

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 8-9 MAY 2012**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 18th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Bali on 23 July 2011, the meeting of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM and PD) was held in Wellington, New Zealand, on 8-9 May 2012. The Meeting was co-chaired by Cambodia and New Zealand.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka attended the Meeting. The representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), ARF EEPs and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were also present. The List of Delegates is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Arrangements

4. The Meeting noted the administrative arrangements made by New Zealand details of which appear as **ANNEX 3**.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the Outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, Wellington, 7 May 2012

5. Mr. Paul Sinclair reported the outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue which was held in Wellington on 7 May 2012. The Dialogue discussed possible ways for the ARF defence officials to contribute to the implementation of preventive diplomacy, among others through promotion of cooperation and consultation in accordance to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia and the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. The Dialogue also addressed the issue of promoting synergy between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus. Following up on the previous discussion on the frequency of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, the Dialogue agreed that the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue attached to the ARF Ministerial Meeting would be the logical Dialogue to be discontinued without significant impact to the overall process, and considered the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) and the ARF SOM could report their recommendations to the ARF Ministers. The Dialogue also took note

of the report of the 16th Tokyo Defence Forum which was held on 14-16 March 2012. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Dialogue appears as **ANNEX 4**.

Agenda Item 4: Exchange of Views on the International and Regional Issues

6. The Meeting commended the progress of ASEAN cooperation leading towards achieving the ASEAN Community in 2015. The Meeting congratulated Cambodia for the success in the first half of its ASEAN Chairmanship. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of implementing existing ASEAN mechanism such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia (TAC) and the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). The Meeting noted the preparation for the signing of the instruments of accession to the TAC by the United Kingdom, the European Union and Brazil in Phnom Penh in July 2012. The Meeting also welcomed the completion of negotiation process between ASEAN Member States and the P5 on the Protocol to the Treaty on SEANWFZ and the preparation for the signing of the Protocols by the P5 in Phnom Penh in July 2012, on the sidelines of the 45th AMM/PMC/19th ARF.

7. The Meeting welcomed the outcomes of the 20th ASEAN Summit concluded on 3-4 April 2012. The Summit adopted three milestone documents, namely the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, the Phnom Penh Declaration on ASEAN: One Community One Destiny which outlines various strategic thrusts for ASEAN to implement to realize ASEAN Community 2015 and the Phnom Penh Agenda For ASEAN Community-Building. The Phnom Penh Agenda actions and result-oriented priority agenda and ASEAN's commitment to intensify efforts to achieve ASEAN Community by 2015.

8. The Meeting exchanged views on the South China Sea issue and underline the importance of peace, stability, maritime security and safety in the South China Sea. The Meeting encouraged the parties concerned to resolve the territorial and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea peacefully and consistent with the principles of the DoC and the Guidelines, and in accordance with other universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting further welcomed progress in the implementation of the DoC, including follow-up to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DoC. Some ASEAN countries informed the Meeting of progress toward formulating a legally binding Code of Conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN SOM Working Group on CoC has convened five meetings so far, and that the 6th ASEAN SOM Working Group on CoC will be convened in Bandung on 15 -16 May 2012 and expects to start working with China on the CoC soon.

9. The Meeting expressed grave concerns over the launch by the DPRK using ballistic missile technology on 13 April and expressed support for the Statement issued by the President of the UNSC (S/PRST/2012/13), which

strongly condemned the launch by the DPRK. The Meeting strongly urged the DPRK to fully comply immediately with its obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874 and abandon all nuclear weapons and its existing nuclear programme, including its uranium enrichment programme, in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, immediately cease all related activities and not conduct further launches using ballistic missile technology, nuclear tests or any further provocation. Some members called for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks, further advancing the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula, and enhanced cooperation between DPRK and the international community. Some members referred to the importance of addressing humanitarian issues in North Korea, such as food security, abductions and family reunions.

