

## Indonesia's Role in ASEAN Peacebuilding through the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

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### Abstract

This article explores Indonesia's strategic role in ASEAN peacebuilding and conflict prevention during the Joko Widodo (Jokowi) administration, focusing on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a strategic normative initiative. Anchored in Constructivism and supported by role theory, this study examines how Indonesia uses ASEAN-led institutional mechanisms to promote regional stability through shared norms and ASEAN identity amid escalating Indo-Pacific geopolitical tensions. Indonesia's efforts to uphold ASEAN's centrality and advance a rules-based regional order in order to preserve peace in the region are reflected in the AOIP/ Using a qualitative research method based on literature review and document analysis, the research investigates both official ASEAN documents and relevant academic literature. The findings of this article reveal that Indonesia's role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is based on norm-based leadership, consistent with its identity as a bridge-builder and peace promoter. Despite concerns about Indonesia's diminishing involvement in ASEAN, AOIP illustrates how Indonesia has reframed its broader leadership role, through institutional innovation and normative diplomacy by emphasizing the centrality of ASEAN and its distinctive values. Furthermore, the wide acceptance of AOIP by regional and external powers demonstrates Indonesia's success in shaping a cooperative Indo-Pacific order and contributing to long-term peacebuilding through institutional engagement.

## 1. Introduction

Within the scope of the Indo-Pacific, Southeast Asia's significant contribution to international relations, geopolitics, and the global economy makes this sub-region play an important role in the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region. Southeast Asia has undergone a significant transformation since the Cold War, evolving from a conflict-prone region to a peaceful and economically competitive region. The core of the collective strength of Southeast Asia, characterized as a diverse and dynamic region, lies in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) as the regional organization in the region. ASEAN's strategy in maintaining peace in the region emphasizes positive peace through comprehensive security and regional resilience [1].

Despite successfully maintaining regional peace and security for almost five decades, the geopolitical shift to the Indo-Pacific region characterized by great power competition poses a challenge for ASEAN countries today. The changing geopolitical landscape has created tensions within ASEAN, raising concerns about its centrality amid emerging bilateral and multilateral alignments. The dissemination of the idea of the Indo-Pacific by several dominant actors, such as China, Japan, India, the United States, and Australia, illustrates the increasing attention to the strategic importance of this region [2]. This phenomenon reflects the increasing strategic competition between key actors. Furthermore, this shift not only affects power relations but also has significantly impacted peace and stability in the region. Southeast Asia's strategic location makes ASEAN critical in shaping the regional economic and security architecture to ensure peace, stability and prosperity.

In response to the evolving Indo-Pacific dynamics, ASEAN seeks to play a more active role in maintaining stability and peace in the region. Through Indonesia's initiative of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), Indonesia developed an Indo-Pacific concept rooted in ASEAN centrality, inclusiveness and, cooperation [3]. Changing geopolitical dynamics, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, have prompted Indonesia to update its role conception. Driven by several major powers reconfiguring their strategic conceptions of the significance of the Indo-Pacific region [4]. Through an

ASEAN-led response to the developments, Indonesia encouraged the adoption and implementation of the AOIP.

Therefore, the outlook reflects an aspiration to ensure that ASEAN remains a key player in managing peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Since this region plays a crucial role in global stability and security, as well as the world's economic growth.

In the midst of these regional challenges, Indonesia's role in regional peacebuilding has become increasingly important. Given that Indonesia is historically referred to as ASEAN's de facto leader or "first among equals" [5], it is expected to play an important role in navigating these challenges. Furthermore, Indonesia has historically contributed to promoting multilateralism and peaceful conflict resolution in the region. These contributions have manifested through its involvement in peace efforts, often as facilitator or mediator in conflict resolution, such as those in Cambodia, Aceh, Southern Thailand, Mindanao, and the South China Sea. Its diplomatic efforts have helped ASEAN present a unified stance in regional disputes, enhancing collective security and peace. Indonesia's approach often focuses on building frameworks for peace and encouraging communication in order to maintain regional stability [6]. This track record demonstrates Indonesia's persistent dedication to positive peace, which is not just the absence of violence but also the existence of cooperation, dialogue, and inclusive development.

