

## **Co-Chairs' Summary Report**

### **the Sixth ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

**Semarang, Indonesia, 21-22 February 2008**

#### **Introduction**

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Manila on 2 August 2007, the Sixth ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (6<sup>th</sup> ISM on CTTC) was held in Semarang, Indonesia, on 21-22 February 2008. H. E. Primo A. Joelianto, Director-General for Asia-Pacific and Africa Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and H.E. Mr. Vivek Katju, Additional Secretary for Political and International Organizations Ministry of External Affairs of India, co-chaired the Meeting.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from all ARF participants. The full List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening Session**

3. In his welcome remarks, the Indonesian Co-Chair acknowledged that terrorism is a threat to regional security, contemplated on the root causes of terrorism and discussed capacity building efforts as well as inter-faith dialogue. He recalled different themes of the previous ISMs and highlighted that society's role in counter terrorism and transnational crime has been introduced in several foras. He wished the Meeting could come with practical recommendations to counter-terrorism, particularly by involving civil society. He emphasized that civil society in modern nations has played important roles in addition to the government in curbing terrorism and promote national strategies in combating transnational crime in the society. He observed that the issue of transnational crimes, such as, human trafficking, illegal logging, and drugs trafficking needs to be further addressed in the ISM. In view of this, it is appropriate to take up those topics more seriously. The full text of the Indonesian Co-Chair's remarks appears as **ANNEX 2**.

4. The Indian Co-Chair suggested in his remarks that ARF has dealt different ways to combat terrorism and transnational crime, recalling the different topics of the past ISM on CTTC. He highlighted that ARF ISM on CTTC is a reflection of joint commitment to combat terrorism and transnational crimes. He emphasized that in inter-connected world, the fight against terrorism and transnational crimes would have to be addressed in comprehensive manner. He noted that polices which seek to distinguish between lesser and greater evils are dangerous and as experience has shown counter productive. He reaffirmed that

terrorism cannot be associated with any religion or race. On the theme of social participation, he hoped that the Meeting would come with comprehensive measures to countering terrorism. The full text of the Indian Co-Chair's remarks appears as **ANNEX 3**.

### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda**

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

6. The Annotated Agenda appears as **ANNEX 5**.

7. The Meeting was conducted in plenary. The Programme of Activities appears as **ANNEX 6**.

### **Agenda Item 3: Review of the ARF Recommendations**

8. Singapore briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC in Singapore on 2-4 May 2007. The recommendations of the ISM included the need to maintain national resilience; the importance of media as well as international and regional organizations in promoting the inter-faith dialogue; the importance of intra-civilization dialogue which entails the promotion of moderate ideologies; and that future ARF activities both on counter-terrorism and on transnational crime could focus on having practical cooperation such as in the areas of anti money laundering and maritime security. Singapore suggested that the Meeting should discuss in greater details the roles of civil society organizations. Singaporean delegation's presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

9. United States presented the proposal of an "ASEAN Regional Forum Workplan for Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime". The purpose of the proposed Workplan is to build regional capacity in counter-terrorism and to focus the ARF efforts on concrete cooperation. The United States proposed that the Workplan be adopted by the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF in July 2008. The Workplan envisages designating lead shepherds similar to those in ASEAN cooperation on counter terrorism. The United States invited the ARF participants to provide comments by 14 March 2008 to be followed up by discussion at the ISG on CBMs and PD in Ottawa, Canada in April 2008. The proposed Workplan appears as **ANNEX 8**. The Meeting agreed to further discuss this item under Agenda 11 on Future Direction of the ISM on CTTC.

10. The ASEAN Secretariat presented the highlights of discussion and recommendations of the first to fifth ARF ISM on CTTC. The ASEAN Secretariat Information Paper appears as **ANNEX 9**. In response to ASEAN Secretariat's presentation, Indonesia recommended that the ARF Framework on CTTC be kept in view while taking the ISM on CTTC forward.

11. The Meeting also underscored the need to take stock of activities which have already been undertaken, and follow-up on previous ARF

recommendations. The Meeting stressed the need to enhance capacity building efforts in the ARF.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Cooperation on Counter Terrorism in the Region: Threats, Measures and Strategies**

12. The Meeting agreed that regional bodies such as ASEAN, APEC, ASEM and ARF, have important roles in promoting cooperation in addressing counter-terrorism. In light of this, the Meeting viewed that ARF should focus the discussion on counter-terrorism efforts undertaken at the regional as well as at national levels. The Meeting was of the view that it is imperative to strengthen cooperation among these regional bodies as well as among the centers dealing with these issues in the region to ensure maximum synergies and to reduce duplication. The Meeting encouraged ARF participants to be parties to the international instruments related to counter terrorism.

