

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 8-9 DECEMBER 2011**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 18th Ministerial Meeting of the 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 CBMs and PD) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 8-9 December 2011. The Meeting was co-chaired by Cambodia and New Zealand.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants except Papua New Guinea attended the Meeting. The representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and CSCAP were also present. The List of Delegates is attached as **ANNEX 1**.
3. H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, in his Welcome Remarks greeted all ARF participants and the New Zealand Co-Chair. He also looked forward to a fruitful discussion throughout the course of the Meeting. The Welcome Remarks appears as **ANNEX 2**.
4. In her Welcome Remarks, H. E. Clare Fearnley, ARF SOM Leader of New Zealand, congratulated Cambodia as the incoming ASEAN Chair and Indonesia for the successful chairmanship in ASEAN and the ARF. She pointed out that the adoption of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy has signaled growing maturity of the ARF process. She also noted ARF Ministers' call for the promotion of synergies between ARF and other existing mechanisms in the context of the wider regional security architecture.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Arrangements

6. The Meeting noted the administrative arrangements made by Cambodia, details of which appear as **ANNEX 4**.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the Outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, Phnom Penh, 7 December 2011

7. Maj. Gen. Lay Chenda, Director of Department of ASEAN Affairs, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, held in Phnom Penh, on 7 December 2011. The Dialogue discussed strengthening and enhancing cooperation among ARF participants in peacekeeping operations and maritime security. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Dialogue appears as **ANNEX 5**.

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

8. The Meeting commended the conclusion of the 19th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Bali, on 17-19 November 2011, which have contributed to the framework for strategic dialogue and cooperation in the region. The Meeting concurred that a better inter-connected ASEAN will provide a positive environment to address regional political and security challenges. The Meeting welcomed the various milestone documents adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the Summit, among others, the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in the Global Community of Nations, Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles of Mutually Beneficial Relations, and the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in Floods Prevention, Mitigation, Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation.

9. The Meeting recognised the traditional security challenges facing the region, such as international terrorism, arms and people smuggling, trafficking in persons, natural disasters, sea piracy, pandemics and illicit drugs production and trafficking, proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and other threats to maritime security. The Meeting expressed condolences to governments and peoples of countries affected by the severe flooding in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Meeting welcomed the close cooperation between the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in Bangkok and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre in Kobe, Japan. The Meeting also noted the proposal by the United States on the development of the Rapid Disaster Response (RDR) Agreement, which is the modification of the ARF Model Arrangement for the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief. The Meeting was also encouraged by the progress of cooperation in human trafficking through the Bali Process. The Meeting reiterated the call for strengthening cooperation in maritime security and adherence to the principles of maintaining freedom and safety of navigation, promoting cooperation and mutual confidence-building, and settling territorial disputes among parties concerned in a peaceful manner based on the existing international laws. On this note, the Meeting welcomed the development of the ASEAN Maritime Forum which had convened its second meeting in Pattaya, Thailand, on 17-19 August 2011.

10. The Meeting exchanged views on the issue of Korean Peninsula. The ARF participants reiterated their calls for a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and for the DPRK to comply with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874 and to fulfill its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks by abandoning all existing nuclear programs including its Uranium Enrichment Program and related activities. Views were expressed on the economic sanctions and concerns were raised on the humanitarian situation in the DPRK. Japan supported by some other participants, highlighted the need for the DPRK to promptly address other humanitarian concerns such as the abduction issue. The Meeting recalled the informal dialogue between the DPRK and the ROK at the sidelines of the 18th ARF in Bali, in July 2011 and in Beijing, in September 2011, as well as the recently concluded consultations between the DPRK and the United States in New York, on 28-29 July 2011, and in Geneva, on 24-25 October 2011, and looked forward to the resumption of the Six Party Talks. The Meeting reiterated that peaceful dialogue and confidence-building measures among concerned parties are the key to resolve the tension.

