

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of
the Third ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and
Disarmament**

Las Vegas, USA, 23-25 February 2011

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 17th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Ha Noi on 23 July 2010, the Third ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) was held in Las Vegas from 23-25 February 2011. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Eliot Kang, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation of the United States Department of State, Ms. Lim Kheng Hua, Director, International Organisations Directorate, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Wang Xiaoning, Counselor, Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

2. Participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Viet Nam were present. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) also attended the meeting, as did a representative from the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), and from the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP). The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

Opening Session

3. The keynote address was delivered by Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance. Her

address provided an overview of significant recent accomplishments in arms control and disarmament, and noted the importance of using the momentum generated by these positive developments to make progress on beginning negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, and promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). She highlighted the value of transparency, noting the P-5 dialogue on verification, transparency and confidence-building.

4. The meeting then heard a report from Mr. Ralph Cossa, representing the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, on the work of the CSCAP Study Group on Countering WMD, which had met immediately preceding the ISM.

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

Topic 1: Path to a World Without Nuclear Weapons

6. The Meeting took note of views expressed by ARF participants on the state of the international disarmament and nonproliferation regimes, and ways that these regimes could be strengthened. Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan of the Philippines, President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, offered thoughts on the importance of the path toward disarmament, noting accomplishments to date, and outlining the way forward. He noted that the success of the 2010 NPT Review Conference was due in large part to the strong political will on the part of States Parties that the Conference succeed. In outlining the way forward, he called for prompt implementation of several steps from the Action Plan contained in the Conference's Final Document.
7. China provided a presentation on opportunities and challenges facing the current global regime. China noted that international efforts should focus on: building a safer world for all; gradually advancing nuclear disarmament; implementing the action plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference; following

the principles of global strategic stability and undiminished security for all; and promoting progress on the nonproliferation and peaceful use pillars of the regime. China reiterated its commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and in any circumstances and its unconditional no-use or no-threat-of-use of nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapons States or nuclear weapon-free zones. China recounted its history of support for disarmament efforts including its support for the establishment of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ).

8. Many participants noted China's readiness to sign the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty, and expressed the desire that agreement with the other NWS (P4) on outstanding issues could be reached so that all of the NWS could sign the Protocol. Some ASEAN participants expressed hope that direct consultations on the outstanding issues with the P4 could be resumed in 2011.
9. Australia briefed on the Cross-Regional Nonproliferation and Disarmament initiative led by Australia and Japan. Australia noted that the priority of the initiative was to facilitate the implementation of the 64 actions from the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document, noting that initial work would focus on confidence building measures such as enhancing transparency measures among the NWS. Australia noted other important steps being promoted by the Initiative, including: promoting swift commencement of negotiations on an FMCT; promoting entry into force of the CTBT; strengthening IAEA Safeguards and the Additional Protocol; expressing support for nuclear weapons free zones and strengthening cooperation in the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and its protocol; and promoting strict compliance with states' nonproliferation commitments. Australia noted the role the ARF can play in this effort, including through expressing support for negotiation of an FMCT and for entry into force of the CTBT, and encouraging all ARF Participants to ratify and implement the Additional Protocol.
10. Regarding efforts to negotiate an FMCT in the Conference of Disarmament (CD), and the current deadlock in that body, Australia noted that efforts had already begun to advance FMCT negotiations through expert side events

held by Australia and Japan on the sidelines of the CD to discuss definitions of terms in support of future negotiations on an FMCT. Australia noted the value of such events in keeping momentum toward FMCT negotiations moving forward.

11. Many participants expressed support for the Initiative led by Australia and Japan as an important means to implement the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Some participants also noted the importance of negotiations toward a Nuclear Weapons Convention, noting the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary General at the September 2010 High Level Event on Disarmament to study the NWC as a means to complement the NPT and incorporate states outside the NPT in nuclear disarmament efforts. Some participants also noted that negotiations on an FMCT are not the only issue to be addressed at the Conference on Disarmament. While many participants expressed the view that negotiations on an FMCT were overdue, some participants maintained that any such negotiations must first take into account the security requirements of all states, and that no state could be expected to enter into negotiations on a treaty that would adversely affect its national security.

12. Some participants indicated that they would like to see more progress toward disarmament among the P5. Malaysia inquired as to the status of P5 discussions on disarmament and transparency, noting that such progress on disarmament was necessary before non NWS could take on additional commitments on nonproliferation. In response, the United States informed the meeting that the P5 had held a first meeting in 2009, and that France will host a follow-on meeting this year. While the agenda for this meeting has not been finalized, the United States explained that this process shows that the P5 take their commitments very seriously, and plan to report success to the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Topic 2: Milestones on the Path

New START

13. The United States provided a briefing on the negotiation, signing and entry into force of the New START agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation, noting the benefits that the Treaty brings not only to the two signatories, but also to global security. The United States explained the specific reductions called for in the Treaty, which will bring the number of deployed nuclear warheads to their lowest levels since the 1950s. The United States also described the verification measures of the new Treaty, explaining how this mechanism provides confidence between the two countries, as well as a measure of predictability that greatly facilitates strategic stability.

