

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
SYDNEY, 7-8 APRIL 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 Meeting of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM and PD) was held in Sydney, Australia, from 7-8 April 2011. The Meeting was co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) attended the Meeting. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ARF EEPs and CSCAP were also present. The List of Delegates is attached as **ANNEX 1**.
3. In her Welcome Remarks, H. E. Gillian Bird, ARF SOM Leader, Deputy Secretary Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, expressed her condolences and sympathy to the families affected by the recent natural disasters in Japan and New Zealand. The co-chair noted that the Meeting was the second ARF ISG that Australia had co-hosted since 1998. The co-chair also recalled that the ARF ISG on CBMs in 1998 had held important discussions on maritime security, nuclear non-proliferation and preventive diplomacy, recommending that consideration be given to an enhanced role for the ARF chair, development of an EEPs register and an Annual Security Outlook. The co-chair pointed out that the ARF has now reached an important juncture with significant progress having been achieved in some areas, including through the development of new work plans on maritime security and non-proliferation and disarmament, the forthcoming publication of the 12th volume of the ARF ASO this year and the active role of the ARF EEPs. There was, however, significant work still to be done, including in moving to the preventive diplomacy phase of the ARF. The co-chair also noted the importance of the ARF considering its role in the context of the broader regional architecture. The co-chair expressed her hope for a productive Meeting. The Welcome Remarks appears as **ANNEX 2**.
4. H.E. Djauhari Oratmangun, ARF SOM Leader of Indonesia and Director-General for ASEAN Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, in his Welcome Remarks extended condolences to governments and families of the victims of the recent disasters that occurred in Japan, New Zealand, Myanmar and Thailand. He stated that the string of recent disasters had given more impetus for closer collaboration in rapid response to natural disaster. On this note, he recalled the outcomes of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise that

was recently completed in Manado in March 2011 and suggested that the ARF should regularly conduct field exercises of this type. He also reminded the Meeting of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement and the development of an ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan and encouraged the ARF participants to contribute actively in the discussion to finalize the Work Plan. In conclusion, he emphasised that as the ARF is developing, the Forum should be more engaged with the global community and be part of the solution of global issues. The Welcome Remarks appears as **ANNEX 3**.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

5. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 4**.

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Arrangements

6. The Meeting noted the administrative arrangements made by Australia, details of which appear as **ANNEX 5**.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing by Track 1.5 and 2

3. 1. Briefing by ARF EEPs Representative

7. Prof. Paul Dibb, the EEP of Australia, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the discussion of the 5th ARF EEPs that was convened in Dili from 27-28 January 2011. The 5th ARF EEPs had in-depth discussions on the issues of preventive diplomacy. The EEPs proposed several recommendations including undertaking an election monitoring mission in Timor-Leste in 2012, developing a cooperative maritime security paper by a voluntary group of the EEPs, and for the EEPs to contribute to the ARF Annual Security Outlook. Furthermore, the EEPs also suggested that the ADMM-Plus could meet more regularly. He highlighted that the EEPs have been playing an important role in the ARF particularly in the past five years. He observed that while the role of the EEPs is significant to the ARF, there is a lack of continuity in EEP membership among some ARF participants which hampers the institutional memory of the EEPs. In the context of the development of ARF preventive diplomacy, he suggested that the EEPs should seek further guidance from the ARF Ministers on the direction of the work of the EEPs. The briefing notes appear as **ANNEX 6**.

3. 2. Briefing by CSCAP

8. Dr. Dalchoong Kim, President of the Seoul Forum for International Affairs, Co-Chair of the CSCAP, commended the good relations between the ARF and CSCAP. He expressed his appreciation on the commitment of the ARF

towards deepening the Track I-Track II relationship. CSCAP would continue submitting memoranda from the various CSCAP Study Groups to the ARF with the hope that they would benefit the ARF. CSCAP observed that the ARF has been moving rapidly on a wide range of issues from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to non-proliferation and disarmament. CSCAP in this case could supply the ARF with recommendations in various strategic areas of CSCAP's scope of works. CSCAP had also produced the CSCAP Regional Security Outlook which addresses various security challenges in the region. CSCAP wished to request the ARF to provide more specific direction for its priority areas for CSCAP Study Groups. In conclusion, he reiterated that CSCAP is committed to cooperate more concretely and effectively with the ARF. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the Outcome of the Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) on 6 April 2011