11. The DPRK expressed its commitment to return to the Six Party-Talks without any preconditions.

12. The Meeting commended the positive developments in Myanmar and its efforts towards democracy and national reconciliation and reconsolidation, noting that remaining challenges need to be recognized. The Meeting welcomed the positive assessment by the Chair of ASEAN following the visit of Indonesia's Minister of Foreign Affairs to Myanmar on 28 October 2011. The Meeting noted ASEAN's decision on Myanmar's assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. Myanmar reiterated its commitment for the democratic process and sought the assistance from the international community. Participants encouraged Myanmar to continue its path of democratic reform in a way that ensures that progress will continue and will be irreversible.

13. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) during the 44th AMM/PMC/18th ARF in July 2011, which leads to the full implementation of the DOC. They encouraged the continued promotion of confidence-building measures and reaffirmed their commitment to resolving disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means in conformity with the spirit of the DOC and recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. The Meeting also noted that the first Meeting of the ASEAN SOM Working Group on the establishment of a regional code of conduct of parties in the South China Sea (CoC) was held in Bali, on 12 November 2011, to draft the key elements of the CoC. In this context, many participants reiterated the importance of commitment to universally recognized principles of international law, such as freedom of navigation, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

(UNCLOS). Some participants reiterated that territorial disputes in the South China Sea should be resolved only by the concerned parties.

14. On the issue of nuclear non-proliferation, the Meeting commended the ARF cooperation in this area through the ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The meeting also welcomed the conclusion in ASEAN negotiation with the nuclear weapons states (P5) to enable the accession of the P5 to the Protocol of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, and the announcement by Indonesia on its ratification to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Notwithstanding these developments, the Meeting took note of increasing concerns expressed by some ARF participants on the Iranian nuclear programme and calls for international pressure on Iran. The Meeting called for peaceful political solution of the Iranian nuclear issue by means of negotiations. Several participants condemned the recent incident at the British Embassy in Tehran as an unacceptable violation of international law.

15. The Meeting touched on the situation in the Middle East, Afghanistan and North Africa, particularly the deteriorating security and the threats of terrorism and drug trafficking in Afghanistan. Some ARF participants expressed their commitments to Afghanistan underlining the importance in maintaining security in Afghanistan and with support from its neighbouring countries. Some participants also referred to developments in Libya and Egypt, which they deemed should adhere to peaceful means.

16. The meeting welcomed the recent call of ASEAN Leaders for completion of the ratification process by non-ASEAN parties to the TAC and Cambodia's commitment, as incoming ASEAN Chair, to facilitate the EU accession to TAC at the earliest possible date in 2012. The Meeting noted that Bangladesh is working towards the ratification of the Third Protocol of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Meeting also welcomed the recent accreditation of the DPRK Ambassador to ASEAN. New Zealand provided a briefing on the outcomes of the Pacific Island Forum meeting held in Auckland on 7-8 September 2011. Laos informed that it will host the ASEM Summit in November 2012.

Agenda Item 5: Briefing by Track II

5. 1. Briefing by CSCAP

17. Representative of the CSCAP, Prof. Kwa Chong Guan, briefed the Meeting on the 8th CSCAP General Conference recently completed in Ha Noi on 20 November 2011 which, among others, discussed the ARF and the challenges for the Track II to engage the Track I in the ARF process. The CSCAP viewed that the Track II should explore and understand differences of policy issues with the intention to seek windows of opportunities to cooperate with Track I. Prof. Kwa informed the Meeting of the limited funding resource available to CSCAP.

In order to address the challenge, the CSCAP sought guidance and feedback from the ARF senior officials and ISG officials on how the recommendations by the Track II could be of relevance to the ARF. In conclusion, the CSCAP looked forward to cooperating with the ARF in the inter-sessional period. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 6**.

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

6.1. Follow-up to the 18th ARF

18. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Indonesia on the follow-up to the 18th ARF. Indonesia has highlighted the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan as a milestone achievement during its Chairmanship. The Work Plan is expected to serve as a foundation of a greater cooperation in the field of preventive diplomacy that could elevate the ARF to become an action-oriented forum. To this end, it is important for the ARF to translate the Work Plan into concrete measures and actions for its implementation. Indonesia also reminded the Meeting of the Ministers' instruction on the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security, the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, and the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. Indonesia shared that the recent 19th ASEAN Summit reiterated the ARF as the primary forum to discuss political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region as well as recognised that the ARF has the potential to contribute and further create a conducive condition for constructive dialogue, consultations and cooperation on security in the region.