10. The Meeting noted the briefing by Myanmar on the successful by-election which took place on 1 April 2012. Representatives of the United Nations, the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Union, diplomatic missions, bilateral observers, and the international media participated in the monitoring of the by-election. The Meeting commended the political reform underway in Myanmar, including through the release of political prisoners and reconciliation talks between the government and ethnic minority groups in the country. The Meeting welcomed Myanmar's recent declaration that it had no nuclear ambitions and called on Myanmar to engage fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Meeting viewed that it is important for Myanmar to maintain this momentum for eventual removal of all sanctions. On this note, the Meeting encouraged the international community to continue engaging Myanmar as part of the family of nations.

11. The Meeting discussed the latest security situation in the Middle East. Concerns were expressed on the deteriorating security situation, gross violations of human rights and loss of human lives in Syria. Support was expressed for the UN mission. The Meeting observed the importance of managing a smooth transition of security in Afghanistan. The Meeting welcomed the recent talks between Iran and the P5+1 held in Istanbul on 14 April 2012 and expressed hope for significant follow-up steps to these talks.

12. Some participants raised the situation in Fiji, calling for the return of democracy and the rule of law in Fiji.

13. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting convened in Brunei Darussalam on 26-27 April 2012. The Meeting also noted the preparations for the 9th ASEM Summit to be held in Vientiane on 6 November 2012. The Meeting welcomed the completion of signing of the Third Protocol of the TAC by all High Contracting Parties and ready for the accession of the European Union to the Treaty.

Agenda Item 5: Briefing by Track II

5. 1. Briefing by CSCAP

14. Representative of the CSCAP, Prof. Kwa Chong Guan, briefed the Meeting on the recent CSCAP memoranda. CSCAP Memorandum no. 19 on Reduction and Elimination of the Nuclear Weapons was recently issued. Two more memoranda will be issued, namely on cyber security and naval enhancement. Most policy recommendations from CSCAP fall into one of three categories, namely analysing complicated policy issues, drawing attention to emerging security issues, and pointing out which policy options have the most support and consensus among stakeholders. The policy recommendations have been prepared in a template that identifies the security challenges and policy options. He sought the view of the Meeting on whether ARF participants are comfortable with the policy recommendations produced by CSCAP and whether the linear policy recommendations process fits the needs of the ARF. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 5**.

5. 2. Briefing by ICRC

15. Mr. Craig Strathern, Diplomatic Adviser of the International Committee of the Red Cross, introduced the overall structure, objective and mandate of the ICRC. He underscored that the ICRC is a neutral and impartial humanitarian organisation. The ICRC has been participating in various CSCAP fora including the CSCAP Study Groups on Regional Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, and Responsibility to Protect. Mr. Strathern elaborated on ways the ICRC might be able to further assist the ARF on the implementation of preventive diplomacy. He recalled the ICRC's involvement in past ARF initiatives such as the ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and the ARF Peacekeeping Seminars. He also updated the Meeting on the recent projects and activities implemented by the ICRC. The ICRC is mindful of the challenges of working within existing limitation of international organisations. Notwithstanding this challenge, Mr. Strathern reaffirmed the ICRC's commitment to explore ways to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with the ARF. A letter from the ICRC appears as **ANNEX 6**.

Agenda Item 6: Briefing by EEP Representative

6.1. Outcome of the 6th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting,

16. Mr. Frank Wilson, the New Zealand EEP, reported the outcomes of the 6th ARF EEPs convened in Bangkok on 1-3 February 2012 on behalf of the EEP co-chairs. He recalled the Guidelines of the Operation of ARF EEPs adopted by the 11th ARF in 2004 and the mandate of the Ministers at the 18th ARF on 23 July 2011 for the EEPs to study the role of the ARF in the regional security architecture, implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy and

to prepare for the ARF team for the Timor-Leste election. He briefed the meeting on recommendations made by the EEPs in these areas and on ways to improve the operations of the EEP.