9. The Co-Chairs of the DOD, Australia and Indonesia, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue which was held in Sydney on 6 April 2011. The Dialogue deliberated on recent developments in the region including the string of disasters which occurred in Japan, New Zealand and Myanmar. The Dialogue was of the view that continued practical cooperation among ARF participants is essential. The Dialogue exchanged views on the complementarity between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, underscored the centrality of ASEAN in both processes, identified the importance of information sharing between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus and the potential role of the ARF DOD as a conduit of information sharing to prevent unproductive duplication of efforts between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus. In addition, the Dialogue also touched on the issues of maritime capacity building, counter-terrorism cooperation and peacekeeping operations. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Dialogue appears as **ANNEX 8**.

Agenda Item 5: Exchange of Views on the International and Regional Issues

10. The Meeting was of the view that the region had been relatively peaceful and stable despite the recent security challenges. The Meeting recognised the value of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Meeting also noted the role of other existing regional mechanisms in promoting cooperation and in maintaining regional peace and stability. The European Union reiterated its readiness to accede to the TAC once the ratification process of the third protocol was completed.
11. The Meeting acknowledged that non-traditional security threats continue to pose a major challenge for the region. The threat of international terrorism, arms and people smuggling, trafficking in persons, natural disasters, sea

piracy, pandemics and illicit drugs production and trafficking were highlighted in this regard. The Meeting believed that the ARF should step up its cooperation in order to respond effectively to these threats. The ARF should continue to explore ways and means to improve coordination among its participants to address these challenges. The ARF needed to link with and coordinate its efforts with other elements of regional architecture.

12. The Meeting welcomed ASEAN efforts in building an ASEAN Community by 2015 and recognised the crucial role that ASEAN plays in the region including in facilitating dialogues among its member states to address outstanding issues between them at their request. In this regard, the Meeting further welcomed the engagement of Cambodia and Thailand with Indonesia, Chair of ASEAN, as a result of the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta, 22 February 2011. The Meeting was also encouraged that the relationship between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners had been broadening and deepening, citing the establishment of the ADMM-Plus and the expansion of the EAS.
13. The Meeting reaffirmed the continuing importance of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) of 2002 as a milestone document between ASEAN Member States and China. The Meeting noted the utmost importance of all parties concerned adhering to the agreed principles of the DOC. The Meeting encouraged efforts towards the full implementation of the Declaration and the eventual work on a regional code of conduct (COC) in the South China Sea. They encouraged the promotion of confidence-building measures and welcomed their commitment to resolving disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means in conformity with the spirit of the DOC and recognised principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. Two meetings of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the DOC have been convened in 2010. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the convening of the 6th ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC in Indonesia.
14. The Meeting deliberated on recent developments surrounding the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting expressed serious concern about, and some participants condemned, the DPRK's recently disclosed uranium enrichment activities. Some participants further condemned these activities as being in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874. The Meeting called for full compliance with UN Security Resolutions 1718 and 1874. The Meeting urged the DPRK to comply with its international obligations and commitments, with Japan, supported by some other participants, highlighting the need for the DPRK to promptly address humanitarian concerns such as the abduction issue. The Meeting called for concrete actions which would create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the six-party talks. The Meeting reiterated its support for efforts

to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula through various mechanisms including the ARF.

15. In supporting the international efforts on non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy, the Meeting encouraged ARF participants who are members of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to accede to the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol before the next NPT Review Conference in 2015. The Meeting also expressed concerns about the issue of nuclear development in Iran reconfirming commitments to work for a diplomatic solution. Against the background of recent nuclear radiation leaks in Fukushima, the Meeting touched on the issue of safety of nuclear facilities. The Meeting noted the proposal to call for international experts group under the auspices of the IAEA to look for the best solution of the crisis in Fukushima. Japan said it was making utmost efforts to prevent further leaks, that the leakage had stopped, and that, recognizing the importance of transparency in dealing with the nuclear crisis, they were in close cooperation with IAEA and the United States.
16. The Meeting also touched on issues related to security in the Middle East, noting the challenges in responding to calls for reforms and the global implications of developments in the Middle East. Some participants reiterated their calls for peaceful solution in the conflict between Israel and Palestine. On the security situation in Libya, the Meeting urged all parties concerned to work towards peaceful resolution of the current crisis and the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1973. Some participants updated the Meeting on their involvement in the multilateral operation to protect civilians in Libya based on relevant UNSC resolutions. The security situation in Afghanistan and the role for its neighbouring countries to maintain peace and stability in Afghanistan were also highlighted against the background of the transition of international forces.
17. Myanmar informed the meeting of the latest developments in Myanmar. The Meeting noted the recent political developments in Myanmar, including the formation of a newly elected government. Some participants expressed the hope that the new government in Myanmar would bring further progress in the implementation of the Roadmap to Democracy. Some participants called upon the new government to release all political prisoners and for better governance. The stability and prosperity of Myanmar are of interest to countries in the region. Moving forward, some participants urged ASEAN to encourage the Government of Myanmar to implement more political reforms, to promote national reconciliation and to cooperate with the international community including the United Nations.
18. Some participants noted their grave concern over the situation in Fiji and called for the prompt return to democracy and rule of law.

