Maluhia 2023: Promoting a Collaborative Policy Environment

Both new and more traditional challenges to global order have emerged in recent years, posing risks to regional peace, stability, and development in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere. Networks of countries that recognize the need for defense cooperation represent an essential component of preserving a regional order that serves everyone. The Maluhia 2023 workshop aims to identify policy impediments that stifle such cooperation, and bring together policymakers who have the vision and authority to address these so as to move forward our shared security.

The United States recognizes some of the policy impediments stem from our own system, while others could be resolved through joint coordination and collaboration. For example, U.S. technology transfer and security cooperation policies may help prevent adversaries from acquiring sensitive defense capabilities, but can also have the side effect of slowing down the transfer of key capabilities that could help provide deterrence in support of peace and stability.

In other cases, multiple countries may be interested in helping strengthen regional partner capabilities in a given area, but a lack of coordination and de-confliction could lead to gaps and redundancies, or could overwhelm recipient nation absorptive capacity. Separately, different legal, regulatory, normative or capacity constraints could complicate efforts to combat disinformation or harden computer networks and protect or share sensitive information.

Maluhia 2023 is an opportunity for stakeholders to share policy challenges and work together to find solutions. Your input is essential to creating a solid foundation and driving meaningful progress. Accordingly, as the event approaches, we ask that you please reflect on specific policy gaps or disconnects within your own country and with others – as well as best practices for aligning policies – that you can contribute to discussions.