



EMBASSY OF DENMARK



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Response by

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On the Question of

'Whole of Region' efforts and 'Short Term Threats'

Thank you, Brigadier

I will take on Mich's question and try and offer some clarity from our perspective. So, like Captain Landsman correctly said the whole of government in this case could be firstly national internal stakeholders, followed by external stakeholders. I will just take that forward. I think the word 'whole of government', when it is moved to a 'whole of region', it is not really 'whole of region' all the time but it is based on 'context' and 'threat'. Therefore, the term actually is **'whole of stakeholders' approach** and the **stakeholders could shift based on threat and context**.

So, let me give you an example of this. In India, we had an attack at Taj Hotel and other locations. **The cross-border state sponsored terrorists had approached the location by sea**. After that, we formed something called the 'National Maritime Security Coordinator' because we found that our coordination of maritime security was not efficient then to stop this terrorism from the maritime route. So now, the National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) coordinates, as the Captain said, between fisheries, shipping, Navy, Coast Guard, the department of law and justice, the universities, academia, think tanks... in essence everybody concerned with Maritime Security. We all meet often to discuss and remove all the gaps. But that is internal. Now imagine doing this in the whole of region. You can only do that when you have an organization in place for capability development and continue to do it. When it comes to operations or short-term operations specifically, it is the 'whole of stakeholders' based on context and threat. I would not say 'whole of region', I would just say 'whole of stakeholders'.

The second aspect quickly is in the **'short term'** and the **'long term'**. I don't think armed forces or security forces in the world have the luxury to think in terms of short term and long term. You have to be **ready for any threat "anytime, anywhere, anyhow"** like my colleague just mentioned in his last slide. That was not just a quote, it was serious business. To be able to do that, you need to have rigorous training processes, training and op cycles and most importantly you also have coordination between nations wherein you pass on the expertise that you have. I don't think threats will announce their arrival. **Trend analysis may help but you have to be always ready for 'any threat any time'**.