5. 1. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

19. The Meeting further expressed condolences and sympathies to the peoples and the governments of Australia, China, Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand and Thailand and noted humanitarian assistance provided by ARF Participants to those countries. In the spirit of solidarity, the Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting to address the collective response to natural disasters will be convened by the ASEAN Chair at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, on 9 April 2011.
20. Japan briefed the Meeting on the recent situation in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami disaster that hit Japan on 11 March 2011. Both New Zealand and Japan expressed gratitude for the sympathies and assistance extended to their Governments. As of today, Japan had received rescue teams from 20 countries and relief goods from 32 countries and international organisations. Japan informed the meeting that the following experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake it would like to propose the following four pillars of cooperation to be strengthened: promotion of information sharing on disaster management, including the sharing of lessons learned from the latest disasters; ensuring prompt and smooth communication in times of disaster; establishment of coordination mechanisms to facilitate dispatch and receiving of assistance including the support for AHA Centre; and efforts to provide training and capacity building including periodic holding of ARF disaster relief exercises.
21. Cognizant of the urgency to improve regional coordination in disaster response, the Meeting highlighted a number of practical options for consideration by ARF senior officials and ministers including: 1) conferences on regional mapping 2) stockpiling of HADR capacities; 3) development of regional standby arrangements and implementation of ARF Model Arrangement; 4) joint trainings and exercises involving regional centres for disaster management including the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre in Japan, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok ; 5) support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre); 6) exploration of offers on use of existing facilities to support regional HADR including the WFP Humanitarian Response Depot in Suhong, Malaysia and Utapao facilities in Thailand; and 7) enhanced cooperation amongst centres such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok, Thailand and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre in Japan and others to help undertake some of these ideas as appropriate. The Meeting was reminded that future ARF cooperation in disaster relief should take into account existing arrangements such as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ARF Voluntary Model Arrangements to avoid duplication of efforts. Thailand's intervention on this item appears at **ANNEX 9**.

22. To increase regional capacity in disaster response, the Meeting considered suggestions to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat in support of initiatives in the ARF. In this context, the Meeting noted the proposal by the United States to provide a technical assistant on disaster relief in the ASEAN Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of ASEAN initiatives undertaken under the aforementioned frameworks. The technical assistant will be an ASEAN national and could be working with the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility. The meeting noted the need for greater coordination of disaster management efforts across the region.

Agenda Item 6: Review and Consideration of Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy

6.1. Review of CBMs and PD Activities

6.1.1. Outcomes of the 3rd ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security

23. Indonesia, Japan and New Zealand, Co-Chairs of the ISM on MS, briefed the Meeting on the highlights of the summary of points of the 3rd ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) convened in Tokyo from 14-15 February 2011. The 3rd ARF ISM on MS among others deliberated on the draft ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. The report of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 10**.

24. The Meeting noted that Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and the United States had nominated to co-chair the next ARF ISM on MS.

6.1.2. Outcomes of the 3rd ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

25. Singapore, China and the United States, Co-Chairs of the ISM on NPD, reported the outcomes of the 3rd ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) convened from 25-27 February 2011. The 3rd ARF ISM on NPD discussed among others the draft ARF Work Plan on NPD. The report of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 11**.

26. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Philippines and Japan to co-chair the next ARF ISM on NPD. The Meeting also noted Australia's interest in potentially co-chairing the ISM on NPD.

6.1.3. Outcomes of the ARF UNCLOS Seminar

27. The Philippines and Australia briefed the Meeting on the highlights of the ARF UNCLOS Seminar that was held in Manila from 8-9 March 2011. The Seminar

discussed the significance of UNCLOS provisions in several key aspects, namely various maritime zones, cooperative mechanisms under UNCLOS, dispute settlement under Part XV, and marine environmental protection. The report of the Seminar appears as **ANNEX 12**.