14. The Russian Federation commented on the open, friendly atmosphere at the negotiations, and described how strong political will on both sides engendered partnership between both countries. Russia noted how the new Treaty brought the bilateral relationship to a new level, and that it serves as a 'gold standard' for bilateral interaction on other issues. Russia noted the Treaty emphasizes the principle of 'equal and indivisible security' and that it promoted stable and predictable relations between the two countries to the benefit of the security of both states and of overall global security. The meeting welcomed the entry into force of the New START treaty.

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

15. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) provided an overview of efforts to promote the CTBT as the next natural step in global disarmament efforts. CTBTO explained that a strong global norm against nuclear testing already exists, as evidenced by United Nations Security Council action following the nuclear tests by the DPRK in 2006 and 2008. In addition, much work has been completed in developing a global monitoring system, with 270 certified monitoring facilities in place around the world and an advanced regime of on-site inspections upon entry into force of the Treaty. The CTBTO stressed the non-discriminatory nature of the Treaty, noting that data from the verification regime is equally available to all parties. The Organization also noted that the verification mechanism of the CTBT can complement verification of the SEANWFZ Treaty, and noted that the ARF can play a

positive role in building the confidence among states needed to establish conditions for the treaty's entry into force.

16. Indonesia announced that it is currently in the final stage of ratification of the CTBT, and that it hopes this step will inspire other states to move forward their respective ratification processes as well. Indonesia stated that during its ASEAN chairmanship in 2011 it will promote the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty. The European Union also reiterated its support for the Treaty, and provided a briefing on steps it has taken to assist states in Latin America and Africa to build national capacities to implement the treaty, as well as assistance it has given to the CTBT Preparatory Committee to develop and maintain the monitoring network. Thailand noted its intention to ratify the treaty in the near future, and inquired of the CTBTO what specific capacity building exercises might be appropriate in the ARF region, including efforts to raise public awareness. CTBTO replied that many opportunities for capacity building exist, including assisting ARF participants who have signed the Treaty in independently analyzing data provided by the international monitoring system. CTBTO also noted that the benefits of analyzing such data are not limited to nuclear disarmament, but have practical applications in other fields as well, including tsunami monitoring.

Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

17. The United States, Japan and Canada provided briefings on the status of efforts to begin negotiations on an FMCT, explaining the expert side event being held on the margins of the CD Plenary to provide informal consultations. The United States encouraged all ARF participants to participate in such events in the future. Japan noted that a moratorium on the production of fissile material for weapon use would be an effective measure to reduce nuclear risks pending the entry into force of an FMCT. Many participants expressed the desire to see negotiations on an FMCT begin at the earliest date, given the contribution such a treaty would make to global disarmament efforts. Some participants reiterated the need for negotiations to take into account the security needs of all, and noted that FMCT was not the only issue facing deadlock in the CD.

Role of Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones (NWFZs)

18. Indonesia provided a briefing on the positive role that NWFZs can play in promoting global security and overall disarmament efforts. Indonesia noted the specific contributions that the SEANWFZ has played in promoting peace and security in Southeast Asia, and identified specific additional steps, such as re-engaging the NWS through direct consultations, as well as developing cooperation between states in the region and the IAEA, that could help advance regional security. Indonesia noted that ASEAN successfully put forward resolutions on the SEANWFZ in the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 and 2009, and encouraged all ARF participants to support such a resolution this year.

19. Mongolia also briefed the meeting on efforts being undertaken around the world on NWFZs, noting that currently the entire Southern Hemisphere- an area encompassing over 100 states- is now nuclear weapons-free. Mongolia explained its status as a one-state nuclear weapons free zone, and noted its participation in activities among NWFZs to promote confidence building measures and the entry into force of all treaties establishing NWFZs.

20. Thailand noted that discussion of SEANWFZ should be viewed in the context of ongoing regional efforts. Given ongoing efforts of many ASEAN states to pursue nuclear programs for peaceful purposes, and to build on ASEAN Community and enhanced connectivity, more broadly, mechanisms such as SEANWFZ that can promote greater trust and confidence on nuclear-related issues among ASEAN Member States are of increased importance. Thailand called for additional work on dialogue with the NWS on issues surrounding the Treaty's Protocol, as well as for increased cooperation between ASEAN states and the IAEA, as well as for greater coordination among nuclear regulatory bodies within the region, and cooperation among the various Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones to share best practices. Australia supported Thailand's suggestions, and in this regard offered a short briefing on the role the Asia Pacific Safeguards Network can play in fostering international cooperation to the benefit of confidence building in the region.