Indonesia's strategic foreign policy and its historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds all impact its involvement in peacebuilding. Motivated by Islamic solidarity and dedication to its "Free and Active" foreign policy, which encourages neutrality and good relations with disputing parties, the country has continuously pushed for peaceful conflict resolution [7]. In the context of Southeast Asia, regional instability has a direct impact on Indonesia's strategic interests. Challenges that the region is still facing include the humanitarian crisis involving the Rohingya, the South China Sea dispute, and the military junta ruling Myanmar. Indonesia views peacebuilding as an aspect of its regional duties as a founding member of ASEAN and as directly related to the foundations of its foreign policy. Moreover, Indonesia's involvement in peacebuilding is a significant aspect of its humanitarian engagements. Indonesia's humanitarian initiatives include major peacebuilding efforts. Indonesia's humanitarian efforts are closely intertwined with its national interests and foreign policy goals. Its peacebuilding efforts are also linked to its ambitions for regional leadership, particularly in ASEAN [8].

One of Indonesia's roles within ASEAN in efforts to create peace and stability in the region during President Jokowi's administration can be seen in Indonesia's initiative in leading the drafting and lobbying of the agreement to adopt the AOIP. The AOIP reflects Indonesia's leadership in promoting collaboration and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Historically, based on the concentric circles approach, Indonesia has placed ASEAN as the cornerstone of its foreign policy since the establishment of the organization [9]. It reflects a commitment to regional cooperation that has always been pursued through ASEAN. Furthermore, Indonesia's universal aspiration for peace can be seen in its engagement in ASEAN with a focus on conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The AOIP reflects a strategic initiative that Indonesia is pushing to maintain ASEAN's centrality amidst the complex geopolitical dynamics of the Indo-Pacific. Indonesia's contribution in initiating the AOIP reaffirms its leadership role in ASEAN which has allegedly diminished during President Jokowi's administration [4]. The Jokowi era's shift in foreign policy priorities to focus more on inward policies rather than continuing Indonesia's traditional leadership role has raised concerns that Indonesia's initiatives to promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the region will be diminished. Especially in the midst of rising tensions over competition in the Indo-Pacific that could disrupt peace and stability in the region. This momentum is important for ASEAN to navigate again. Therefore, Indonesia's efforts to navigate the Indo-Pacific more broadly reflect a response to the latest geopolitical dynamics.

However, the AOIP comes as a significant achievement that reaffirms Indonesia's leadership role in ASEAN, even beyond Southeast Asia itself. Initiatives like the AOIP illustrate Indonesia's preference for ASEAN mechanisms to take a central role in the Indo-Pacific political arena. Indonesia remains a major actor in peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts through ASEAN. As a result, despite the

shift in rhetoric, the Jokowi administration has essentially continued to play a leadership role within ASEAN [10].

This paper is based on analysis according to constructivism theory, which emphasizes the role of norms, identities, and shared ideas in shaping state behavior [11]. Constructivism is relevant to this research as it offers examinations of how Indonesia's foreign policy, particularly its promotion of the AOIP, reflects normative commitments rooted in ASEAN centrality. On this basis, the AOIP is not just a strategic document but also articulates ASEAN's collective identity, particularly through the role of Indonesia, which initiated this outlook, in maintaining regional stability. To complement this analytical framework, this paper also draws on Role Theory, particularly Holsti's conception of national roles, which explains how states exercise their interpreted leadership responsibilities [12]. Indonesia's behavior through the AOIP reflects its intention to play a more active and expansive role through ASEAN's centrality as a platform, particularly its role as a promoter of peace and an entrepreneur of ASEAN natural norms. Thus, the combination of Constructivism and Role Theory is analytically relevant to explore how Indonesia's role in ASEAN peacebuilding through reflecting its identity through foreign policy conduct, and how norms are mobilized to sustain the ASEAN regional order.