19. In this connection, Thailand informed the Meeting that it would be willing to work with the ARF Unit to prepare a discussion paper on the interaction of the ARF, the EAS and the ADMM on the issue of disaster management. Similarly, Thailand also emphasised the need for building synergy between the ARF, the EAS and the ADMM-Plus on the issue of maritime security.

6.2. Review of CBMs and PD Activities

6.2.1. Outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance, Manila, 13-15 September 2011

20. The Philippines, Australia and the United States briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance which was held in Manila, on 13-15 September 2011. The report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 7**.

21. The United States informed the Meeting that the Co-Chairs will put forward a proposal for the 4th workshop which will be the last of its series and which will focus on response and recovery to a biological event.

6.2.2. Outcomes of the ARF High-Level Workshop on CBMs and PD in Asia and Europe, Berlin, 27-29 November 2011

22. Indonesia and the European Union reported the outcomes of the ARF High-Level Workshop on CBMs and PD in Asia and Europe, which was held in Berlin, on 27-29 November 2011. The Workshop discussed the OSCE's experience and existing ARF mechanisms on CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy. Recommendations proposed by the Workshop included intensifying relations between the ARF Unit and the OSCE Secretariat and the deepening of political contacts between the respective ARF chairmanship and OSCE chairmanship and the Secretary-General would be beneficial to both institutions. Further initiatives to strengthen the cooperation between the ARF and the OSCE should also be considered. The report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 8**.

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

23. Indonesia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 15th HDUCIM, which was held in Bali, on 29 November – 2 December 2011. The 15th HDUCIM was convened under the theme of "Enrichment and Transforming Asian Militaries: Communication, Cooperation and Coordination," covering three topics, namely achieving Best Practice, Making a Societal Contribution, and Supporting Security as a Way for Academic Institutions of the ARF Participants to Work Together to support towards the Attainment of Common Security, Common Stability and Common Prosperity in the Region. The 16th ARF HDUCIM will be held in China in 2012, and all the necessary arrangements will be prepared by the Host. The Summary Report of the 15th HDUCIM will be submitted to the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in Wellington, next year.

6. 3. Consideration of ARF CBMs and PD Initiatives

6.3.1. Draft ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security

24. Russia updated the Meeting on the latest development of the draft ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security. Russia clarified that cyber security is one of the priority issues of the ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC). Since the ARF adopted the ARF Statement on the Misuse of Cyber Space in 2006, the use of cyber space by terrorists and criminals have become a more serious issue. The current draft covers broader issues which include cyber security and cyber crime. Russia invited ARF participants to submit inputs and comments to the draft by 1 February 2012. The latest draft appears as **ANNEX 9**.

25. In response to Russia's introduction, the Meeting noted its appreciation for Russia's changes to its draft since the July Ministerial, including mention of a possible workplan. Some participants continued to query the need for a

ministerial statement. Some participants had the view that protection of cyber security is the responsibility of each national government. Other participants saw it as a shared responsibility among all internet users. Some participants stated the need to develop a non-legally-binding code of conduct to protect the cyber space. However, some reservations were expressed, including with regard to the risk of limiting information sharing.

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

26. The United States updated the Meeting on the latest development of the draft Concept Paper on the Establishment of ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC). The United States proposed to conduct three workshops within the period of one year to further develop the concept, terms of reference, and legal authority for the approval of the ARF Ministers, to be followed by a two-year trial period. The United States invited an ASEAN Member State to work with the United States to co-chair the series of workshops. The draft appears as **ANNEX 10**.

27. The United States clarified that the workshop participants will be experts from the relevant government agencies, and they will involve experts to deliberate on the possible ways to move the ATTIC concept forward. Responding to the United States' presentation, the Meeting recognised that human and financial resources are required to support the implementation of the initiative.

28. Some ARF participants suggested that a time table should not be set up for the establishment of ATTIC before the ARF confirms on the need for this Centre, and suggested the utilisation of existing mechanisms for the same purpose. The United States acknowledged that this would be studied during the workshops. Nevertheless, Indonesia stated that the convening of workshops are in reference to the agreement reached during the 18th ARF in Bali, July 2011, and as stated in the 18th ARF Chair's Statement.