6.1.4. Outcomes of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx)

28. Indonesia and Japan briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF DiREx that was conducted in Manado from 15-19 March 2011. The ARF DiREx comprised of three main activities, namely a Table-Top Exercise (TTX), a Field Training Exercise (FTX) and Humanitarian Civic Action (HCA). At the conclusion of the ARF DiREx, the participants agreed that the ARF should conduct similar exercises regularly in the future.

29. In light of the successful conduct of the ARF DiREx that was conducted in Manado, Indonesia on 14-19 March 2011 and the need to sustain the effort to improve ARF capacity in response to disasters, the Meeting noted the proposal to conduct ARF field exercises with an interval of two years, while conducting Table-Top Exercises in between. The co-chairs' summary report of the exercise and the After Action Review (AAR) would be circulated in due course.

6.1.5. Outcomes of the 5th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons' Meeting

30. Timor-Leste and Thailand briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons' Meeting (EEPs) which was held in Dili from 27-28 January 2011. The Meeting noted the recommendations of the ARF EEPs to convene the ARF EEPs on specific themes and to submit the recommendations of the ARF EEPs to the Track I channel. The EEPs also suggested that Timor-Leste submit a concept paper on the proposal for ARF election monitoring mission for the consideration of the ARF ISG. The report of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 13**.

6.2. ARF Work Plans

6.2.1. Draft ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security

31. New Zealand updated the Meeting on the development of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. ARF participants were encouraged to volunteer to lead on priority areas of the Work Plan and notify Japan of their intentions. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 14**

32. The Meeting welcomed the interest of Malaysia and Japan in leading priority area no. 2 of the Work Plan, i.e. confidence-building measures based on international and regional legal frameworks, arrangements and cooperation.

33. Some ARF participants expressed the view that it was too early to include references to preventive diplomacy. New Zealand clarified that the plan refers to potential preventive diplomacy measures that are under development in ARF forums and participants had wished to maintain a link to these in the maritime security work plan.

6.2.2. Draft ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

34. The United States updated the Meeting on the development of the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The United States reminded the ARF participants to provide comments on the Work Plan before the draft is submitted to the ARF SOM. Some participants expressed the opinion that the draft work plan should be further discussed within the ARF ISM on NP&D. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 15**.

35. The Meeting was mindful of similar efforts under the framework of CSCAP. The Meeting noted the suggestion for the ARF to look at the issue of non-proliferation of all categories of weapons of mass destruction in future ARF work on this subject.

36. The Meeting noted the proposal to include the NPD education fellowship for ARF participants in the Work Plan with the aim to improve capacity-building of ARF participants.

6.2.3. Updates on Existing Work Plans on Disaster Relief and Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

37. The ASEAN Secretariat updated the Meeting on the progress of establishment of the AHA Centre. The Agreement on the Establishment of the AHA Centre is expected to be signed by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN on the sidelines of the 18th ASEAN Summit in early May. From that point onwards, the AHA Centre will recruit staff and receive technical experts to support its operation. The AHA Centre is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2011.

38. On the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief, the ASEAN Secretariat reminded the Meeting that the time frame for implementation of the Work Plan is due to end this year. In this regard, the ARF ISM on Disaster Relief should review the Work Plan including the priority areas, new time frame and lead countries for the priority areas. Thailand informed the Meeting that the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) had offered to support the implementation of the priority area no. 4 on Regional Risk Mapping, Monitoring and Early Warning in cooperation with other regional centres. The ASEAN Secretariat requested the assistance of Thailand to link the ARF Unit with the ADPC to coordinate the implementation of the ARF Work Plan, particularly the activities sponsored by the ADPC.