Therefore, Indonesia's role in ASEAN peacebuilding efforts during the Jokowi administration is important to examine. Since understanding Indonesia's peacebuilding role, particularly through the AOIP, is essential to grasp how the country is navigating shifting geopolitical realities while maintaining its leadership in ASEAN. Especially against the backdrop of new geopolitical challenges and shifting policy priorities over related dynamics. This paper argues that during Joko Widodo's (Jokowi) presidency, Indonesia's approach to regional and global peacebuilding was significantly shaped by shifting domestic and foreign policy priorities. In this regard, the AOIP acts as a key achievement of Indonesia's leadership in promoting dialog, multilateral cooperation, and regional stability amidst evolving geopolitical challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region. This is evidenced by Indonesia's successful adoption of the AOIP during the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in 2019 [13], its mainstreaming of four priority areas into ASEAN-led mechanisms as affirmed in the 2022 ASEAN Leaders' Declaration [14], and its leading role in Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicenter of Growth" in 2023 [15]. Furthermore, this paper explores Indonesia's role in building peacebuilding and conflict prevention in ASEAN during the Jokowi administration. By focusing on the AOIP as a significant achievement in the broader context of the Indo-Pacific. This paper will explain the shifting foreign policy priorities in the Jokowi era, highlight Indonesia's role in initiating the AOIP, and how the AOIP has influenced peacebuilding and stability in the region.

## 2. Methodology

This article uses a qualitative research approach, combining literature review and document analysis to examine Indonesia's contribution to peace and conflict prevention efforts in ASEAN during President Joko Widodo's administration, with a focus on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The application of this method provides a comprehensive understanding of Indonesia's foreign policy behavior by analyzing official narratives and scholarly interpretations. The literature review serves to build the theoretical and contextual foundation of this research, while document analysis provides direct insight into the policy instruments and rhetoric used by Indonesia and ASEAN.

Data collection was conducted through document analysis from primary and secondary sources. Primary data sources include official documents published by ASEAN and relevant policy documents from the Indonesian government accessed through their respective official websites. Secondary data included peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, policy briefs, and relevant official media coverage. The data were then analyzed using a qualitative content approach, by identifying recurring themes, patterns, and narratives that reflect Indonesia's leadership intentions and behaviors in peacebuilding efforts through ASEAN. The data were critically interpreted based on foreign policy analysis and regional cooperation literature to ensure analytical depth and contextual relevance.

### 3. Results and discussions

#### 3.1. Indonesia's Foreign Policy Shift Under Jokowi

ASEAN has been one of the cornerstones of Indonesia's foreign policy since its establishment in 1967. Furthermore, as a regional organization in the region, ASEAN is an important strategic environment in Indonesia's foreign policy. In Indonesia's concentric circles, ASEAN is a key pillar of its foreign policy [4]. For this reason, Indonesia has long prioritized ASEAN stability as its main focus. Even from the era of President Soeharto to Jokowi, there is a perception that Indonesia is the natural leader in Southeast Asia and ASEAN [16]. Historically, Indonesia has been one of the main drivers and played an important role in ASEAN. Indonesia's leadership has manifested in various roles and characters throughout the fifty years of the organization's existence. Consequently, Indonesia has played an important role in crisis management, dispute mediation, and norm development in ASEAN [5].

However, while Indonesia is considered as de facto leader of ASEAN, changing foreign policy priorities under the Jokowi administration have raised concerns about Indonesia's commitment and consistency on ASEAN and regional issues. The Jokowi administration has sought to re-evaluate Indonesia's participation in ASEAN over the past fifty years. This reassessment has been influenced by a shift in policy focus toward local and bilateral priorities [16]. Indonesia's diminished emphasis on ASEAN as a cornerstone of its foreign policy is evident from its limited participation in ASEAN-driven multilateralism and its shift to a bilateral approach. This trend was particularly noticeable during President Jokowi's administration, when Indonesia prioritized national interests over ASEAN's collective interests. As a result, there are concerns that this policy shift could lead to a reduction in Indonesia's active participation and leadership in the organization [17].

