

**ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Group (ISG)
on Confidence Building Measures (CBM)and Preventive Diplomacy (PD)
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
1 – 2 November 2007
Co-Chairs' Summary Report**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Manila on 1 August 2007, the Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM and PD) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 1 – 2 November 2007. The Meeting was co-chaired by Pengiran Dato Osman Patra, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and Mr. Donald C. Sinclair, Director-General of International Security, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF participants as well as the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives from ASEAN – ISIS and CSCAP were also present. The Meeting welcomed the presence of Sri Lanka in the ARF-ISG for the first time. Prior to this Meeting, the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was held on 31 October 2007.
3. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as **Annex 1**, the Programme of Activities as **Annex 2** and the List of Participants as **Annex 3**.

Briefing on the Outcome of the Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD)

4. On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the ARF DOD, Pengiran Hassanah Pengiran Johari, Director of the Department of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam, briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD Defence Officials' Dialogue which was held on 31 October 2007. The DOD discussed regional and international issues as well as the role of the armed forces in regional security challenges. The DOD also emphasised the need to move from principles to practice to implement cooperative measures that will create real

capacities to effect prevention, protection and managing different crises. The Co-Chair's Summary Report of the DOD is attached as **Annex 4**.

Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Security Situation

Regional Issues

5. The Meeting discussed the **overall regional security situation** and agreed that the situation has remained generally stable and positive. The Meeting was informed of current developments in ASEAN especially the signing of the ASEAN Charter at the 13th ASEAN Summit to take place in Singapore in November 2007. Participants emphasised the important role of the ASEAN Regional Forum in addressing security challenges and especially the increasingly complex nature of transnational security threats. Participants also noted that traditional and non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, transnational crimes, nuclear proliferation, pandemic diseases and natural disasters continued to pose serious threats to both regional and international security. Participants also noted the statements presented by Bangladesh, Mongolia and the United States, which appear as **Annexes 5, 6 and 7** respectively.
6. The Meeting welcomed and showed strong support for the Six Party Agreement on October 3rd as an important step towards the denuclearisation of the **Korean Peninsula** and also expressed strong support for the full implementation of all the terms of the Agreement by all Parties in an expeditious manner. The participants also welcomed the 2007 Inter-Korean Summit as a stepping stone toward eventual peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and expressed their deep hope that the ongoing economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian interaction will further expand.
7. The Meeting further welcomed **DPRK's** commitment to dismantle its nuclear facilities by the end of the year. The DPRK reiterated its firm commitment to contribute to peace and security in the region. The DPRK also informed the Meeting that it had taken active measures to suspend operation of its nuclear activities and reiterated its position on the principle of 'Action for Action' for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue. Some participants expressed their concern over the remaining humanitarian issues.

8. The Meeting expressed appreciation for **Thailand**'s briefing on political developments in the country. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the new Constitution through a national referendum in August and the general election which would be held on 23 December 2007. Thailand informed the Meeting that the situation in Southern Thailand remained a challenge and expressed appreciation to a number of ASEAN and OIC member countries for their continued support in its effort to resolve the situation through peace and reconciliatory approach and also through law enforcement.
9. The Meeting welcomed the positive trends in the **South China Sea**, while expressing the confidence that together with the continuation of exercising self-restraint, promotion of confidence building measures and close consultation among parties concerned, ASEAN and China will successfully carry out implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), thus eventually moving towards the adoption of the Code of Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (COC).
10. The Meeting noted deep concerns expressed by participants on the political situation in **Myanmar**, following the demonstrations held in recent months. Many participants commended ASEAN for its statement of 27 September 2007. Some participants deplored the humanitarian situation in the country, the treatment of ethnic groups and continued displacement and the loss of lives. Some participants also urged Myanmar to exercise restraint. The Meeting urged Myanmar to show tangible progress towards a peaceful transition to democracy, through effective dialogue with all parties concerned.
11. Participants encouraged Myanmar to continue working with the United Nations, ASEAN and the international community towards achieving national reconciliation and reiterated the calls for the early release of those placed under detention. The Meeting expressed its full support for the efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy, Ibrahim Gambari to promote talks towards a peaceful solution between all concerned parties and Daw Aung Sang Suu Kyi, and looked forward to Mr. Gambari's second visit to Myanmar. Participants also called on Myanmar to fully facilitate Special Envoy Gambari's visit, as well as that of UN Special

Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. Participants also welcomed the first meeting between the newly appointed Myanmar Liaison Minister U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung Sang Suu Kyi.

12. In response, Myanmar briefed the Meeting on its view of the recent political situation and developments in the country particularly on what it sees as significant steps taken by the Government towards national reconciliation and democratisation within the framework of the seven-step roadmap through inclusive and constructive dialogue.
13. The Meeting welcomed the briefing by **Timor Leste** on developments in the country particularly on the successful Presidential and Parliamentary elections and the formation of the new government. The Meeting further noted there was still much to be done to develop the country's security forces, and that international assistance was likely to be required for some time to come.
14. Participants referred to recent developments in the **South Pacific** and relevant cooperation among Pacific Island Forum members, particularly with respect to the Solomon Islands, in enhancing security, stability and promoting good governance in the region. The Meeting noted that Australia and New Zealand were among the nations assisting in the region and are working closely together on a wide range of initiatives.

International Issues

15. A few participants expressed deep concern over the situation in the **Middle East** and the need for substantial progress in the quest for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, with two states living side-by-side in peace and security. Participants also looked forward to a successful outcome of the Middle-East Peace Conference to be held in Maryland, United States later this year. Participants also called on all relevant parties to adhere to the Roadmap and implement relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.
16. The Meeting underlined its continued support for the efforts to promote stability, good governance and reconstruction in **Afghanistan** and

encouraged members to explore ways to increase trade with Afghanistan as a way of fostering regional economic development.

17. Participants voiced concern over the situation in **Iraq** and reaffirmed the ARF's support for the Iraqi government and its efforts to ensure unity, security and prosperity in Iraq. Participants called on all parties concerned in Iraq to work towards national reconciliation and reconstruction that are crucial to the attainment of peace, security and prosperity in Iraq.
18. The Meeting noted deep concerns expressed by some participants on **Iran's** failure to comply with the requirements of UNSC Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747, noting that the November IAEA Board of Governors Meeting will be a critical point in assessing Iran's commitment to implementing the IAEA – Iran Work Plan. Members urged Iran to comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions and IAEA requirements while respecting Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy under safeguards and in accordance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Non-Traditional Security Issues

19. Participants expressed their continued commitment in the fight against terrorism and welcomed efforts to enhance cooperation in this area under the ARF framework. Participants also shared their experiences, initiatives and joint efforts to promote dialogue and exchange information among law enforcement agencies as well as strengthening the legal framework in countering terrorism. The Meeting heard several proposals on the idea of developing a comprehensive programme on counter-terrorism and transnational crime issues.
20. Participants expressed the need to intensify cooperation in combating transnational crime including human trafficking, money laundering, illicit trafficking of weapons and illicit drugs. In this regard, participants briefed the Meeting on their efforts in addressing these issues such as enactment of appropriate domestic legislation and initiatives among ARF participants in the area of capacity building through training and technical assistance.