Agenda Item 7: Review and Consideration of Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (CBMs and PD), and ARF Work Plans

7. 1. Review of CBMs and PD Activities, and ARF Work Plans

7.1.1. Outcomes of the 4th ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD), Sydney, 7-9 March 2012 and Consideration of Draft NPD Work Plan

17. The Philippines, Australia and the Japan briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 4th ARF ISM on NPD which was held in Sydney on 8-9 March 2012. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the meeting appears as **ANNEX 7**.

18. The United States updated the Meeting on latest status of the draft ARF Work Plan on NPD. The United States emphasised that the Work Plan will be a living document, thus new projects under the three priority areas could be added as the Work Plan is implemented. The United States thanked all ARF participants for all comments and edits provided to date, and recommended that the draft be delivered to Senior Officials in its current form. With the concurrence of the ARF participants, the draft will be submitted to the 19th ARF for adoption by the Ministers. The draft appears as **ANNEX 8**.

19. The meeting noted that the 5th ISM on NPD will be held in the Philippines in 2013.

20. The Republic of Korea, as the host country of the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul in March 2012, and some other participants, stressed the threat of nuclear terrorism by non-state actors and called on the ARF to address further the nuclear security issue in related activities including in the ARF ISM on NPD.

7.1.2. Outcomes of the 10th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), Quang Nam, 16-17 March 2012, and review of the ARF CTTC Work Plan

21. Viet Nam and Canada briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 10th ARF ISM on CTTC which was held in Quang Nam on 16-17 March 2012. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the meeting appears as **ANNEX 9**.

22. The Meeting noted that Australia has volunteered to Co-Chair the 11th ARF ISM on CTTC for the inter-sessional year 2012-2013 with an ASEAN Member State.

7.1.3. Outcomes of 11th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief, (ISM on DR) Brisbane on 16-17 April 2012 and review of the ARF Work Plan on DR

23. Indonesia and Australia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 11th ARF ISM on DR which was held in Brisbane on 16-17 April 2012. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the meeting appears as **ANNEX 10**. The ARF participants were invited to submit comments on the draft to Indonesia and Australia.

24. The Meeting noted that Australia and Indonesia have been working in close consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat on the review of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. The draft new Work Plan will be circulated within a few days.

25. The Meeting noted that the 12th ARF ISM on DR will be held in Indonesia in the first quarter of 2013.

7.1.4. Update on the 4th ARF ISM on Maritime Security (ISM on MS), and review of the ARF Work Plan on MS

26. Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and the United States briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the 4th ARF ISM on MS to be held in San Francisco on 14-15 June 2012.

7.1.5. Outcomes of the 15th ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM), Bali, 29 November – 2 December 2011

27. Indonesia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 15th HDUCIM which was held in Bali on 29 November – 2 December 2011.

7.1.6. Outcomes of the ARF Conference of National Security Policy Makers on Proxy Actors in Cyber Space, Quang Nam, 14-15 March 2012

28. Viet Nam and the United States briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Proxy Actors in Cyber Space which was held in Quang Nam on 14-15 March 2012. The Meeting took note of the suggestion for the ISM on CTTC to consider the continuation of this Workshop.

7.1.7 Review of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy

29. The Meeting discussed the possible ways to implement the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy. The ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy is attached as **ANNEX 11**. The Meeting noted the Discussion Paper on Possible Elements for an ARF Roundtable on Training Resources for Preventive Diplomacy, introduced by the ISG Co-Chairs. The Discussion Paper outlines a

proposal to review and strengthen preventive diplomacy training in the Asia Pacific region. The project will be co-chaired by an ASEAN and non-ASEAN Member State and take place in two stages, namely: 1) the Co-Chairs will conduct a survey of ARF participants to help identify institutions which offer training in preventive diplomacy and/or related subjects; 2) ARF participants will be invited to send representatives to a roundtable on preventive diplomacy training. In addition to Track I representatives, delegations to the roundtable could include representatives of diplomatic training institutes, defence universities and/or universities providing training in international relations, diplomacy and peacemaking. The Co-Chairs' Discussion Paper is attached as **ANNEX 12**.