Indonesia's shifting priorities under Jokowi provide a fresh perspective on how internal focus impacts external peace efforts, particularly within ASEAN. Jokowi's foreign policy agenda emphasizes national development and sovereignty, signs of a shift towards a more nationalistic approach are evident. The Jokowi administration has moved towards an inward-looking foreign policy that focuses on domestic needs, shifting from Indonesia's traditional ASEAN-centric approach. The Global Maritime Axis (GMA) doctrine focuses primarily on domestic maritime development. In addition, it aims to position Indonesia as a middle power in the Indo-Pacific. Jokowi's policy priorities led to a diminished role in ASEAN-related initiatives, as he viewed the organization as bureaucratic and poorly aligned with his material and economic goals. As a result, it has diminished Indonesia's leadership role in ASEAN, contrasting with the active regional and global leadership involvement under his predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) [18].

Initially, Jokowi's foreign policy priorities emphasized ASEAN less than his predecessor. However, with the emergence of various regional challenges, Indonesia has again taken a more active leadership role in ASEAN. Indonesia continues to contribute by being actively involved in peacebuilding in the region by mediating regional conflicts, such as the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and Myanmar's Five-Point Consensus [10]. This approach highlights Jokowi's reliance on ASEAN frameworks, reflecting a preference for collective diplomacy over independent leadership [19]. Therefore, Indonesia remains committed to ASEAN as the main multilateral institution for resolving disputes and promoting regional cooperation, balancing national interests with its role in ASEAN [20]. Indonesia's role in building peace and stability in the region during President Jokowi's administration has been predominantly manifested through ASEAN as a regional platform for cooperation and dispute resolution.

The adoption of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) was a turning point that reaffirmed Indonesia's efforts to maintain its leadership role not only in ASEAN, but more broadly in the Indo-Pacific. The AOIP was largely initiated by Indonesia's independent proposal to create a cooperative Indo-Pacific strategy. Furthermore, the AOIP embodies Indonesia's role in achieving consensus on norms and principles of order in the Indo-Pacific region. Therefore, one of Indonesia's key achievements under the Jokowi administration was the adoption of the AOIP at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, June 2019. This milestone highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing ASEAN's central role in contributing to regional and global peace and prosperity [21]. Indonesia's proposal on the AOIP

highlights ASEAN's intention to navigate by mediating between competing interests, promoting regional peace and cooperation.

Moreover, Indonesia's initiative with the Indo-Pacific concept is an opportunity to position ASEAN as a global platform, strengthen ASEAN's centrality, and ensure its relevance amid regional and global dynamics. Indonesia's efforts to promote the Indo-Pacific concept are driven by its conception the role as a regional leader and bridge-builder, as well as integrating the strategic aspects of the dominant powers in the Indo-Pacific [4]. Indonesia seeks to support peace and stability in the region through active diplomacy. Indonesia's aspiration to maintain ASEAN unity and centrality reflects its foreign policy orientation that places ASEAN as the cornerstone of its diplomacy. This approach highlights Indonesia's commitment to regional harmony and its important role in ensuring ASEAN's relevance and strength in the face of global challenges [21].

Although President Jokowi's policy approach is more domestically oriented, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays an important role in maintaining Indonesia's relationship with ASEAN. In particular, Indonesia's role in this regional organization. By pushing for ASEAN centrality and unity, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs role has been instrumental, particularly in the development of the AOIP. As this outlook was the result of the integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs role and the President's vision, combining proactive diplomacy and the integration of Indonesia's national interests with regional goals, the outlook is an important part of Indonesia's relationship with ASEAN [4].