29. The United States would circulate an initial plan to convene the workshops and the latest draft Concept Paper for comments by the ARF participants. The ARF participants were invited to submit inputs and comments to the United States by 1 February 2012.

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

30. The United States informed the Meeting that the Philippines, Australia and the United States are refining the draft and will submit a revised draft before the upcoming ARF ISM on CTTC.

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

31. Australia introduced the draft Concept Paper on the Workshop on Space Security for the ASEAN Regional Forum to be held in the inter-sessional year of 2012-2013. The Workshop is targeted for officers working on arms control and disarmament policy. Australia invited ASEAN Member States to co-chair the workshop and encouraged all ARF participants to provide comments on the draft Concept Paper. The draft appears as **ANNEX 11**.

6.3.5. Draft Concept Paper on Proposed Workshop on Seismic Monitoring

32. The United States introduced the draft Concept Paper on the Workshop on Seismic Monitoring to be held in the inter-sessional year of 2012-2013. The workshop will follow up on the discussions during the 3rd ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament which was held in Las Vegas, on 23-25 February 2011. The United States sought comments on the paper by mid-February 2012. The draft appears as **ANNEX 12**.

6.4. ARF Work Plans

6.4.1. ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy

33. The Meeting recalled the guiding principles of the ARF since its inception to move to the stage of Preventive Diplomacy. The Meeting suggested that while the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD is mandated to carry out this task, Ministers had also tasked the Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) with further work, and ideas from Track Two are also encouraged. The Meeting expressed support for the implementation of the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan.

34. The Meeting made reference to the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Preventive Diplomacy, which outlined the ways and means to implement preventive diplomacy, including the training of mediators and envoys and establishing partnership with regional organisations.

35. Some participants viewed that the ARF should first work on the areas identified in the Work Plan to avoid digression from the Work Plan, and that the ARF should maintain confidence-building measures which serve as the bedrock for the ARF preventive diplomacy.

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

36. The United States updated the Meeting on the development of the Draft ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. ARF participants were invited to submit inputs and comments to the United States by mid-February 2012. The EU expressed support for early adoption of the ARF Work Plan on NPD and informed about the CBRN Centre of Excellence initiative focusing on Southeast Asia. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 13**.

6.4.3. ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief

37. The Meeting noted the briefing by Indonesia and Australia that the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief will be reviewed by the 11th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief in Brisbane, in March 2012. The ARF participants were encouraged to provide views on possible ways to review the Work Plan.

38. Since the Work Plan is due for review, the view was expressed that the Work Plan should be extended for another two years, taking into account that a number of priority areas of the Work Plan have yet to be implemented. The review process should also identify whether the current lead countries will continue leading in these areas. Furthermore, the revised Work Plan should also take into consideration the existing cooperation on disaster relief under the framework of the ACDM, AHA Centre, ADMM-Plus and the EAS.

39. The Meeting was informed by Thailand that the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) has made a proposal for a website to provide information on available resources to respond to disasters.

6.4.4. ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security

40. The Meeting agreed that the 4th ARF ISM on Maritime Security, which will be hosted by the United States, will discuss the possible ways to move forward with the implementation of the Work Plan. The Meeting took note that the ROK would be hosting the 5th ARF ISM on Maritime Security in 2013 and Indonesia in 2014. The meeting noted that the 4th ISM will be hosted by the United States in the second quarter of 2012, with Indonesia and the Republic of Korea acting as co-chairs.

41. In line with priority area no. 2 of the Work Plan, i.e. confidence-building measures based on international and regional legal framework, arrangements and cooperation, Japan informed the Meeting that it will co-chair with Malaysia a seminar on this subject.

42. On the issue of piracy on the seas, the Meeting took note of a suggestion by Russia on the possible development of a database on piracy in the region to be undertaken by experts working together with the ARF Unit. In response, India informed the Meeting that the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) has a comprehensive information sharing centre which contains data on piracy.

6.4.5. ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

43. Viet Nam and Canada informed the Meeting that the 10th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) will discuss ways to move forward with the implementation of the new Work Plan on CTTC.