30. The Meeting supported the Discussion Paper and agreed to consider the proposal for future implementation. The Meeting noted the suggestion on the possibility to organise the two aforementioned stages together. An element of exchange of best practices with other international organisations such as the Organisation of Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union was also proposed to be included in the proposal.

31. The Meeting proposed that the implementation of ARF PD should be based on those principles set out in the Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy, as agreed to by Ministers at the 18th ARF Ministerial. While moving to the stage of preventive diplomacy, the confidence-building measures in the ARF should continue. In terms of areas of cooperation, some participants suggested that ARF should concentrate on non-traditional security issues. With regards to cooperation with international organisations, some participants informed the Meeting of the Mediation Support Unit of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs which the ARF could tap into for expertise in the area of preventive diplomacy.

32. The Meeting encouraged the ARF participants to submit comments on the draft Discussion Paper to the Co-Chairs before the ARF SOM in Phnom Penh on 26 May 2012.

7.2. Consideration of ARF CBMs and PD Initiatives

7.2.1. Draft ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring International Cyber Security

33. Russia updated the Meeting on the latest development of the draft ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring International Cyber Security. The latest draft appears as **ANNEX 13**.

34. The Meeting congratulated Russia for further developing and refining the draft Statement by incorporating views from ARF participants. The Meeting

agreed to adopt the revised draft Statement ad-referendum and submit it to the ARF SOM.

35. With reference to the recommendation to develop a work plan on security in the use of information and communication technology as stipulated in the draft, the Meeting agreed to seek the guidance of the ARF SOM on the next step of its development.

7.2.2. Concept Paper on the Establishment of ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC)

36. The United States updated the Meeting on the follow-up to the Concept Paper on the Establishment of ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC) which was adopted by the 18th ARF in Bali on 23 July 2011. The Concept Note appears as **ANNEX 14**.

37. The United States explained that the process of nomination of Co-Chairs for the series of workshops on concept development of ATTIC is underway. The series of workshops will bring together subject matter experts from the relevant agencies of ARF participants as well as organizations such as the UN Office on Drug Control and Interpol. These workshops will study and develop the concept and prepare an actionable plan for the possible establishment of the ATTIC. The experts will also develop the text for the information-sharing arrangement to serve as the foundation for ATTIC. Upon completion of concept development, the proposal to establish the ATTIC will be presented through the relevant ARF meetings to the ministers for approval.

38. The Meeting supported the idea of holding workshops on the concept development of ATTIC. The Meeting sought clarification on the funding arrangement for the operationalisation of ATTIC. The United States clarified that this issue will be discussed at the series of concept development workshops.

7.2.3. Draft Concept Paper on Best Practices for Implementation of a Disease Surveillance System

39. The United States updated the Meeting on the current status of the draft Concept Paper on Best Practices for Implementation of a Disease Surveillance System. The Meeting noted that the draft Concept Paper originated from the discussion at the ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance which was held in Manila on 13-15 September 2011. The list of best practices aims to provide useful assistance to the ARF participants in this area. The Draft Concept paper is attached as **ANNEX 15**.

40. The Meeting suggested that the recommendations of the Concept Paper should be implemented on a voluntary basis. Several participants suggested additional references to nutrition disease surveillance and joint response to

cross-border epidemiology emergencies to be included in the Concept Paper. The Meeting also sought clarification on the issue of optimising usage of BSL-3 laboratories as referred to in the draft Concept Paper.

41. The ARF participants are invited to submit comments on the draft Concept Paper by 18 May 2012.

7.2.4. Draft Concept Paper on Proposed Workshop on Space Security for the ASEAN Regional Forum

42. Australia presented the draft Concept Paper on the proposed Workshop on Space Security for the ASEAN Regional Forum. The Workshop will be held in Quang Nam in December 2012, co-chaired by Viet Nam and Australia. Australia clarified that the Workshop will be a one-off activity. The draft appears as **ANNEX 16**.

