

**REPORT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM  
DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE  
SURABAYA, 7 JUNE 2011**

1. The ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was held in Surabaya on 7 June 2011. The Dialogue was chaired by MG Puguh Santoso, Director General for Defence Strategy, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia. Representatives from all ARF participants, except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, attended the Dialogue. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX A**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS**

2. In his opening remarks, MG Puguh Santoso pointed out that while the regional security is relatively stable, non-traditional security issues such as piracy, energy security, climate change, and terrorism, however, continue to challenge peace and stability of the region. He also touched on the recent political turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East which demonstrated that domestic security instability in one country could implicate other countries. He underscored the need to address the issue of piracy in the Somalia and Gulf of Aden and encouraged the Dialogue to discuss future cooperation in counter-terrorism in the aftermath of the demise of Osama bin Laden. In conclusion, He invited active participation of all ARF participants in the Dialogue's deliberation. His opening remarks appear as **ANNEX B**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3. The Dialogue adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears as **ANNEX C**.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT POLITICAL TURMOILS IN NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST**

4. The Dialogue exchanged views on the implications caused by the upheavals in North Africa and Middle East region. The Dialogue noted the implications of the recent political turmoil in those regions towards not only the economic and political stability of the region but also towards bilateral and regional trade relations. The absence of legitimate governments poses greater risks of violence and conflicts which could create an impetus for the emergence of terrorism and disruption to human security.
5. The Dialogue underscored the economic implications of the upheavals, such as increase in oil prices and the disruption of oil supply for most countries in the Asia Pacific. The Dialogue was of the view that these economic implications also contribute to the widening of social gaps, the rise in food

prices, and increasing unemployment rate. For some ARF participants, the recent political situations in North Africa and Middle East have caused the repatriation of their overseas workers and the loss of income from their remittances.

6. The Dialogue noted some of the lessons that can be drawn from the events in that regions, including the need for ASEAN and ARF participants to assess the long-term development of food, human and energy security, sound economic policies to avoid overdependence on non-renewable energy, and the importance of institutionalising regional confidence building measures and norms of non intervention as well as peaceful resolution of disputes. In this context, the Dialogue called for the international community to act in unison and in a consistent and coordinated manner to restore peace and stability in the Middle East, to address the legitimate demands of the people, and to support humanitarian assistance in Libya and its neighbouring countries as well as the ongoing peace and anti-piracy efforts in Somalia.
7. The Dialogue recognised that non-military threats in recent years are as dangerous as that of military threats. With the shifts in the paradigms of threats, security, and military operations, the Dialogue was of the view that the approaches to security cooperation should be adjusted to meet the new challenges. The Dialogue was of the view that the exchange of views among the ARF participants on the impacts of the political turmoil in North Africa and Middle East should lead to a common solution to the problems as identified in the discussion.
8. Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines presented their country briefings. The presentation papers appear as **ANNEXES D**. India also delivered their comment in this Agenda.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN COMBATING PIRACY/HIJACKING IN SOMALI/GULF OF ADEN**

9. The Dialogue discussed the impact of piracy on the national security and economic well-being of ARF participants. The current wave of piracy off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden is increasing. The Dialogue recognised that the intensity of piracy off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden as well as its audacity and violence is increasing. Moreover, their area of operations has also spread out towards Indian waters. All these constitute a significant threat to the security of ARF participants.
10. The Dialogue noted that maritime security is of great concern to majority of countries in the Asia Pacific region. The Dialogue was encouraged by the numerous initiatives conducted at the national and regional levels to counter piracy, particularly off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. Multilateral arrangements such as the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia,

the Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE), and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ship in Asia (ReCAAP), as well as multilateral policy dialogues such as the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), were recognised as significant forum to counter-piracy and maritime security efforts.