Indonesia's foreign policy under Jokowi still reflects its commitment in promoting ASEAN centrality, with proactive diplomacy in shaping the regional architecture, particularly through the AOIP. This strategy positions Indonesia as a key player in ensuring regional stability and maintaining ASEAN's relevance in the evolving Indo-Pacific region [22]. It reflects Indonesia's desire to continue to play an important role in contributing to navigating the direction and policies of ASEAN more broadly by strengthening ASEAN's role as a regional stabilizer and an important player in maintaining peace in the Indo-Pacific.

### 3.2. The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

As an initiative of Indonesia, ASEAN launched the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) to affirm the bloc's position in playing its role in maintaining peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. The AOIP prioritizes the practice of open and inclusive dialogue and cooperation, rather than competition and rivalry. The outlook focuses on four key areas: maritime cooperation, economic connectivity, sustainable development, and dialogue with external partners [23]. Through its implementation, ASEAN aims to enhance regional security and foster collaborative relationships among member states and external powers in the Indo-Pacific.

Southeast Asia's location at the geographic midpoint of the Indo-Pacific gives the region a strategic role amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics in the region. As the Indo-Pacific region now is at the center of global geopolitical competition, particularly the increasing competition between the United States and China, has raised concerns for Indonesia and other ASEAN member states. The geopolitical competition of major powers is considered as challenge to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. On this basis, Indonesia and ASEAN seek to preserve Southeast Asia's role and autonomy in the region. ASEAN centrality is considered critical in ensuring the development of a truly open, transparent, and inclusive Indo-Pacific regional architecture [24]. Therefore, the AOIP reaffirms ASEAN's centrality in the Indo-Pacific and promotes peace and cooperation amid rising geopolitical competition. The main elements of the AOIP provide a framework for regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region that seeks to be interconnected with ASEAN at its center [13]. It underscores ASEAN's role as a key driver in shaping regional norms and fostering regional cooperation.

Moreover, through the AOIP, ASEAN seeks to promote regional stability and peace, emphasizing the importance of international law and diplomacy in conflict resolution [25]. The AOIP emphasizes ASEAN's central role in regional affairs, encouraging member states to engage in dialogue and cooperation, which is crucial for maintaining peace. As peace in the region has been the basis of ASEAN's economic growth for more than five decades. Accordingly, the AOIP is aligned with

ASEAN's core values by striving to maintain peace while working together in priority sectors. Since the AOIP aims to address regional challenges, promote peace and challenges, promote peace, and foster economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region [26]. Therefore, its implementation is expected to bring the Indo-Pacific region into a more integrated and interconnected region through inclusive collaboration. This approach highlights the role of the AOIP in strengthening ASEAN's contribution to regional stability, peace, and regional prosperity.

The AOIP initiative seeks to strengthen an inclusive regional architecture. One of ASEAN's outstanding qualities is its ability to withstand the power games among the major powers [27]. It is also intended to enhance collaboration rather than competition, encourage mutually beneficial cooperation, and provide new opportunities offered in the Indo-Pacific region. By advocating for openness and respect for international law, the AOIP seeks to create a more predictable and stable environment, reducing the likelihood of conflicts [24]. On this basis, the AOIP indicates ASEAN's commitment to continue playing its role as a main driver of regional peace and stability, while highlighting the potential of the Indo-Pacific as a platform for collaboration. Therefore, ASEAN encourages other countries with interests in the region to be a positive force in promoting a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific through tangible and inclusive cooperation. This initiative reaffirms ASEAN's centrality to countries in the region and extra-regional powers.

The AOIP as a product of ASEAN can be best understood through the lens of Constructivism. As this outlook contains shared ideas and values among ASEAN member states who see the importance of ASEAN's relevance amidst the rising geopolitical tensions and interests in the Asia Pacific. As ASEAN is shaped not only by material conditions but also by its framework of interaction and socialization becomes an important factor that influences the interests and identities of its members. Before the AOIP, with the existence of the ASEAN security community, it could be seen that ASEAN was positioned as a regional institution that shaped the interests and policies of its member states in terms of war, peace, and cooperation. ASEAN's role in the regional order can be studied and evaluated by looking at the extent to which its norms and socialization processes, as well as identity-building initiatives, have shaped its members' attitudes and behaviours on conflict and order in the region, and the extent to which it has led to the development of shared understandings, expectations and practices based on peaceful conducts [28]. As such, AOIP exists as a product of regional identity as well as a mechanism that seeks to shape regional order, reflecting the core of constructivist notions of international politics.