6.5. Update on the Preparations for ARF Activities in the Inter-Sessional Year 2011-2012, including ISMs and Seminars

6.5.1. ARF Electoral Capacity-Building Programme for Timor- Leste

44. Timor-Leste briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the ARF Electoral Observer Team for Timor-Leste to be conducted at the 2012 elections. Timor-Leste informed the Meeting that the presidential election will be held on 16 March 2012, followed by the legislative election on 29 June 2012. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 14**. A number of participants spoke in support.

45. The Meeting suggested that Timor-Leste should circulate comprehensive information on the work plan for the observation activities, in advance of the 6th ARF EEPs in Bangkok, on 1-2 February 2012, which has been tasked by the Ministers to prepare a voluntary observer team for Timor-Leste's elections in 2012. This could include: i.) how the ARF's efforts would be complementary to those of the UN; ii) the framework for deployment including the scope of work and intended objectives and outcomes of the voluntary observer team, and iii) a programme of work for the deployment. A number of participants spoke in support and informed about their preparations to observe the elections.

46. The Meeting took note the briefings on the preparation for activities for the inter-sessional year 2011-2012:

- a. ARF Seminar on Peacekeeping in Ulaanbaatar, in the second quarter of 2012, to be co-chaired by Indonesia and Mongolia. The Seminar will discuss the theme of Cooperation of Peacekeeping Centres in the Region and Challenges in the Peacekeeping Training.
- b. 6th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting in Bangkok, on 1-3 February 2012, to be co-chaired by Thailand and the United States. The meeting will discuss ways the EEPs can advance the work on preventive diplomacy and regional security architecture.
- c. 4th ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) in Sydney, on 7-9 March 2012, to be co-chaired by the Philippines, Japan and Australia.
- d. 11th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) to be held in Australia, in the first or second week of March 2012, to be co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia.
- e. 10th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime in Quang Nam, on 16-17 March 2012, to be co-chaired by Viet Nam and Canada.
- f. 4th ARF ISM on Maritime Security in the United States in the second quarter of 2012, to be co-chaired by Indonesia, Republic of Korea and the United States.

- g. ARF Conference of National Security Policy Makers on Proxy Actors in Cyber Space, will be held back-to-back with the 10th ARF ISM on CTTC, on 16-17 March 2012.
- h. ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response in Singapore, in the first or second quarter of 2012, to be co-chaired by Singapore and Australia.
- i. 2nd ARF CBMs Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the first half of 2012, proposed by the United States. The United States invited an ASEAN partner to co-chair the Workshop.
- j. 3rd ARF Seminar on the Laws and Regulations of Disaster Relief in the first half of 2012, proposed by China.

47. In light of the preparation for the next ARF DiREx to be held in the inter-sessional year 2012-2013, the Republic of Korea invited ASEAN countries to co-chair the Exercise. The Cambodia Co-Chair, and Indonesia, as current Chair of ASEAN and ARF, informed the Meeting that the ASEAN Member States are now seriously looking into this matter.

Agenda item 7: Future Direction of the “Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement”

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

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

48. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the latest activities in line with the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement. Since the 18th ARF in Bali on 23 July 2011, progress has been made in the areas of disaster relief, counter-terrorism and transnational crime and preventive diplomacy through the convening of the ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance and the ARF Workshop on Non-proliferation Nuclear Forensics.

7.1.2. Strengthening the ARF Unit

49. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting that the effort in strengthening the ARF Unit is an ongoing process. Assistance to the ARF Unit in the form of technical assistance on a project-based nature is considered more feasible. The ASEAN Secretariat also reiterated that the ARF Secondment mechanism is still in place and ASEAN Member States are encouraged to send their seconded staff to the ARF Unit.

50. The ASEAN Secretariat also informed the Meeting that the ARF Unit has received an offer of assistance from the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility (US-TATF) to assist in the review of the ARF Work Plan on

Disaster Relief and to commission experts to compile best practices and lessons learnt in peacekeeping operations, as prescribed by the Hanoi Plan of Action. The Meeting supported this proposal.

51. Cambodia informed the Meeting that the recent ASEAN Coordinating Council has agreed to increase the budget for the operations of the ASEAN Secretariat in view of strengthening the Secretariat, including the ARF Unit.