43. The Meeting noted that the Workshop would focus on information sharing and promotion of public awareness. The Meeting noted the suggestion that additional elements be included in the Workshop, such as existence or non-existence of space related laws or policies; specific international recognition of existing national and international legal frameworks on space related activities; benefits of having a unified set of policies on space security and space diplomacy; and gaining reasonable access to facilities of developed countries, particularly in emergency situations (i.e. natural disasters).

7.2.5. Draft Concept Paper on Proposed Workshop on Seismic Monitoring

44. The United States updated the Meeting on the Concept Paper on the proposed Workshop on Seismic Monitoring, in partnership with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). The United States informed the Meeting that reservations had been expressed regarding the establishment of a relationship between the ARF and CTBTO at this time. Given these reservations, the United States explained that it intended to pursue this event outside of the ARF, working with ASEAN states and other interested participants. In light of this, the Meeting noted that the proposal will not be pursued under the ARF context and accordingly will not be submitted to the ARF SOM.

7.3. Update on Preparation for ARF Activities in the Inter-Sessional Year 2011-2012

7.3.1. ARF Seminar on Peacekeeping

45. Indonesia and Mongolia briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the ARF Seminar on Peacekeeping to be held in Ulaanbaatar on 23-24 May 2012. The Seminar will focus on peacekeeping challenges including standby forces.

The ARF participants are encouraged to send representatives from the policy, military and police officers as well as civilian experts.

7.3.2. ARF Seminar on the Laws and Regulations of Disaster Relief

46. Indonesia, China and the United States briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the 3rd ARF Seminar on the Laws and Regulations on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces to be held in Beijing on 11-12 June 2012. The Seminar will, among others, discuss the draft RDR Agreement initiated by the United States.

7.3.3. 2nd ARF CBMs Seminar on Implementation of the UNSCR 1540

47. The United States updated the Meeting on the preparation for the 2nd ARF CBMs Seminar on Implementation of the UNSCR 1540. The United States informed the Meeting that the Seminar has been rescheduled for the inter-sessional year 2012-2013 to most effectively build upon the discussion held at the 4th ARF ISM on NPD in Sydney on 8-9 March 2012.

7.3.4. ARF Cyber Crimes Investigations Table-Top Exercise

48. The United States informed the Meeting that the ARF Cyber Crimes Investigations Table-Top Exercise will be tentatively held later in the year.

7.3.5. ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response

49. Singapore and Australia briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response. The Workshop has been deferred to the next inter-sessional year to be implemented on 6-7 September 2012 in Singapore. Further details of the Workshop are attached as **ANNEX 17**.

7.3.6. ARF Electoral Capacity-Building Programme for East Timor

50. Timor Leste updated the Meeting on preparations for the national parliamentary election on 7 July 2012. Timor Leste expressed appreciation to the ARF participants who had sent election monitoring teams during the presidential election. Timor Leste extended an invitation to the ARF participants to send an election monitoring team to observe the parliamentary election.

51. The Meeting took note of the offer from the European Union to conduct training and capacity building for election observers and took note of the offer from the United States through the Asia Foundation to provide ground support for ARF observer teams upon arrival in Timor-Leste. A number of participants indicated their intention to take part in the ARF mission.

52. The Meeting recalled that the ARF election monitoring team is conducted on a voluntary basis. Some participants suggested that in view of the nature, objectives and principles of the ARF, ARF participants could consider sending observers on a bilateral basis. In this connection, some participants suggested that the Government of Timor Leste send official invitation letters to individual ARF participants to send observers.

53. The Meeting discussed the modalities of the ARF observer mission. Some participants raised the issue of the reporting line of the outcomes of the election monitoring mission. Since the initiative was endorsed by Ministers, some participants sought clarification on whether the report of the observer team would be submitted to the ARF Ministers. The Meeting concurred that the implementation of the election observer team should be based on the tasks agreed in the Concept Paper of the ARF Electoral Capacity-Building Programme, adopted by the 18th ARF in Bali on 23 July 2011.