The AOIP reflects a commitment to normative regionalism, as the outlook emphasizes inclusiveness, consensus, non-intervention, and peaceful dispute resolution. These values are rooted in ASEAN's founding principles, reflecting a regional identity that prioritizes multilateral solutions over great power competition [24]. As such, the AOIP is not only a strategic document that legitimizes ASEAN's alignment as a core player in the Indo-Pacific sphere, but also a social construction, as a narrative that seeks to shape how ASEAN and external actors behave in the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, the AOIP acts as an affirmation in defining what kind of regional order ASEAN envisions, emphasizing an inclusive and cooperative order for a peaceful region. Through its four pillars of maritime cooperation, economic connectivity, sustainable development, and engagement with external partners, AOIP reinforces ASEAN's collective identity as a stabilizing force.

### **3.3. Indonesia's Peacebuilding Efforts in ASEAN Through the ASEAN Outlook On the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**

The adoption of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) affirms Indonesia's efforts to strengthen ASEAN centrality and inclusiveness in response to the evolving geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. Although ASEAN's leadership role declined significantly after President Jokowi promoted his conception of maritime power, Indonesia played a key role in drafting and lobbying for the agreement of the AOIP. As a vision document that reaffirms ASEAN's centrality while emphasizing the importance of Indo-Pacific peace and cooperation [4]. Therefore, instead of a declining leader, Indonesia positioned itself as a norm entrepreneur in broadly Indo-Pacific context with AOIP as its instrument. This shift can be seen as a strategic recalibration and emphasis on norm entrepreneur, wherein Jakarta promotes consensus-based regional norms consistent with its "Free and Active"

principles and maritime vision. Indonesia's norm entrepreneurship was guided by altruism, empathy, and ideational commitment, promoting peaceful, inclusive cooperation in response to shifting Indo-Pacific geopolitics [29].

Indonesia's role in promoting regional stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region is manifested through the adoption of the AOIP. The AOIP is thus a testament to Indonesia's initiatives that have actively contributed to efforts to maintain peace, promote dialog, and enhance stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The AOIP has strengthened Indonesia's ambition to play an important role in the Indo-Pacific architecture with ASEAN as its main instrument. Furthermore, the promotion of AOIP serves to reaffirm Indonesia's leadership identity, through normative and institutional influences. Basically, the promotion of AOIP reflects the core assumptions of constructivism. As Wendt said, state interests and actions are shaped not solely by material power, but by shared norms, identities, and shared knowledge [11].

Indonesia is actively contributing to the Indo-Pacific region by promoting a vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive region through the development of the AOIP. This outlook articulates ASEAN's vision of implementing cooperation in the broader Indo-Pacific region. Through the AOIP, ASEAN recognizes the integrated and interconnected nature of the Indo-Pacific region [2]. Accordingly, Indonesia aims to strengthen ASEAN's role amidst complex geopolitical dynamics, ensuring stability and prosperity in the region. This commitment reflects recognition of the region's diversity while ensuring inclusiveness. Indonesia's ultimate goal is to foster positive interdependence among countries in the region by nurturing close economic collaboration. Furthermore, it is expected to contribute to long-term peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Under Jokowi's leadership, Indonesia has actively promoted ASEAN centrality and a peaceful Indo-Pacific, seeking to maintain a balanced regional order. Indonesia's position in ASEAN allows it to shape regional dynamics while promoting stability and cooperation in the region [22]. According to Jokowi, one way to reduce regional insecurity is to implement the AOIP as a concrete platform for cooperation [30]. For this reason, the implementation of the AOIP is one of the main focuses in Indonesia's ASEAN Leadership 2023 [15]. Indonesia's leadership theme, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," reflects its ambition to maintain ASEAN's relevance amid global challenges and ensure the Indo-Pacific remains peaceful, stable, and economically integrated.