21. Participants acknowledged that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) including its potential use by terrorists remained a serious security challenge. The Meeting expressed support for global efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions to promote the non proliferation of WMD. The Meeting took note of the Overview of the United States National Action Plan for Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) which appears as **Annex 8**.
22. The Meeting was also informed of ASEAN's reaffirmation and commitment to non proliferation of nuclear weapons and cited the recent adoption of the Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ).
23. The Meeting underlined the importance of continuing work and focus on the issue of Maritime Security including piracy. The Meeting noted the convening of the ARF Roundtable Discussion on Stocktaking Maritime Security Issues, Bali, 24 - 25 August 2007 and looked forward to the development of concrete and practical activities in the future.
24. The Meeting agreed to promote more effective cooperation in the area of disaster relief and to work to mitigate losses due to disasters. The Meeting welcomed the adoption by Ministers of the ARF guidelines on disaster relief cooperation, establishing a basic framework for disaster relief cooperation among ARF participants. The Meeting also welcomed subsequent work undertaken to enhance the ARF's capabilities for collaborative responses to disasters. Participants noted that disaster relief could serve as a useful model of cooperation for other issues. The Meeting took note of the Concept Paper on ARF Standby Arrangements for Disaster Relief and Emergency Response, which appear as **Annex 9**.
25. The Meeting noted that energy security was important and underlined the need to develop renewable and alternative energy and energy-efficient technologies.
26. Participants highlighted the need to forge regional and international cooperation in addressing climate change. In this regard, participants welcomed the successful convening of the U.N. High Level Meeting on

Climate Change and look forward to the convening of the forthcoming Bali Conference in December 2007.

Review and Consideration of Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy.

27. The Meeting noted the briefings on the following ARF activities undertaken since the 14th ARF Ministerial:
 - a. ARF Roundtable Discussion on Stocktaking Maritime Security Issues, Bali, 24 – 25 August 2007 (Indonesia and China); [**Annex 10**]
 - b. Initial Planning Conference for the ARF Disaster Relief Desk Top Exercise, Darwin, 4 – 7 September 2007 (Indonesia and Australia); [**Annex 11**]
 - c. ARF Seminar on Narcotics Control, Xi'an City, 19 – 21 September 2007 (Thailand and China); [**Annex 12**]
 - d. The 11th ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions, Australia, 9 – 11 October 2007; [**Annex 13**]
 - e. The 7th ISM on Disaster Relief, Helsinki, 10 – 12 October 2007 (Indonesia and the EU); [**Annex 14**]
 - f. The 4th ARF Seminar on Cyber Terrorism, 17 – 19 October 2007 in Busan (The Philippines and Republic of Korea).
28. The Meeting noted upcoming ARF activities in the inter-sessional year 2007/2008 as follows:
 - g. ARF Seminar on the UN Law of the Sea Convention, Manila, 5 – 7 December 2007 (The Philippines and the EU); [**Annex 15**]
 - h. ARF Workshop on “Management and Security of Stockpiles of Small Arms and Light Weapons including their ammunition”, Phnom Penh, 13 – 14 December 2007 (Cambodia and the EU); [**Annex 16**]
 - i. The 6th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime “Social Participation on Counter Terrorism and

Transnational Crime”, Semarang, 28 – 29 February 2008 (Indonesia and India); [**Annex 17**]

- j. The 2nd ARF Peacekeeping Experts Meeting, Singapore, 4 – 6 March 2008 (Singapore and New Zealand); [**Annex 18**]
 - k. ARF Workshop on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe, Berlin, 12 – 14 March 2008 (Indonesia and the EU); [**Annex 19**]
 - l. ARF Tabletop Exercise on Disaster Relief, Jakarta, 1 – 2 May 2008 (Indonesia and Australia); [**Annex 20**]
 - m. The 2nd ARF Seminar on Energy Security, Singapore in mid-April 2008 (Singapore and the EU);
 - n. ARF Workshop on Anti-Money Laundering: Net Worth Analysis, Kuala Lumpur in the first quarter of 2008 (Malaysia – co-chair to be decided);
 - o. ARF Seminar on Anti-Personnel Mines, Kuala Lumpur in mid-2008 (Malaysia and the EU).
29. The Meeting took note of the following proposed activities to be considered and endorsed for the next inter-sessional year 2008 – 2009:
- p. ARF Training on Maritime Security for all Member States, Chennai, 2008 (India – co-chair to be decided later); [**Annex 21**]
 - q. Peacekeeping Course for ARF Member Countries, New Delhi, 2008 (India – co-chair to be decided later); [**Annex 22**]
 - r. Regional Workshop to Coordinate on Reconstruction and Stabilisation Issues, August – September 2008 (US – co-chair to be decided later); [**Annex 23**]
 - s. ARF Multinational Operational Exercise in Disaster Relief in early 2009 (US – co-chair to be decided later).