Chemical Weapons Convention

21. The OPCW provided a summary of work that has already been undertaken to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, but noted that its work will 'never be completed.' The briefing noted that chemical weapons disarmament continues, with 63 percent of the 71,000 tons of declared weapons already having been destroyed under OPCW supervision, but that the nonproliferation objectives of the Organisation would be ongoing. The briefing noted that the OPCW had developed a comprehensive verification regime, which had resulted in over 1900 inspections conducted to date in 81 countries. The Convention enjoys near universality, with 188 states having signed and ratified. The briefing noted that two ARF participants had not yet ratified the Convention, and encouraged the ARF to promote universality. The briefing welcomed cooperation provided by Thailand to host a Challenge Inspection Field Exercise in Fall 2011, which will be the first event of its kind to be held in Asia. The briefing also specifically asked all states to make arrangements for visas and relevant licenses to be made available to OPCW personnel quickly should the Organisation ever need to quickly deploy personnel for an inspection. The briefing also noted that the focus of the Organisation will naturally evolve as disarmament is completed and the nonproliferation role takes higher priority.

22. Many participants welcomed the presentation made by OPCW, and expressed strong support for the CWC and for its comprehensive verification mechanism. Some states reiterated that the primary focus of the Organisation should remain on chemical weapons disarmament. China noted the importance of the timely completion of destruction of chemical weapons, including the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on Chinese territory during the Second World War. China noted the harm to civilian populations and to the environment that these abandoned chemical weapons cause. India noted its own progress in chemical weapons disarmament, having destroyed its stockpiles according to timelines established by the Convention. The ROK stressed the importance of ensuring the universality of the CWC, and highlighted the need to engage the DPRK on the CWC and BWC, given the ROK's belief that the DPRK may possess chemical and biological weapons. The OPCW noted that future engagement with the

DPRK would be necessary, but recognized that resolution of the nuclear issue would understandably take precedence in international engagement with the DPRK.

23. Responding to concerns raised by China, Japan replied that it was moving quickly to meet its obligations under the Convention, but noted the challenges involved in safely destroying the weapons. Japan also noted that a mobile destruction facility had been deployed to conduct such destructions, and that a second mobile destruction facility was planned for deployment. The United States also noted frustrations expressed with the pace of chemical disarmament, but noted that the inability to meet established deadlines was not a function of any lack of political will, but rather it reflected the enormous challenges involved in dismantling chemical weapons safely and irreversibly. The United States noted that it currently spends 1 billion USD annually on dismantlement at a facility that operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thailand emphasized the importance of promoting trust and confidence as well as capacity-building and therefore underscored the importance of convening a Challenge Inspection Field Exercise with the OPCW in Thailand in 2011.

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

24. The Biological Toxin Weapons Convention's Implementation Support Unit provided a briefing on the status of the Convention, and discussed preparations for the 7th Review Conference of the Convention to be held in December 2011. The ISU sought to ensure that all participants in the BWC Review Conference were made aware of the issues to be discussed before the Conference began, and noted that meetings such as this ISM were valuable in that regard. The briefing noted that the BWC has no standing secretariat such as the OPCW or IAEA, and that the ISU is composed of only three officers. Proposals to expand the size and mandate of this Unit will be considered at the Review Conference, and many ARF participants expressed support for the ISU and noted the need for it to be given the resources it needs to complete its important work. Participants also discussed the need for better intersessional work in between the BWC Review Conferences, and called for ways to identify concrete means to build

capacities and to promote international co-operation in support of the objectives of the Convention. The ISU noted that exchanges of information and confidence building measures were key to the implementation of the Treaty, and noted that the 2011 Review Conference will explore ways to improve the mechanism for such exchanges.

25. Many participants expressed their support for the BWC. Some participants also called for creation of a verification protocol to help build confidence in states' compliance with the Convention. The Meeting expressed strong support for the 2011 Review Conference, and encouraged all participants to follow developments on the Review Conference closely to ensure a successful Review Conference. In this regard, China noted a workshop held in Beijing in 2010 to discuss issues in relation to and in preparation for the 2011 Review Conference. Some participants also noted the work on biosecurity currently being undertaken in the ARF ISM on Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime, and expressed the wish that this work could also help support a successful Review Conference.