Indonesia's leadership of ASEAN in 2023 reinforces its middle power diplomacy, focusing on the implementation of the AOIP to foster inclusive growth, regional stability, and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific. This role is in line with Indonesia's vision for 2045, to be a stabilizing element in Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific, emphasizing a strong ASEAN as the foundation for its regional and global diplomatic ambitions [31]. Indonesia's strategy in implementing the AOIP combines leadership and accommodation strategies, reflecting a soft power approach. As a country with a strong reputation in ASEAN and an independent foreign policy, Indonesia focuses on accommodating various interests to reach consensus while maintaining peace. This approach reinforces ASEAN's identity and core values, including national sovereignty, non-intervention, and peaceful conflict resolution [25]. Through the mainstreaming of AOIP priorities through ASEAN's agenda, Indonesia emphasizes soft power diplomacy, inclusive order, and regional integration, which is consistent with its identity as a normative regional leader.

The AOIP emerged from an 18-month diplomatic effort by Indonesia, grounded in Jokowi's Global Maritime Fulcrum (GMF) strategy and the traditional "Free and Active" foreign policy doctrine [29]. Thus, Indonesia successfully integrates GMF priorities and economic diplomacy into the AOIP. By focusing on inclusiveness, openness, and rules-based cooperation, the AOIP becomes a strategic framework that reflects Indonesia's vision for a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Key elements of Indonesia's peacebuilding and conflict prevention strategies, such as maritime cooperation and sustainable development, are embedded in the implementation of the AOIP. Therefore, aligning the ASEAN agenda with Indonesia's foreign policy objectives. Since collective ideas can become so widely shared that they acquire a structural quality [11].

The AOIP is inherently linked to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the region. Its ultimate goal is to foster cooperation and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, peace and stability are fundamental to its approach. By ensuring a stable and peaceful environment, the AOIP creates the necessary conditions for regional development and prosperity. On this basis, the AOIP is one of the concrete forms of Indonesia's role in ASEAN in creating peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, the AOIP reflects ASEAN's intention to maintain its credentials for maintaining peace in the region, extending to the Indo-Pacific. Based on ASEAN values that emphasize peace through rules-based cooperation, consensus-based dialogue, and other normative principles, the AOIP reflects efforts to internalize these values in a broader context. The initiative is not just a policy instrument, but a reflection of ASEAN's collective identity as a community committed to peaceful coexistence and regional order. Based on state identities can lead to various forms of interactions, so does ASEAN as a collective power in Southeast Asia, mainstreaming its core values to a broader regional context. This is in line with what constructivist theory posits, these shared ideas help constitute the regional order and define appropriate state behavior [11].

The AOIP reflects Indonesia's role in promoting collaboration and stability in the Indo-Pacific. The AOIP has been widely welcomed by major countries and regional actors, including China, the United States, Japan, Australia and India, for its inclusive nature and alignment with their regional strategies. This reception highlights Indonesia's rising profile and conciliatory leadership within ASEAN and the broader Indo-Pacific framework [2]. As the AOIP is designed to promote inclusiveness, openness, and respect for international law, which are fundamental values in creating peace in the region. Moreover, norm internalization involves alignment of those external actors' Indo-Pacific vision with the AOIP, by endorsing its core principles: openness, inclusivity, international law, and peaceful cooperation [29]. This indicates how Indonesia is shaping regional policies that are inclusive and constructive, addressing geopolitical challenges while maintaining ASEAN's relevance primarily in ensuring a peaceful region. Therefore, Through AOIP, Indonesia is strengthening a collective ASEAN identity based on peaceful coexistence and multilateral involvement, in addition to furthering its strategic objectives. This is in line with Busse's (1999) contention that ASEAN norms, such as peaceful conflict resolution and non-interference, are socially constructed over time and serve as the basis of a regional identity [32].

