

## RCEP as a Platform for Comprehensive Regional Security

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The middle powers of the Asia-Pacific have a collective interest in shoring up the multilateral institutions and deepening the processes of regional economic integration, and stabilise geopolitical bifurcation by promoting dialogue and meaningful engagement between the United States and China. In this task, the region seeks both to collectively articulate its new *modus vivendi*, and to identify and institutionalise the necessary political processes and platforms. This presentation surveys the regional initiatives that aspire to this end, and suggests a possible set of principles that could guide the region's efforts to achieve security through economic and political cooperation. Second, we highlight the potential inherent in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which has an in-built economic and technical cooperation pillar, and an established ministerial and leader-level dialogue, to emerge as a principal forum for the negotiation and operationalisation of regional economic and political interests.