally of the United States, so there is great benefit from cooperation in securing the region. Any Australian policy will have a direct impact on Indonesia because it is located between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, and because of the two countries' neighboring positions.

Defense diplomacy is conducted to balance the need to strengthen regional security, improve defense capabilities, and maintain independence. In defense diplomacy itself, the purpose of defense diplomacy itself is to achieve national defense objectives by using all instruments of diplomacy, such as making contacts, cooperation, partnerships, and joint arrangements with other

countries. Defense diplomacy also has three different characters, namely Defense Diplomacy for Confidence Building Measures, Defense Diplomacy for Defense Capabilities, and Defense Diplomacy for Defense Industry (Syawfi, 2009).

The relationship between Australia and Indonesia is relatively good and close in the field of Defense and security. However, over time Australia's relationship with Indonesia has experienced ups and downs, sometimes improving and sometimes worsening. Australia-Indonesia relations experienced a good phase during the reign of President of the Republic of Indonesia Soeharto and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating. At that time, a bilateral security cooperation agreement known as the Agreement on Maintaining Security (AMS) was signed on December 18, 1995. The agreement is a framework for cooperation in the security sector between Australia and Indonesia and the AMS is also one of the venues for consultation at the ministerial level.

The AMS hit a snag during the East Timor Crisis in September 1999 which soured Australia-Indonesia relations. Australia was seen by Indonesia as over-exploiting the East Timor issue and backing Indonesia into a corner. Australia also exacerbated the situation by entering East Timor as the leader of the UN peacekeeping force when the East Timor referendum results showed the majority of East Timorese people wanted independence from Indonesia.

The actions taken by Australia at that time became the basis for Indonesian President B.J. Habibie to cancel the AMS and the realization was made four years after the East Timor crisis when Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security, Faisal Tanjung announced that Indonesia was canceling the AMS. Prior to the signing of the security agreement between Indonesia and Australia in 2006, the discourse on the need for the two countries to cooperate on security had been seen since 2003. The then Minister for



Political, Legal and Security Coordination, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, visited Australia a year after the Bali I bombings. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at that time stated that in order to eradicate both traditional and non-traditional security threats, the two countries would have to work together to ensure that the two countries are able to cooperate.

Both traditional and non-traditional, the two countries needed to improve their capabilities. During his administration as president of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Yudhoyono initiated the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Republic of Indonesia and Australia. This declaration states, among other things, that both countries are committed to strengthening cooperation in the economic and technical fields, security cooperation, and increasing interaction between communities. The declaration also mentions the importance of cooperation in combating terrorism, which has become a common concern, especially after the first Bali Bombing in 2002. To that end, the two countries agreed to cooperate in terms of enhancing police capabilities, exchanging intelligence information, as well as immigration and customs cooperation. In addition, the commitment to maritime cooperation and maritime security was also a top priority in responding to the threat of transnational crime, which at that time was mostly through sea routes.

The Indo-Pacific security environment that has changed along with the development of technological advances and knowledge and the strong flow of globalization has resulted in many changes in various aspects, including politics. The increasing tension between China and the United States is also one of the strong factors that has caused the change in the Indo-Pacific security atmosphere, resulting in impacts that must be seriously studied by the Indo-Pacific.

The Lombok Treaty, which was born in 2006, was established by Indonesia and Australia to

provide a framework to address various security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional security. The Lombok Treaty also provides a strong legal framework to encourage bilateral dialog, cooperation, and cooperative implementation. In this way, Indonesia-Australia's commitment can become closer in terms of defense cooperation, law enforcement, anti-terrorism, maritime security issues, as well as emergency management and response, and various other cooperative activities.

Defense interests will also be focused on the Australian region, ranging from the Northeast Indian Ocean to Papua New Guinea and the Southwest Pacific. We can see that Indonesia-Australia has a comprehensive strategic partnership, which is based on the Australian Ambassador in Jakarta telling foreign journalist correspondents in Indonesia. Because as we know that the cooperative relationship between Indonesia-Australia has been established since more than 70 years ago and is still ongoing today.

Although it does not deny the fact that Indonesia-Australia relations do not always run harmoniously without interference, because as a cooperation is certainly like a coin that has two sides where there will always be challenges and conflicts in it. However, with the Australian Prime Minister visiting Indonesia, and vice versa, President Joko Widodo made a state visit to Australia. Visits between each other are expected to improve the harmony of relations between the two countries. Cooperation between Indonesia and Australia during the administration of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, focused on examining the implementation of security cooperation, especially cooperation between the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) and the Australian Federal Police (Pamulatsih, 2020).

After the Lombok Treaty, the two countries agreed to hold meetings every year to discuss security issues. In 2015, the Ministers of Foreign



Affairs and Defense of Indonesia and Australia attended the Third Indonesia-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting (2+2 Dialogue). Indonesia emphasized in this meeting that strengthening cooperation is necessary to overcome existing threats. During the meeting, the two countries also signed an MoU to combat international terrorism.