13. The Meeting noted the progress made in the ASEAN cooperation on counter-terrorism, highlighting particularly the signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism in 2007. The ASEAN cooperation on counter-terrorism has laid the principles of not allowing the region to be used by terrorists as a base to attack other countries. ASEAN cooperation on counter-terrorism has also been supported by Dialogue Partners. The Meeting observed that financing of terrorism is among the challenges of counter-terrorism in ASEAN region. While liberalizing tourism industry and trade in ASEAN, members voiced concern on border control issue and implications and the risk of terrorists using the visa exemption to move freely in the region.

14. While acknowledging different views regarding the root causes of terrorism, some participants viewed that underlying causes of terrorism, among others, were socio-economic matters, marginalization and alienation of certain groups in the society leading to the growth of extremism. The Meeting saw the relevance of efforts to narrow the developmental gap in this context. Lack of understanding of religions, cultures and ideologies also could lead to extremist views. The Meeting noted the importance of inter faith dialogues as a mean to enhance tolerance and promote greater respect among the faiths.

15. Some participants informed the Meeting of their national community based programmes in countering terrorism. The Meeting viewed that it is essential to closely monitor the terrorists de-radicalisation and rehabilitation programmes to ensure their effectiveness.

16. The Republic of Korea (ROK) made a presentation on the counter terrorism cooperation in the region. In the presentation, they reported on the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> ARF Seminar on Cyber Terrorism and distributed a Concept paper on the establishment of a Virtual Working Group to enhance the response capacity against the cyber terrorist threat. Participants supported in principle the proposal of ROK to explore practical and concrete ways to further implement the recommendations of previous ARF Statement on Cooperation in fighting cyber

attack and terrorist misuse of cyber space adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF. ROK invited comments to the proposal by 14 March 2008 to be sent to email address [ejmyung06@mofat.go.kr](mailto:ejmyung06@mofat.go.kr), and informed the Meeting that it would consolidate the comments and table a revised draft for discussion at the upcoming ISG CBMs PD Meeting in Ottawa. The proposal appears as **ANNEX 10**.

17. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:
  - a. Thailand, appears as **ANNEX 11**.
  - b. Australia, appears as **ANNEX 12**.
  - c. ROK, appears as **ANNEX 13**.
  - d. United States, appears as **ANNEX 14**.

#### **Agenda Item 5: The Role of Media, NGOs, Enterprises and Other Civil Society Organizations**

18. The Meeting discussed the issue of role of media, NGOs and civil society and enterprises in countering terrorism. The Meeting agreed that negative perception towards these entities in their role in countering terrorism needs to be changed. The Meeting acknowledged that they play critical role in shaping the public's perception and opinion and are direct and effective channels to reach people. In this regard, it is important for the ARF participants to share best practices on how to harness and use these entities to the best advantage so that terrorists do not use them as their weapon.

19. The Meeting took note of a number of initiatives taken and suggested in this context. This includes understating the function of media in better through seminars, workshops and other activities. Participants also suggested exploring the possibility of establishing media relation bureaus in the government Ministries in order to build relations between government and the media. At the regional level, journalists exchange, annual media graduate scholarships, media internship programme, establishment of regional media fellowship programme were identified as some of the best practices.

20. The Meeting explored the idea of the media playing a vital role in counter terrorism. The media in this case can send the right message at the right time concerning unprecedented events and threats. Governments should keep media informed regarding terrorist threats to create better understanding and appreciation of government actions.

21. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:
  - a. EU, appears as **ANNEX 15**.
  - b. Mongolia, appears as **ANNEX 16**.
  - c. New Zealand, appears as **ANNEX 17**.

## **Agenda Item 6: Social Participation on Counter Terrorism**

22. The Meeting observed that the public reaction to terrorist action is conditioned by victims' image, terrorist's propaganda, government's message and the message of social and religious leaders. When government and terrorist messages are in competition, a moral ground is set by the religious leaders who are positioned to reject the terrorist message. However media must also be mindful that their reporting should not jeopardize counter-terrorism efforts.