Topic 3: Promoting Cooperation in Nonproliferation and Disarmament

Transparency in Nonproliferation and Disarmament

26. Singapore provided a briefing on the importance of transparency in both nonproliferation and disarmament. Singapore stated, and many participants agreed, that the Additional Protocol was an important step for all states to undertake to develop confidence in a state's peaceful intentions in pursuit of nuclear power. Singapore also noted the importance of addressing the reasons for states' reluctance to implement the Additional Protocol. Singapore outlined different ways that it sought to support the IAEA including through hosting two regional outreach seminars conducted by the IAEA on the Additional Protocol in March 2011. Some participants also noted that such outreach could be conducted in the ARF context, including by providing information on national measures regarding nonproliferation and disarmament into ARF participants' contributions to the annual Security Outlook.

27. With regard to transparency in disarmament, Singapore noted that the entry into force of the New START Treaty was a positive development, but that much work needed to be done to maintain momentum toward implementation of Article VI of the NPT. While the complete eradication of nuclear weapons may be a long term goal, Singapore urged P5 states to take the lead in making transparent reductions and end qualitative improvements of nuclear weapons and testing.
28. Thailand noted that it was important to promote a culture of transparency and information sharing within the ARF. In this connection, participants also emphasized the importance of the Additional Protocol and the need to promote its universality. Other participants also highlighted the need for NWS to embrace transparency as a measure that enhances, and does not detract from, a state's national security. Some states noted that, while transparency is important, it should not be undertaken at the expense of national security. China emphasized the equal importance of transparency in strategic nuclear policy and intentions. Japan stressed the importance of the UN Register of Conventional Arms as a measure to increase transparency and encouraged Asian countries not doing so to join in this framework.

International Cooperation

29. The European Union offered a briefing on the many ways that EU states cooperate together on nonproliferation and disarmament, as well as on ways that the EU engages as a unit with foreign partners on these issues. These interactions include several programs aimed at building the capacities of other states to meet their nonproliferation and disarmament commitments. In particular, the EU noted its Stability Document, which calls for 300 million euro to be spent between 2007 and 2010 to help states efforts to mitigate the threats posed by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.
30. The Republic of Korea noted the importance of nuclear security as a new pillar to prevent the "ultimate preventable catastrophe" of an act of nuclear terrorism, and offered a briefing on status of preparations for the Second Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in Seoul in 2012. The presentation

noted the success of the first NSS in raising awareness of nuclear security to the highest levels of government, and expressed hope that the second NSS would serve as an impetus for action to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials within four years. Many participants expressed their strong support for the NSS process, and welcomed arrangements being made for a successful second Summit.

31. Several proposals were made on how cooperation among ARF participants could help advance the goals of nonproliferation and disarmament, including providing more detailed information on relevant national measures on WMD nonproliferation and disarmament being undertaken in the Annual Security Outlook, promoting outreach on nonproliferation and disarmament education, encouraging greater cooperation with the IAEA, including universalization of the Additional Protocol and cooperation in other relevant regional bodies aimed at enhancing cooperation on nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

Role of Verification and Compliance

32. VERTIC gave a detailed presentation on an effort undertaken by the United Kingdom and Norway on the verification of warhead dismantlement. The project exemplified cooperation between NWS and NNWS on physical dismantlement of nuclear warheads in ways that ensure no risk of proliferation of nuclear design or materials to NNWS. The project concluded that verifiable warhead dismantlement is indeed possible, and that this effort can be undertaken in ways that prevent transfers of proliferation-sensitive know-how or materials.
33. The United States spoke on the role of technology and its impact on verification efforts. Citing an example whereby ranchers in sub-Saharan Africa are able to create an effective self-reporting network to monitor the outbreak of diseases through the use of cell phones and social networking sites, the United States noted that technology will be providing new opportunities for verification, and encouraged all participants to think creatively about the best ways to capitalize on these developments, to the benefit of nonproliferation and disarmament objectives.

Discussion on the Work Plan

34. Participants reviewed the draft of the NPD Work Plan, and agreed to provide comments to the United States POC by March 31, 2011, before the Intersessional Support Group Meeting to be held in Sydney, Australia. Some participants proposed that the Work Plan focus on regional, and not global efforts; clarify timelines beyond the current three year cycle, to include discussion of procedures for a steering committee to coordinate developments in the Work Plan; study further the CSCAP Memorandum on Guidelines for Managing Trade of Strategic Goods, as first discussed at the First ISM on NPD in Beijing; establishment of a culture of information sharing regarding WMD issues; identification of future co-chairs of the ISM; specific reference to universalization of the BWC in the goals of the document, and; development of a roster of focal points of ARF Participants on WMD issues to facilitate networking and information sharing.
35. The meeting expressed support for the continuation of this ISM in the future. The Philippines and Japan expressed their interest in co-chairing future meetings of the ISM. Other participants noted their intention to consult with capitals and to report back to the United States POC.

Other Matters

36. The Meeting offered condolences and expressions of support for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand.
37. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of the United States for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.