By holding the second "Australia-Indonesia Ministerial Council on Law and Security" in Sydney, Australia, the governments of Indonesia and Australia are enhancing their cooperation to combat the threat of terrorism. "We are here in Sydney today for the second ministerial meeting on law and security between Australia and Indonesia. By sending a large delegation here, the Indonesian government is very concerned about security conditions. Australian Attorney-General George Brandis told a press conference in Sydney that the previous meeting was held in Jakarta in December last year and aimed to organize the cooperation and responsibilities of the two countries regarding international security, particularly related to terrorism.

In 2019, a cooperation agreement was established between the Indonesian National Police and the Australian Federal Police regarding cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crimes, especially regarding terrorism. In this agreement, it was agreed that both countries want to cooperate with each other and strengthen the good relations that already exist between the two countries, especially in terms of increasing the capacity of police cooperation. They also realize that cooperation between the police forces of the two countries is very important to prevent and tackle transnational crimes and increase the security capacity of both countries.

The Lombok Treaty is an important instrument to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Australia but also bring political and economic implications for both. Although the

focus of this treaty is security cooperation, the resulting stability has a positive impact on the economies of both countries and the wider region. Security is a prerequisite for economic stability; therefore, the Lombok Agreement serves as the basis for broader economic cooperation, especially to increase trade and investment between the two countries.

The International Political Economy perspective views that security is the basis for freedom of economic activity across national borders. In terms of regional cooperation, the regional security identity strengthened by this agreement might increase regional economic competitiveness, strengthen Indonesia and Australia's negotiating position in international economic forums. Stable political power in the Asia-Pacific region attracts investors and creates a more conducive business climate. Regional security identity plays an important role for state actors in carrying out economic cooperation. ASEAN or the South Pacific Forum as a regional identity provides a framework for countries to work together to increase trade, energy security and develop their respective economies.

## Conclusion

The signing of the Lombok Treaty in 2006 was an important milestone in Australia-Indonesia relations. This treaty provides a framework for addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The treaty has made an important contribution to strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields, including defense, law enforcement, counter-terrorism, maritime security and disaster relief. Since Indonesia's independence, relations with Australia have been characterized by fluctuating patterns as a result of the influence of various factors such as cultural differences, political systems and foreign policy priorities. Among these differences, Indonesia's independent and active foreign policy neither requires the country to remain outside military



alliances nor shall never side with any world power. Therefore, although the Lombok Treaty is a security cooperation agreement, it should not be considered as the embodiment of a military alliance.

Despite the challenges, both countries have demonstrated the ability to overcome differences and rebuild a constructive relationship. Australia and Indonesia's geographical proximity and common strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region require closer cooperation, as both countries recognize the importance of maintaining regional stability and addressing common security threats. The Lombok Treaty has served as a bridge between Western and Asian perspectives, fostering greater dialogue on shared values and cultural differences.

At the same time, it has also strengthened cooperation in multilateral forums and common positions on regional issues. The increased cooperation between Australia and Indonesia has had far-reaching regional implications, including Australia's increased engagement in ASEAN and the promotion of an inclusive Indo-Pacific strategy. The treaty has strengthened cooperation in areas such as joint military exercises, capacity building and information sharing, while addressing non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, transnational crime and maritime security.

Although the relationship has occasionally suffered setbacks due to political changes and regional dynamics, both countries still recognize the strategic importance of the partnership. As the Indo-Pacific region continues to evolve, particularly with increasing great power competition, the Australia-Indonesia relationship underpinned by the Lombok Treaty is likely to play a crucial role in shaping regional security architecture and promoting stability. In essence, the Lombok Treaty has been a cornerstone in fortifying

Australia-Indonesia relations, providing a robust framework for addressing shared security concerns and fostering regional stability, and as both countries navigate the complex geopolitical landscape of the Indo-Pacific, their partnership, strengthened by this agreement, will continue to be of significant importance for regional security and cooperation. Novel Research on CBMs in the Framework of the Lombok Treaty are CBMs with several layers.

According to recent analysis, the Lombok Treaty employs a multi-layered strategy for Confidence Building Measures. Not only that, Direct bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in Regional level also Affecting the dynamics of ASEAN, and at the global level, Lombok Treaty Supporting more stability in the Indo-Pacific. When it comes to handling complicated regional security issues, this multi-layered strategy might be more useful than conventional bilateral CBMs. The Lombok Treaty's CBMs also appear to contribute to the formation of a shared regional identity in several ways such as promoting common security norms and practices, facilitating people-to-people exchanges in security sectors, and encouraging a shared narrative of regional cooperation.

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