

## Geostrategic Importance of the Indo Pacific: Ensuring a more Inclusive, Secure Future

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With connectivity and cooperation on the rise, and exclusion of enmity towards promoting a mutual goal has become a common practice around the world, the world itself is almost inclined to move towards a world, where multilateralism is very important. Major powers have been promoting the approach of joining forces to not only ensure a horizontal growth, rather than a vertical one, it also promotes the necessity of this approach towards preventing and mitigating modern problem that are no longer existent within the borders of a singular state. The State itself has started to reflect the characteristics of Humans as social organisms, who are incapable of sustaining themselves without the presence of social structure. Germany, being one of the major players in the global infrastructure and politics, has also promoted the concept of multilateralism and has necessitated upon the very issue due to its ever-growing importance in world system. The German Federal government has issued a policy guideline for the Indo-Pacific region entitled “Shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> century”, focusing on the various aspects, where there is solidification and strengthening necessary, that would lead to a more inclusive society, alongside working together towards taking into account and combatting such issues and establishing a regional structure and rule of law towards promoting a more peaceful and prosperous world. The paper entails all the major points that are needed to be emphasized upon to ensure fruition of agenda’s that are the very forefront as long as regional cooperation, coaction and synergy are concerned. The very core essence, alongside the overarching dynamic of the key initiatives is given below:

### **1. Strengthening Multilateralism:**

The Indo-Pacific region poses itself as a key region, having major global strategic and political implications, with a potential to re-engage the global powers in a struggle for influence and playing crucial role in the global geopolitics. The very first initiative entails the strengthening of relationships with ASEAN, with increased cooperation with the

ASEAN and support for the ASEAN. The cooperation includes the inclusion of a dialogue partnership, further military ties while ensuring observer status ensuring observer status in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+), and strengthening further coaction in terms of Climate. The prospect of development cooperation, institutional cooperation, implementation of strategic plans (i.e. Mekong River commission plan 2021-2025), constructive dialogues on current issues of ensuring further regional cooperation between alongside the federal government of Germany working as an advocate for increased cooperation between EU and ASEAN is also a key facet of the initiative towards strengthening cooperation in the region. There is also a strong accentuation upon increasing dialogue with institutes such as Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) towards issues such as maritime safety and risk management. Other issues that came forward towards ensuring further multilateralism was the formulation of rules based order through the reformation of International bodies like the United Nations in order to make it more inclusive. The rules based order also requires the incorporation of institutions such as IMF and World Health organization to play a more key role in the region. Lastly, the conceptualization of a European Strategy towards the “Indo-Pacific region” is an absolute imperative.

2. **Tackling Climate Change and protecting the environment:**

Climate change has come forward as a major global phenomenon that poses the threat on a global scale like never before, especially the alarming dangers that the Indo-Pacific region faces. As the global community has become very diligent towards ensuring that humanity doesn't face the worst of it, the federal government of Germany has also vouched towards working to ensure the mitigation of climate security threats and ensuring the adequate steps to ensure further climate protection, the protection of bio diversity, introduce the wide spread acceptance of green energy and work towards being energy efficient. The initiatives, in a broader sense, will entail emission reduction; provide assistance countries vulnerable to climate change. , biodiversity, marine life preservation, mitigation of deforestation, streamlining agricultural supply chain among many more. The paper also illustrates the necessity to ensure multilateral actions towards

ensuring the participation of every actor to curb the extent of climate change as much as possible.

### **3. Strengthening Peace, Security and Stability:**

In the contemporary world order, peace, security and stability are three issues that often tend to be attacked upon the most due to the multi dynamic and often turbulent nature of the international world order. As a result, the German federal government will actively extend policy formulation and engagement measures to ensure the safeguarding and preservation of international laws in all frontiers. There has also been major encouragements towards ensuring cooperation towards peace and security, including the expanding the outreach of major security infrastructures and prevention of contemporary security threats such as arms race and weapons proliferations, cyber-attacks, constant rise of radicalisation and militancy around the region and the various types of conflicts on going and brewing up not only in the region, but around the world. No actor, both state and non-state hasn't, is capable of mitigating these issues all on their own, thus the paper focuses upon integrated and multifaceted approach towards ensuring these issues are within control and doesn't prompt damage to a major extent upon the peace and harmony of the world order.

### **4. Promoting human rights and rule of law:**

Towards promoting a more just, hate free, inclusive and modern society, the necessity to uplift human rights and rule of law is a must. Thus the initiatives strongly mention the importance of the promotion of human rights, which entails everything from freedom of speech, religion, beliefs to freedom of business, human rights, and more importantly, the creation, promotion of a vibrant and active civil society. There has also been importance being put upon the prevention of the spread of fake news, harmful content and disinformation that can have catastrophic impacts upon many aspects of life. The importance of ensuring these things, including toiling towards maintaining the rule of law through dialogue and necessary course of actions, has been majorly stressed upon amongst the other policy initiatives in regards to the Indo-Pacific region.

**5. Strengthening rules-based, fair and sustainable free trade:**

In the modern world, countries and the various facets that actually constitute a country are always intertwined in a global context, with interdependency being a prominent characteristic of the modern world. Trade is possibly the most crucial aspect of the contemporary globalized world. As a result, it is beyond important to ensure the promotion of well-regulated fair market and free trade. The paper has also stressed upon “intensifying and diversifying economic relations”, revamping the EU trade policies, make the market more fair and sustainable to keep up with the modern trends, including fighting off measures of “deglobulisation”. The paper also promotes the proposition of healthy market competition including all practitioners from around the world, ensuring all the parties are beneficiaries from the newly introduced initiatives.

**6. Rules-Based networking and the digital transformation of regions and markets:**

The complete overhaul of current networking, regions and markets has been discussed throughout the paper, through digitalization and modernization. The path to these modern rules based, digitalized space does emphasise upon the significance of extending hand towards and ensuring stronger ties towards the Indo-Pacific to make this scarcely perceivable vision a reality. The broader initiatives include green energy corridors, EU-Asia connectivity strategy, ensuring further digital transformation of the concerned factors, digital sovereignty, further opportunities for cooperation, and most significantly, reducing enmity and extending the concept of visionary dialogue beyond 5G with the Indo-Pacific countries.

**7. Bringing People together through culture, education and science:**

Last among the initiative mentioned within the policy guideline, the practice of promoting diversity rather than actually exacerbating differences has been accentuated upon through ensuring big scale cultural exchange, innovation and , not only in the context of Germany but in a far broader prospect as well, including advocating the freedom of cultural professionals and scientists within the framework of cultural relations

and educational policies and engage other actors towards furthering the creative industries. The key essence of these initiatives encircle around academic and cultural exchange and preservation

The content of this paper doesn't necessarily emphasise upon a singular event, but rather to evaluate a particular development instigated by another phenomena. During the era of the trump regime, the U.S has lost a significant portion of its global credibility as a global leader in the global stage. Germany, being one of the major powers in the global arena, is willing to mitigate the severity of this damage, alongside fulfilling the void left by the U.S, at least to a certain extent. The Policy guideline actually reflects that aspiration to a certain extent, including not only showcasing the course of action necessary to cope with the complexities of the modern world, but also to ensure a sustainable and horizontal growth, with the heavy inclusion of the most significant region in terms of geo-strategy in the world politics right now, the Indo-Pacific. The policy guideline, thus presents itself as a handbook towards not only a peaceful, inclusive and multicultural world, but also a manual towards mitigating the challenges of the current world, and last but not the least, a prosperous world with beneficiaries all the across the globe, not just the conventional powers reaping all the benefits.

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