39. Malaysia informed the Meeting that activities under the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism would be further discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, scheduled for 29-31 May in Kuala Lumpur and welcomed updates by lead countries of specific activities. Malaysia proposed that the pending activities under the work plan on counter-terrorism and transnational crime in 2009-10 be carried forward and implemented under the new established timeline.
40. The Meeting noted the intention of Russia to continue to lead the priority area on cyber terrorism and cyber security. Russia welcomed Australia's interest in volunteering to share the non-ASEAN co-lead role as expressed at the previous ISG in Bali, Indonesia. Russia also invited one ASEAN Member State to co-lead the implementation of this priority area.
41. Russia reminded the Meeting that it had proposed a draft ARF Ministerial Statement on International Information Security initiated by Russia. Russia encouraged ARF participants to provide inputs and comments on the draft Statement by 11 April 2011.
42. The Meeting noted reservations from some ARF participants to pursue the development of the draft Statement. The United States and the EU expressed the view that the draft statement potentially sought to restrict speech content and would unreasonably infringe upon freedom of expression. Taking into account the ARF Statement on Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space adopted by the 13th ARF in 2006, some ARF participants argued that the ARF should focus on implementing the recommendations of the Statement. Furthermore, the necessity to issue the ARF Statement on International Information Security at this stage should be further clarified, mindful of the similar document issued by the United Nations. The Meeting observed that it would require careful consultation with national agencies. The Meeting agreed that the draft statement should be further considered at the next ISM on CTTC in Kuala Lumpur. Subject to the concurrence of ARF participants, the Russian Federation has proposed to submit the draft Statement for the further consideration of the ARF SOM and 18th ARF.

6.3. Update on ARF Ongoing Initiatives and Preparations for the ARF Activities in 2010-2011

6.3.1. 9th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

43. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the preparation for 9th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 29-31 May 2011.

44. The Meeting supported the suggestion by Russia to invite the Executive Director of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) to the 9th ARF ISM on CTTC.

6.3.2. ARF Cyber Crimes Investigations Table-Top Exercise

45. The United States briefed the Meeting on the status of the previously proposed ARF Cyber Crimes Investigations Table-Top Exercise.

6.3.3. ARF Conference of National Security Policymakers on Proxy Actors in Cyber Space

46. The United States briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the ARF Conference of National Security Policymakers on Proxy Actors in Cyber Space to be held in mid-2011. The United States invited an ASEAN Member State to co-chair the activity.

6.3.4. ARF Annual Security Outlook

47. The ASEAN Secretariat noted that 16 ARF participants submitted their ARF ASO in July 2010. The ASEAN Secretariat further noted that this year all ARF participants are invited to submit their contributions to the ASO to Indonesia as the ARF Chair.

48. The Meeting agreed on the proposal by Australia to, in future, submit the ARF ASO before the ARF SOM and to circulate this year's publication at the ARF SOM in Medan, Indonesia, in early June 2011.

Agenda item 7: Advancing the "Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020"

49. The ASEAN Secretariat pointed out that the ARF Unit has been tasked to prepare the annual report on the progress of the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action for consideration of the ARF Ministers. The ASEAN Secretariat suggested that all ARF ISMs regularly report on the progress and look into the recommendations of the ARF Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement when they review their work plans. The Meeting considered the suggestion for the ASEAN Secretariat to develop a matrix to record the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action for submission to the Ministers.

7.1. Strengthening the ARF Unit

50. The ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that strengthening the ARF Unit is an ongoing process. Some constraints in this respect include physical

limitation of the ASEAN Secretariat office space; hence the difficulty to accept offers for in-house staff for the ARF Unit. Assistance to the ARF Unit in the format of technical assistance on a project-based nature is more feasible. The ASEAN Secretariat also informed that the ARF secondment mechanism for the ARF is still in place and ASEAN Member States are encouraged to send their officials on secondment to the ARF Unit. The ASEAN Secretariat also noted that the mandate and the function of the ARF Unit are specific. Therefore, the ARF participants could consider revisiting the Terms of Reference of the ARF Unit before expanding the Unit.

51. The Meeting noted the suggestion of non-ASEAN participants in the ARF to open the ARF secondment programme to non-ASEAN ARF participants.
52. Indonesia informed the Meeting that the Government of Indonesia has prepared to give one more office building to the ASEAN Secretariat. An internal coordination process to prepare for the handing over of the building to the ASEAN Secretariat is in process.