11. The Dialogue exchanged information on the major pirate groups in the Gulf of Aden and their *modus operandi*. Recent developments suggest that the area of operation of Somali pirates have expanded from 165 nautical miles off coast to 1,300 nautical miles off coast. This expansion was supported by the developing capacities and capabilities of the pirates, including the use of heavy weaponry and updated operational planning and execution.
12. The Dialogue also exchanged information on the composition of current coalition forces operating in the Gulf of Aden, the coast of Somalia and the Arabian Sea to curb piracy. These coalitions have resulted in the decrease of the number of piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia, however there are still many challenges in curbing piracy, such as the organisation and assignment of the various naval forces in the area, different Rules of Engagement (RoE), the national tasking of assigned units, the lack of political will, the inability to attack land-based pirate camps, and the willingness of shipping companies to pay the pirates' ransom demands. The Dialogue was of the view that multi-lateral and civil-military cooperation are needed to tackle the threat of piracy.
13. The Dialogue observed that a purely military solution to combat piracy is inadequate, since in many cases the contributory factors of piracy lies on land. In the context of the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, the problem is the dysfunctional political, economic, and social state of Somalia. The stability of Somalia must first be established if piracy is to be eradicated complexity from the region. In this respect, the Dialogue called for the international community to work together to find an enduring solution on land, especially non-military action such as the building of regional capacity and ensuring an effective justice system to deal with convicted pirates. The international community also needs to work together and involve all relevant stakeholders to find more practical solutions to combat piracy. The Dialogue also observed that the current political turmoil in Yemen might potentially lead to new pirate groups emerging from the chaos.
14. The Dialogue considered on the legal aspects of piracy, namely the rights and obligations of countries to exercise criminal jurisdiction over events occurring on vessels on the high seas. Although there are rights and obligations under the UNCLOS 1982 for a country to exercise criminal jurisdiction, there is no direct duty or legal requirement for any country to prosecute pirates. Therefore, an estimated 90% of pirates captured were released due to the

unwillingness or inability to prosecute them. The Dialogue was of the view that commitment by ARF participants to work together to combat piracy is critical to achieve the cooperation in anti-piracy.

15. India commented the Dialogue to fully support international and multilateral efforts in embracing this menace of maritime piracy especially in Gulf of Aden and adjoining high seas. Toward this, India Navy has had a standing presence in this area since 2008. In fact, the activities of Somali pirates are now spreading to the larger Indian Ocean region with better equipped ships, as it was shown on the latest incident closer to Indian Subcontinent recently.

16. Australia, Canada, the European Union, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand presented their country briefings. The presentation papers appear as **ANNEXES E**. New Zealand and India was also presented their comment on this issue.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: CURRENT CHALLENGES IN COMBATING TERRORISM**

17. The Dialogue exchanged of views on ongoing threat fostered by terrorism and possible measures to address the challenges in combating terrorism, including the promotion of good governance, addressing the grievance of the terrorist recruits, building partners' capacities to help them avoid becoming safe havens for terrorist groups, counter-terrorism education and training programmes, deradicalisation and creating new opportunities for multilateral fora to contribute in counter-terrorism efforts.

18. The Dialogue observed that in the aftermath of Osama demise's, combating terrorism has become more complicated. The fight against terrorism must be directed not only against terrorists, but also against those who sponsor or support them. The Dialogue shared the view that a physical approach relying on hard power alone will not solve the problem of terrorism given that terrorism is often an ideological problem. Addressing root causes for terrorism, such as injustice, poverty, backwardness, and social welfare, has to be incorporated in counter-terrorism strategies. The issue of greater interlinkages among terror groups is another important feature. The principles of respecting freedom and human rights should be upheld in the government's efforts to curb terrorist groups. It is suggested that the fight against terrorism should be long-term, sustained and global.

19. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Dialogue on ASEAN cooperation in counter-terrorism which began even before the events of 9/11 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime in December 1997. The latest milestone was when the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) which was signed on 13 January 2007, entered into force on 28 May 2011, after six ASEAN Member States, namely Singapore, Thailand, the

Philippines, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam, had submitted their instruments of ratification.

20. The Meeting welcomed the development of the Four-in-One Project in Indonesia, which will include training centres for peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, standby force for rapid deployment, and counter-terrorism. These centres will be launched by the President of Indonesia this year.
21. Indonesia and the United States presented their country briefings. The presentation papers appear as **ANNEXES F**. India, New Zealand and Australia also commented on this issue.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS**

22. Indonesia briefed the Dialogue on the preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) to be convened on 8 June 2011.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSING REMARKS**

23. In his closing remarks, MG Pugu Santoso summarised the outcomes of the discussion and expressed his appreciation to the ARF participants for their active participation in the deliberation. He also thanked the ARF participants for the support to the Indonesian Chair to deliver the Dialogue.
24. The Dialogue commended on the frank and fruitful discussion. The Dialogue expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements made for the success of the Dialogue.

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