23. The Meeting underscored the crucial role played by the public to counter terrorism, inter-alia, through raising the people's awareness and understanding on terrorist threats, and community outreach programmes. The Meeting, in particular identified the role of media and educational institutions to discuss the need to create a sound boundary for voluntary self-restraint in case of terrorist propaganda and the importance of social and religious leaders to influence public perception immediately after the event of terrorist attack.

24. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. Indonesia, appears as **ANNEX 18**.
- b. Japan ,appears as **ANNEX 19**.
- c. Papua New Guinea, appears as **ANNEX 20**.
- d. Russia, appears as **ANNEX 21**.
- e. Singapore, appears as **ANNEX 22**.

### **6.1. Experts Informal Session**

25. The session was held at the Jakarta Center of Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC). Pol. Brig. Gen. Adji Rustam Ramdja, Executive Director of the JCLEC welcomed the ARF participants to the JCLEC. He updated the Meeting of the main focus and contributions of the Center to the counter-terrorism efforts at the regional and international levels since its establishment in 2004.

26. Mr. Lester Cross, the Executive Director for Programme of the Center, introduced the programme, training activities and facilities of the Center. The Center is targeting police officers and related agencies from all over the region to work better on counter-terrorism. The Center does not only run programmes of its own but it is available for other countries. Most of ARF participating countries have in fact sent candidates to the JCLEC for training. The Center also emphasized the importance of cooperation with other centers in the region, such as, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, and SEARCCT in Kuala Lumpur.

27. Ms. Sidney Jones of the International Crisis Group (ICG) in Jakarta delivered a presentation on the role of civil society in counter-terrorism. Ms. Jones gave an overview on the roles of the ICG in counter-terrorism. She underlined that civil society could play broader role by raising public awareness to curb corruption, improving legal systems, strengthening community policing, and protecting human rights ultimately contributing in countering terrorism. She concluded that governments cannot work alone and therefore civil society organizations can be partners in addressing the problem of terrorism.

28. Mr. Steve Cook the Chief of Mission of International Organization of Migration (IOM) Indonesia presented an overview of the IOM works on counter-trafficking activities. In ASEAN region, the IOM has been implementing more than 20 projects on capacity building and training on prevention of trafficking and related subjects. The areas of IOM include data collection, advocacy and capacity building. IOM has conducted a study on information gathering system for ASEAN Member States, and has developed standard operating procedures for the return of the victims of trafficking and regional training curriculum.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Stocktaking Transnational Crimes in the Region**

29. The discussions were focused on the transnational crimes including illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal migration, arms smuggling, money laundering and piracy.

30. The Meeting took note of a number of regional initiatives on cooperation in countering terrorism and the importance of becoming parties to the UN Conventions and Protocols on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes. The Meeting also discussed how transnational crime and terrorism are interlinked.

31. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. Laos, appears as **ANNEX 23**.
- b. Philippines, appears as **ANNEX 24**.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Transnational Crimes: Strategies and Measures**

32. The Meeting discussed strategies in countering transnational crimes, particularly on effective boundary control, control of cross border crimes through close cooperation between the authorities and the public, providing alternative livelihood to the poppy farming, raising public awareness through public education, and effectively implement domestic legislation with an emphasis on protection of human rights.

33. At the regional level, the Meeting discussed measures, which include bilateral agreement, intelligence exchange, information sharing, law enforcement cooperation among various agencies of ARF participants, mutual legal assistance, establishment of regional center, assigning of intelligence attachés, establishment of dedicated centralized regional body for combating transnational

crimes and counter terrorism, harmonization of national regulations in accordance with UN Conventions and Protocols related to transnational crime, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols.

34. The Meeting, during the discussion, took note on various mechanisms in the region, in particular in Southeast Asia through ASEAN, in addressing the issue of transnational crime. Some participants from ASEAN Member States also reiterated the important role of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), in relevance to the eight areas of cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crime, such as illicit drugs trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering. The Meeting also took note ASEAN's effort to enhance cooperation in these areas as one of the elements in its efforts to move forward to a Community.

35. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. Myanmar, appears as **ANNEX 25**.
- b. Pakistan, appears as **ANNEX 26**.
- c. Russia, appears as **ANNEX 27**.
- d. Sri Lanka, appears as **ANNEX 28**.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Social Participation in Preventing Transnational Crimes**

36. The Meeting exchanged views on social participation in preventing different types of transnational crimes including drug and human trafficking, child abuse, illicit drug production and trade. The meeting agreed that family based, workplace based, community based prevention and public-private partnership and cooperation can contribute to combating transnational crime.