Agenda Item 8: Future Direction of ARF

8.1. Advancing the “Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020”

8.1.1. Update on the Implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement

54. The ASEAN Secretariat presented an update on the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement. The presentation highlighted progress of ARF priority areas of the Hanoi Plan of Action, namely disaster relief, counter-terrorism, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, peacekeeping operation, defence dialogue and CBMs and PD. The progress of the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action has been captured in a matrix which is available on the ARFNet. The copy of the matrix appears as **ANNEX 18**.

8.1.2. Role of the ARF and ADMM-Plus in Security Architecture in the Region

55. The Meeting reiterated that the ARF and ADMM-Plus each have distinct goals and different mandates. The ARF’s strength is in the area of policy and civil-military cooperation and the strengths of the ADMM-Plus in practical military-military cooperation. On this note, the Meeting reaffirmed that ASEAN should play a central role to better coordinate initiatives of these existing mechanisms as stated by the ASEAN Leaders during the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh. Some participants suggested that time would be required for various mechanisms to develop and establish themselves as part of the regional architecture.

56. To promote synergy between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, the Meeting suggested that representatives of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWGs) should be invited to the relevant ARF ISMs; cross reporting between the two fora at the actual meetings as well as among the agencies at the national level; better organisation of the schedule of activities of both fora (with possible back-to-back meetings of the ADMM-Plus Experts Working Groups and ARF ISMs as appropriate). It was agreed that the Co-Chairs of respective ARF ISMs and ADMM-Plus EWGs should coordinate closely with the ASEAN Secretariat to plan their activities; etc.

57. The Co-chairs undertook to circulate a note capturing various suggestions prior to the SOM.

8.1.3. Role of the ARF EEPs in Advancing the Process

58. The Meeting exchanged views on the closer engagement between the ARF EEPs with the Track I process based on the report of the EEPs. Suggestions included: inviting ARF EEPs to participate in relevant ARF meetings and activities where the ARF EEPs could contribute; improving the EEP working methods; asking the ARF EEPs to review the ARF Annual Security Outlook; having the EEPs brief the ARF SOM, ISG and ISMs; having the EEPs provide more input on PD issues; and benchmarking EEPs work against the East Asia Vision Group.

59. The Meeting pointed out that the ARF EEPs should not be restricted in their views and recommendations. Nonetheless, the ARF EEPs should function in accordance with their mandate as stipulated in the Terms of Reference. The ARF Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement and the ARF Work Plan on PD should provide direction for the ARF EEPs' future deliberation. An expanded role of the ARF EEPs should not divert the EEPs from these guidelines.

60. Regarding the qualification and background of the EEPs, the Meeting underscored the importance of selecting experienced candidates and reaffirmed that it is within the autonomy of the respective ARF participant to appoint their EEPs. Some participants cautioned against duplicating representation in the EEPs and other ARF bodies to facilitate the delivery of professional and expert advice.

8.2. Streamlining of the ARF ISG and DOD Process

61. The Meeting noted the recommendations of defence officials which were put forward at the ARF DOD in Wellington on 7 May 2012. The ARF DOD recommended that it is most logical that the ARF DOD attached to the ARF Ministers be discontinued.

Agenda Item 9: Other Matters

9.1. New Initiatives for the Inter-sessional Year 2012-2013

9.1.1. Draft Proposal for an ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling

62. New Zealand briefed the Meeting on the draft Concept Paper for an ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling. The Workshop aims to discuss approaches to ship-profiling and identify best practices and capacity-building requirements in the area of ship profiling and discuss the utilisation of the ISPS Code in ship profiling. The proposal will also be tabled at the 4th ARF ISM on Maritime Security to be held in San Francisco on 14-15 June 2012. The ARF participants are invited to provide comments on the draft proposal to New Zealand. The draft proposal is attached as **ANNEX 19**.