Voluntary Background Briefings

30. The meeting took note of the following voluntary briefings made by ARF participants:
 - a. China – The “Peace Mission 2007” (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation);
 - b. China – the Meeting between Three Foreign Ministers of China, India and Russia; [Annex 24]
 - c. Japan – The 12th Tokyo Defence Forum, 19 – 20 September 2007, Tokyo; [Annex 25]
 - d. Japan – “Pacific Shield 2007”;
 - e. India – Climate Change and steps taken by India [Annex 26].

Future Direction of the ARF

Experts/Eminent Persons (EEPs)

31. The Philippines briefed the Meeting on the follow-up action that should ensue from the 14th ARF Ministerial Meeting which tasked the ARF SOM to coming up with an assessment on the practicability of the recommendations of the 2nd EEP Meeting which was held in the Philippines in February 2007. The Philippines and the Republic of Korea invited participants to send comments on the recommendations, which would be incorporated in a discussion paper, for the consideration of the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and ARF SOM. The recommendations appear as **Annex 27**.

ARF Fund (Study on Preventive Diplomacy)

32. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the status of the ARF Fund and expressed appreciation to participants which had already voluntarily contributed to the Fund. The ARF Unit informed the Meeting that the study will commence once all funds have been received.

Review of the ARF

33. Singapore briefed the Meeting on ASEAN's draft discussion paper on the Review of the ARF. Participants welcomed the proposals contained in the paper and gave their preliminary views, particularly on the need to improve ARF working methods, the core security focus of ARF activity, coordination and organisation. Other issues including the proliferation of meetings were also discussed. Participants were encouraged to submit their comments to Singapore by 18 January 2008 so that a revised paper can be discussed at the next ISG in Canada in April 2008. The paper would then be submitted through the ARF SOM to the 15th ARF for adoption. The draft paper on Review of the ARF appears as **Annex 28**.

Links with Other Organisations

Ties between Track I and Track II

34. Dato' Seri Mohamed Jawhar, Chairman of the ASEAN-ISIS briefed the meeting on the activities of the ASEAN-ISIS since April 2007. The Report of the ASEAN-ISIS appear as **Annex 29**.
35. On behalf of the CSCAP Co-Chair (Non-ASEAN), Mr. Peter Cozen briefed the meeting on CSCAP activities that had been undertaken since the last ARF ISG meeting in Helsinki in March 2007 and put forward several suggestions to strengthen the ties between ARF and CSCAP. The meeting noted the invitation for the ARF ISG Co-Chairs to attend the 28th Steering Committee meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 December 2007. The Report of the Co-Chairs of CSCAP appear as **Annex 30**.
36. Mr. Ralph Cossa, Pacific Forum CSIS, Co-Chair of the Study Group on Preventive Diplomacy and the Future of the ASEAN Regional Forum briefed the meeting on the outcome of the study group held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 30 – 31 October 2007 and on the development of specific recommendations aimed at reinvigorating the ARF as both a confidence building and preventive diplomacy mechanism. The Report of the CSCAP Study Group appear as **Annex 31**.

Other Matters

37. Canada announced that the second ARF ISG on CBMs and PD for the Inter-Sessional Year 2007/2008 would be held in Ottawa, Canada from 3 - 4 April 2008 to be preceded by the Defence Officials' Dialogue on 2 April 2008.
38. Singapore informed the Meeting that the ARF SOM would be held in Singapore on 9 May 2008, while the 15th ARF Ministerial would take place on 24 July 2008.