37. Participants felt that teachers, students and religious leaders can also play an important role in raising awareness among the public, generating correct responses from the society and thereby preventing transnational crimes. The Meeting discussed ways involving social participation in preventing transnational crimes through empowerment of community. Some participants underlined the important role of the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control in combating the production of illicit drugs.

38. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. Indonesia, appears as **ANNEX 29**.
- b. Malaysia, appears as **ANNEX 30**.
- c. Viet Nam, appears as **ANNEX 31**.
- d. Timor-Leste, appears as **ANNEX 32**.
- e. Australia, appears as **ANNEX 33**.

### **Agenda Item 10: Government-Civil Society Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime**

39. The Meeting took note of cases where civil society played critical roles in supplementing the government policy in addressing transnational crimes such as trafficking in persons, money laundering, and drug trafficking. The roles of civil society were highlighted in the areas of information dissemination, imparting education and undertaking specific research. In practical level, civil society runs programmes and campaigns to build public awareness, advocate with governments in imposing longer prison terms as deterrent, and rehabilitating victims of human and drugs trafficking and reintegrating them back to the society.

40. The Meeting agreed that ARF should play specific roles in forging regional cooperation in combating transnational crimes. The Meeting urged ARF participants to continue working hand in hand so that countries in the region succeed in preventing the threats and problems caused by the transnational crimes, and also to cooperate in capacity building and information and communication technology development to combat transnational crimes.

41. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. Cambodia, appears as **ANNEX 34**.
- b. Bangladesh, appears as **ANNEX 35**.

### **Agenda Item 11: Future Direction on ISM CTTC**

42. In the future Direction on ISM CTTC, the Meeting discussed proposal by United States of America on Work Plan for the CTTC and the Republic of Korea's proposal on for the ARF Virtual Working Group on Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism, for which many delegations expressed their preliminary support. As per the proposals the comments are invited by 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008 so as to have follow up discussion in the forthcoming ISG meeting in Ottawa. The ISM meeting, however, decided to have a preliminary discussion on these two proposals.

43. Participants expressed support in principle for the US proposal to establish a Workplan for ARF's CTTC efforts. Participants also supported in principle the proposal of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was of the view that the future work of the CTTC should be practical, action oriented and concrete. The Meeting was also of the view that such initiatives should be in line with the Comprehensive Review of the ARF and should not pre-judge the outcome of the Review which is presently underway as well as in line with the ARF Cooperation Framework on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF. The Meeting noted that future work should not be duplicative or overlapping with the similar activities in the region. They should be complementary. Participants were of the view that these are very serious proposals leading to the establishment of permanent mechanisms, and therefore required reflection in respective capitals. The US agreed to provide a revised proposal of the Workplan in advance of the April's ISG Meeting.

44. Some participants were of the view that the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat needs to be strengthened to assist the ARF process.

45. Australia informed the Meeting on the proposal to co-chair with Indonesia an ARF Terrorist Use of the Internet Conference in the second half of 2008. Further details of the venue and dates will be included in a formal invitation. The concept paper for this Conference appears as **ANNEX 36**.

46. The Meeting welcomed Viet Nam's intention to host the 7<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM CTTC in May 2009. Further arrangements will be confirmed in due course. The Meeting also looked forward to a non-ASEAN ARF participant co-chairing this next ISM.

### **Agenda Item 12: Adoption of Co-Chairs' Summary Report**

47. The Meeting considered and adopted the Co-Chairs' Summary Report.

### **Agenda Item 13: Closing**

48. The Co-Chairs thanked the participants for their active participation, cooperation and views expressed in the open and frank discussion, noting that themes and specifics discussed and tabled during the deliberations would further the process of our cooperation in combating terrorism and transnational crime. The Indonesia co-chair noted that the theme of "Social Participation in Countering Terrorism and Transnational Crime" was a step further to the earlier discussions in the ISMs on CTTC. He also noted that the discussion on ways and means to enhance cooperation and social participation by involving the media, NGO, enterprises and other civil society organizations have been able to infuse new thoughts and ideas. The Indian co-chair highlighted the necessity to seek to find common approaches and modalities to address the threat of terrorism and transnational crime and also the need to conclude at the earliest negotiations leading to the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

49. The Meeting expressed gratitude to the Indonesia and Indian Co-Chairs for effective co-chairmanship and to the Government of the Indonesia for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the ARF ISM on CTTC. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the JCLEC for arranging the Experts Informal session in their training facility.

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