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

52. In terms of areas of cooperation, the Meeting was of view that cross-cutting issues between the EAS, ARF and the ADMM-Plus should be identified to enable the fora to synergise. Some participants observed that duplication should not be completely avoided as it may provide a different perspective on the same issue. It was suggested that identification of focal points for cross-cutting issues or information sharing mechanisms could be considered. The Meeting also suggested that the EEPs and the Track II should assist in finding ways to bring out the complementarity between the ARF, the ADMM-Plus and the EAS.

53. The Meeting noted the suggestion, for the ARF to explore working together and enhancing cooperation with other regional organisations, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

54. In light of the expansion of the EAS, the Meeting discussed the possible ways to coordinate between the ARF and the EAS. Various views were expressed on the relationship between the two processes and the desirability of greater coordination between them. One participant expressed the view that the ARF should look to the EAS outcomes as guidance to set the tone for the following year of ARF activities.

55. In order to promote closer coordination between the ARF and the ADMM/ADMM-Plus, the Meeting suggested involving ADMM/ADMM-Plus representatives in the ARF DOD and the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC). The Meeting agreed to invite the ADMM/ADMM-Plus Chair to attend the ARF DOD and the ASPC.

7.3. Role of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) in Advancing the ARF Process

56. The Meeting discussed ways to better engage the EEPs and the Track II to support ARF's work. Given the limited funding support available at the Track II institutions, one way for the Track II to support the Track I process is to commission specific institutions in the CSCAP or ASEAN-ISIS and request for their inputs on topics relevant to the ARF's work.

57. The Meeting was of the view that a similar approach should be applied to the EEPs. The EEPs should be assigned with specific tasks to undertake for the ARF. The ARF participants were encouraged to suggest possible ideas for the EEPs to work on. The next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will submit recommendations to the ARF SOM through the ARF ISG and the ARF SOM will further recommend these ideas to the ARF Ministers.

7.4. Streamlining of the ARF ISG and DOD Processes

58. The Meeting discussed the suggestion to reduce the frequency of the ARF ISG and DOD for the purpose of improving effectiveness of both meetings. The Meeting concurred that this proposal will be further studied. ASEAN will consult this matter with their respective defence officials since the work of the ARF DOD relates closely with them.

59. The Meeting exchanged views on the added value of the ARF DOD vis-à-vis its frequency of meetings. One suggestion to consider is to reorganise the ARF DOD meetings rather than reducing their frequency. Notwithstanding this, the Meeting also recalled that the convening of three instead of four ARF DOD meetings in the last inter-sessional year did not lessen the contribution of the ARF DOD to the ARF. The Meeting concurred that defence officials should have full opportunity to express their views on the frequency of the ARF DOD. The Meeting decided that the next ARF DOD in Wellington should discuss this matter and report their decision to the ARF ISG.

60. The Meeting was of the view that the ISG provides a platform to discuss various issues in the ARF. Some participants felt that should the frequency of the ISG meetings be reduced, ARF participants would lose an opportunity to exchange views on the latest developments in the region. In order to make the ARF ISG more effective, the ISG should discuss the outcomes of the ISMs. The Meeting agreed that this agenda of “Streamlining of the ARF ISG and DOD Processes” shall be further discussed at the next ARF ISG in Wellington.

7.5. ARF Annual Security Outlook

61. Cambodia as the incoming ARF Chair encouraged all ARF participants to submit their contributions for the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) in the spirit for sharing of information. Cambodia highlighted that sixteen out of twenty-seven ARF participants contributed to the latest volume of the ARF ASO.

62. The Meeting suggested that the ARF utilise the ARF ASO as reference for discussion on preventive diplomacy activities, as mentioned in the PD Work Plan.

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

8.1. Dates and Venue for the Next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD

63. New Zealand informed the Meeting that the next ARF DOD and ISG on CBMs and PD will be held in Wellington from 7-9 May 2012.

Agenda Item 9: Co-Chairs' Summary Report

64. No issue was discussed under this Agenda Item.

Acknowledgement

65. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia 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.

67. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for its ASEAN and ARF Chairmanship in 2011 and rendered support to the Royal Government of Cambodia in assuming the ASEAN and ARF Chairmanship in 2012.

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