9.1.2. ARF Seminar on CBMs in Cyber Space

63. The Meeting noted the proposal by the Republic of Korea for the ARF Seminar on Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) in Cyberspace. The Seminar will be co-hosted by Malaysia and the Republic of Korea in Seoul on 11-12 September 2012.

64. The Meeting commented on the date of the Seminar. Some participants viewed that the proposed date is too close from the ARF Seminar on Cyber Security Incident Response which will be held in Singapore on 6-7 September 2012 and discuss similar issues. The Meeting requested the Republic of Korea to update the ARF SOM on the date for the Seminar.

9.1.3. Concept Paper for the 4th ARF Bio Workshop: Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event

65. The Meeting noted the Concept Paper, proposed by the United States. The Workshop will be co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States, and supported by Australia, and will tentatively be held on 5-7 September 2012. The Concept Paper is attached as **ANNEX 20**.

66. Several participants noted that the timing of the Workshop coincides with the ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response which will be held in Singapore. In response, the United States will consult with the Philippine co-chair on the possible rescheduling of the Workshop.

9.1.4. Concept Paper for the 2nd ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics

67. The Meeting noted the Concept Paper for the 2nd ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics, proposed by the United States. The Workshop

will be a follow-up to the ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics which was conducted in Bangkok on 7-9 December 2011. The Workshop will be co-chaired with Viet Nam and will be tentatively held in December 2012. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 21**.

9.1.5. Concept Paper on the ARF Seminar on Preventive Climate Diplomacy

68. The Meeting noted the Concept Paper for the ARF Seminar on Preventive Climate Diplomacy, proposed by the European Union. The Seminar will be co-chaired by Cambodia and the European Union. The date and venue for the Seminar will be announced in due course. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 22**.

69. Cambodia and the EU will confirm the title of the Seminar in due course, as some participants sought clarification of the meaning of preventive climate diplomacy.

9.1.6. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise

70. The Meeting welcomed the Republic of Korea as co-chair of the next ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) to be held in 2013. The Republic of Korea informed the Meeting that initial preparatory works for the 3rd ARF DiREx would begin as soon as an ASEAN Co-Chair is nominated.

71. The Meeting noted that one ASEAN Member State had expressed its interest in co-chairing the ARF DiREx and was now coordinating with the internal agencies before announcing its readiness in the near future.

72. On the organisation of the ARF activities, the Meeting suggested that the schedule of the activities within an inter-sessional year should not be arranged in the same month.

9. 2. Co-Chairs for ARF DOD/ISG and ISMs for Inter-Sessional Year 2012-2013

73. The Meeting noted that Brunei Darussalam and China will co-chair the ARF DOD and ARF ISG on CBMs and PD for the inter-sessional year 2012-2013. The ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan in early December 2012 and in Beijing in the first quarter of 2013.

74. In light of the 20th Anniversary of the ARF in 2013, the Meeting welcomed China's offer to contribute USD 50,000 to the ARF Fund to implement a project on a commemorative publication on ARF. China invited other ARF participants to join China to carry out this project.

9. 3. Dates and Venue for the ARF SOM and the 19th ARF

75. Cambodia updated the Meeting on the preparation for the ARF SOM and the 19th ARF. The Meeting noted that the ARF SOM will be convened in Phnom Penh on 26 May 2012 and the 19th ARF in Phnom Penh on 12 July 2012.

9. 4. ARF Annual Security Outlook

76. Cambodia invited all ARF participants to submit their ARF Annual Security Outlook to the ARF Chair by mid June 2012.

Agenda Item 10: Co-Chairs' Summary Report

77. The Co-Chairs informed the Meeting that the draft Co-Chair's Summary Report of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will be circulated to all ARF participants for comments by 15 May.

Acknowledgement

78. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to the ARF participants. The Meeting also commended the Co-Chairs for their effective leadership and for the cordial and fruitful discussion.

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