7.1.2. The Future Role of the ARF in the Evolving Defence and Security Architecture in the Region

53. The Meeting recognised the important role of the ARF in the evolving regional security architecture that should be open, transparent and equal, based on norms of international law, and mutual regard for the legitimate interests of all countries. The Meeting was of the view that it would be critical for the ARF to consider its forward agenda in the context of the broader regional architecture and discussed the need for linkages between the ARF and other existing regional processes and mechanisms such as the ADMM-Plus and the EAS. The Meeting was of the view that it would be crucial for the ARF to devise a modality to facilitate effective linkages. Some participants noted that one possibility would be to provide an opportunity for ARF and ADMM Plus ministers to report on their activities to EAS leaders and for EAS leaders to suggest proposals to be implemented by the ARF and ADMM Plus.
54. The Meeting was of the view that a comparative advantage approach could be considered to promote complementarity with other regional processes and mechanisms.
55. The Meeting took note of the need to strengthen practical cooperation in the ARF while moving the ARF forward from confidence-building measures to preventive diplomacy.
56. The Meeting was of the view that ARF should adhere to its principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and respect for sovereignty, and proceed at a pace comfortable to all, in moving forward to preventive diplomacy. On the areas of cooperation, some participants were of the view

that ARF should focus on non-traditional security issues and continue the cooperation on the current priority areas of the ARF.

57. The meeting agreed to continue to exchange views on this issue in the future.

7.2. Development of an ARF Preventive Diplomacy Capacity

7.2.1. Draft ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan

58. The Meeting appreciated the work of Singapore, Australia and Indonesia in developing a draft ARF preventive diplomacy work plan. Australia briefed the Meeting on the progress of the preparation for the Work Plan. The latest draft, which reflected the discussion of the Informal Working Group on the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy, appears as **ANNEX 16**.

7.2.2. Exchange of Views on the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan

59. The Meeting discussed the draft Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy. India and China expressed the view that the draft work plan should include, inter alia, the eighth principle of preventive diplomacy, as outlined in the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy, as adopted by ARF Ministers in 2001.

60. The Meeting noted that while there were issues that might be considered sensitive for some ARF participants, the ARF should not be too timid in its approach to the preventive diplomacy work plan. The Meeting further noted that the current draft would serve as a framework document and that, in many cases, preventive diplomacy mechanisms identified in the Work Plan reflected the current state of play in the ARF. Some participants also pointed out that the draft provided flexibility for ARF participants to consider optional and voluntary measures which would benefit the ARF.

7.2.3 Finalisation of an ARF ISG-agreed Draft Work Plan

61. It was agreed that any further comments on the draft at Annex 16 would be circulated and that where there was a consensus on any such comments these would be included in a new draft to be taken to the SOM. If necessary, a further working group could be held in the margins of the ARF SOM in June 2011.

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

8.1. New initiatives, Co-Chairs for 2011-2012 ISMs and ARF ISG and DOD Meetings

62. The Meeting noted the following ARF ISMs Co-Chairs for the inter-sessional year of 2011-2012:

- ARF ISM on Maritime Security – Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and the United States
- ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament – The Philippines and Japan. Australia is considering volunteering as the third Co-Chair
- ARF ISM on DR – Indonesia with nominations sought for a non-ASEAN ARF.

63. Cambodia informed the Meeting that Cambodia may have difficulties in hosting and co-chairing the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD, as well as the DOD in the year 2012, due to its ASEAN chair role in that year.

64. The Meeting noted the offer of the EU to co-chair the 6th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting.

65. The Meeting considered the following proposals and activities to be held in the inter-sessional year 2011-2012:

- ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance: Enhancing Public and Veterinary Health Networks to Combat Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism to be co-chaired by the Philippines, Australia and the United States (**ANNEX 17**).
- ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics to be co-chaired by Thailand and the United States (**ANNEX 18**).
- ARF High-Level Workshop on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe, to be co-chaired by Indonesia and the European Union (**ANNEX 19**).
- ARF Workshop on Cyber-Security Incident Response, proposed by Australia (**ANNEX 20**).
- ARF Electoral Capacity-Building Programme for East Timor, proposed by Timor-Leste (**ANNEX 21**).
- 2nd ARF Workshop on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, proposed by the United States (**ANNEX 22**).

66. The Meeting noted the proposal by Australia on streamlining the ARF ISG and DOD processes. Australia proposed a single annual ISG in the first quarter of the year. Australia requested inter-sessional comments on the paper prior to this year's SOM. The concept paper of the proposal appears as **ANNEX 23**.

Agenda Item 9: Co-Chairs' Summary Report

67. The Meeting took note of the comment by China that the co-chairs Summary Report should reflect the reality of discussions in the meeting,

Acknowledgement

68. Participants expressed appreciation to the Government of Australia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to them. They also commended the Co-Chairs for their effective leadership and for the cordial and fruitful discussion.

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