By framing regional discourse around ASEAN-led norms, Indonesia asserts its identity as a norm entrepreneur. Particularly by advocating the adoption of an institutional framework that not only reflects shared ASEAN values but also responds to the escalation of geopolitical tensions through peaceful means. As such, the AOIP exists as a product of regional identity as well as a mechanism that seeks to shape regional order, reflecting the core of constructivist notions of international politics. Indonesia's leadership in initiating and promoting this outlook reflects its role in consolidating and uniting other member states into a shared vision for the future of the Region.

Indonesia's promotion of the AOIP can be seen not just as a strategic initiative, but as a constructivist effort to sustain ASEAN's normative order with evolving regional dynamics as its background. The stability and cohesion of ASEAN are less about material power or alliance formation and more about a shared regional code of conduct, that is rooted in norms such as sovereignty, non-interference, and peaceful dispute resolution. Over time, these norms have become internalized, forming the basis of a collective ASEAN identity, one of the strongest factors shaping member-state behavior [32]. The AOIP builds directly on this normative foundation. It reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to an inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific.

Using role theory, AOIP can be seen as a form of Indonesia's role performance that underscores its identity as a regional leader, peace promoter, and norm entrepreneur. Through this initiative, Indonesia reasserts its leadership not through material power, but by advancing ideological influence and regional norms. By leading the development of the AOIP, Indonesia is actively living up to its identity as a promoter of peace in the region. The AOIP's emphasis on inclusiveness, maritime economic cooperation, and sustainable development is in line with Indonesia's foreign policy doctrine, which also values ASEAN centrality and a peaceful regional order. Thus, Indonesia's actions are not only materially motivated but also indicated a consistent performance with the national role they positioning itself as.

#### 4. Conclusion

Indonesia has played a transformative role in ASEAN peacebuilding and conflict prevention during Jokowi's presidential term, particularly through the conceptualization and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The AOIP has emerged as a key framework to foster dialogue, promote cooperation, and enhance regional stability amid complex geopolitical challenges in the Indo-Pacific. Indonesia's peacebuilding efforts in ASEAN, particularly through the AOIP, demonstrate not only a strategic response to regional instability but also a reaffirmation of its identity as a normative actor committed to ASEAN's core values. The AOIP serves as a strategic instrument to foster dialogue, cooperation, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific, reinforcing ASEAN's centrality while advancing a vision grounded in inclusiveness, multilateralism, and rules-based collaboration.

Under Jokowi's leadership, Indonesia's promotion of AOIP reflects a normative leadership strategy rooted in ASEAN's identity as a regional community that emphasizes peace, which is also in line with Indonesia's fundamental vision. In line with its role conception as a regional leader and bridge-builder, Indonesia has used the AOIP to project not material dominance, but ideational influence and normative entrepreneurship. By shaping the region's diplomatic discourse around shared norms and mutual respect. Its proactive diplomacy and innovative contributions through the AOIP affirm ASEAN's centrality in maintaining peace, not just in Southeast Asia but in the Indo-Pacific more broadly. This achievement gives ASEAN the ability to navigate regional security complexities and uphold its position as a bridge-builder in the Indo-Pacific. These efforts reflect Indonesia's evolving role under President Jokowi, rooted in norm promotion and institutional engagement.

In conclusion, the AOIP reflects Indonesia's evolving role in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific. The AOIP serves as a prime instance of how Indonesia asserts its significance within ASEAN while adjusting to changing regional dynamics, through institution and identity-driven diplomacy. It highlights how rules-based frameworks, inclusive cooperation, and respect for international law can collectively contribute to a peaceful and prosperous region through ASEAN-led processes, Indonesia continues to establish itself as a major role in maintaining regional equilibrium and fostering sustainable growth, ensuring that ASEAN remains a center of stability and development in the region. Therefore, AOIP is not only a strategic policy but also a reflection of Indonesia's role conception and regional leadership manifestation.

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