

**Force not an option to end conflicts, Asian nations told**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: Reject the use of force and violence in resolving conflicts, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak tells Asian countries.

He told participants of the 26th Asia-Pacific Roundtable that pro-active measures needed to be taken to make Asia realise the importance of safeguarding regional peace.

"Granted the right to self-defence is permitted under the UN Charter. However, it bears reminding that history is replete with instances of wars fought under the guise of self-defence.

"It is critical that mechanisms and structures are in place to ensure this region will never display the proclivity to the extreme action of taking up arms.

"We cannot leave the protection of the region's peace and security to chance. We have to take pro-active steps towards the construction of a pluralistic security in which the use of force is not an option," he said in his keynote address at the event's launch last night.

Najib said a good starting point would be to forge a common vision for the region.

Themed "Asian Security Order and Governance", the forum, which will end tomorrow, features prominent speakers from around the region.

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