

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
NEW DELHI, 10-11 NOVEMBER 2009**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 16th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Phuket on 23 July 2009, the meeting of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM and PD) was held in New Delhi on 10-11 November 2009. The Meeting was co-chaired by Viet Nam and India.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants except Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Sri Lanka and Timor Leste attended the Meeting. The ASEAN Secretariat was also present. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX A**.
3. The ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue was held on 9 November 2009.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Arrangements

5. The Meeting noted the administrative arrangements made by India.

Agenda Item 3: Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Situation

International and Regional Issues

6. The Meeting reviewed recent developments in ASEAN and ARF including the results of the 15th ASEAN Summit and related summits held in Thailand on 23-25 October 2009. The Meeting noted the achievements of ASEAN which included among other things, ASEAN efforts in community-building, the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, and the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. The Meeting also noted the ASEAN's closer engagement with Dialogue Partners, conclusion of free trade agreements between ASEAN and its six Dialogue Partners, adoption of ASEAN's resolution on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty by the United Nations General Assembly in early October 2009, the accession of the United States to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and the ASEAN-US Leaders Meeting scheduled in Singapore

on 15 November 2009. The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's role as the driving force in the ARF process.

7. The Meeting noted the ongoing discussion on proposals on regional architecture in East Asia and the Asia-Pacific including that of an Asia-Pacific community by Australia and an East-Asia community by Japan. The meeting expressed its support for ASEAN's continued centrality in the regional architecture.
8. The Meeting discussed the overall regional security situation in the region and was of the view that the general trend in the Asia-Pacific was in favor of peace, stability and cooperation. The Meeting reaffirmed ARF's crucial role in providing a cooperative approach in building peace and security in the region and exchanged views on how to further enhance ARF's potentials to achieve its goals, including in dealing with various transnational and non-traditional security issues.
9. The Meeting took note of the ongoing efforts of ASEAN and China to implement the Declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea within the ASEAN-China cooperation framework, including the development of the Guidelines to implement the DOC.
10. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Myanmar on the recent development in that country including its efforts in implementing the 7-point Roadmap for national reconciliation and democratization. The Meeting stressed the need to hold free, fair and democratic general elections in 2010 with the participation of all parties concerned and, in this regard, some Members called on Myanmar to release all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi. The Meeting encouraged the Government of Myanmar to use the current window of opportunity for engagement with the international community. The Meeting supported the good offices role of the UN Secretary General and his special envoy Ibrahim Gambari. The Meeting also expressed support for ASEAN and the United Nations as well as other donors in providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar after the Cyclone Nargis.
11. The Meeting reaffirmed support for peaceful and comprehensive denuclearization of Korean Peninsula as well as a resolution of the humanitarian concerns of the international community through dialogue and cooperation among all the parties concerned. The Meeting welcomed the positive signs of the DPRK considering a return to the Six-Party Talks. The Meeting also stressed the need to fully implement provisions of the relevant UNSC Resolutions.
12. The Meeting discussed the security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Meeting observed that countering terrorism and extremism and maintaining stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan continues to be of

importance to regional and international security. The Meeting welcomed the reconstruction efforts of various countries in Afghanistan and expressed support for the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to improve socio-economic conditions and achieve reconstruction and stability. It called on the international community to support the Government and people of Afghanistan in this effort. The Meeting noted that a failure to contain violence and instability would have wide ramifications including for counter-terrorism efforts.

13. The Meeting exchanged views on the recent developments in Iran and reiterated their call for Iran to comply with the non-proliferation obligations. On this note, the Meeting also recognized that all countries have the right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in the spirit of transparency and in conformity with the relevant international agreements and regulations. The Meeting also supported the IAEA to play the central role in this regard.
14. On the latest developments in the South Pacific, the Meeting noted the setback in the political and security situation in Fiji. The Meeting urged Fiji to work with the international community to restore democracy and respect human rights.

Non-traditional security issues

15. The Meeting shared the view that transnational terrorist groups continue to pose serious threats in the Asia Pacific region. In this regard, the participants called for strengthening international cooperation and legal regimes for combating terrorism. The Meeting welcomed the recent success of Indonesia in cracking down on terrorist groups that had been responsible for several terrorist bombings in the country in recent years.
16. The Meeting recognized that threats to maritime security require international efforts to tackle them. The Meeting commended the operations by some ARF Members in securing the Gulf of Aden and in combating pirates in the area. The Meeting also took note of the suggestion to consider establishment of a maritime information sharing system under the framework of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS).
17. The Meeting, while expressing deepest condolence and sympathy to the victims of the recent disasters in some ARF countries in the region, particularly Indonesia and the Philippines, stressed the need for the ARF to further enhance its cooperation in disaster relief in the region. The Meeting agreed that the ARF should further discuss how to improve its capacity in early warning and facilitating effective response including the administration and distribution of foreign assistance to affected areas in a timely manner.

18. The Meeting reiterated the importance of the commitment to the non-proliferation efforts under the UN 1540 Committee. The Meeting welcomed the ongoing negotiations between the United States and Russia which have brought positive development in the efforts towards nuclear disarmament.
19. The Meeting touched on the issue of climate change, illegal migration, people smuggling, illegal fishing, food security and energy security and the efforts undertaken to address these problems in the region.
20. The Meeting stressed the importance of providing adequate support to and of strengthening the ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat.

Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the outcome of the Defense Officials' Dialogue (DOD)

21. Air Vice Marshal Atul Saikia VSM, VM, of the Ministry of Defense of India briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF-DOD convened on 9 November 2009. The Report of the DOD appears in **(ANNEX C)**.

Agenda Item 5: Review and consideration of Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy

a. Follow-up to the 16th ARF

22. The Meeting noted the briefing by Thailand on the progress in the ARF in particular the higher comfort level achieved in addressing issues of common concern, the adoption of an ARF Vision Statement **(ANNEX D)**, the further development of preventive diplomacy and efforts to promote transparency such as the development of a voluntary standardized ARF Annual Security Outlook and expressed appreciation for Thailand's contribution during its chairmanship.

5. 1. ARF Vision Statement

23. Viet Nam briefed the Meeting on the elaboration of the 'Hanoi's Plan of Action in Realization of the ARF Vision Statement' **(ANNEX E)** and invited inputs and comments from ARF participants. The Meeting agreed in principle to the approach and outline of the Plan of Action and its scheduled timeline as proposed by Vietnam. The Meeting agreed that the participants would provide inputs and comments before the next ISG in March 2010.
24. The Meeting took note the initial suggestions regarding the Plan of Action including the followings:

- Address the issue of capacity building of the ARF Unit and how to further assist the ARF Unit, particularly in view of the need to assist in the implementation of the existing ARF work plans.
- Incorporate inputs from defense officials in relevant activities and consider developing working groups in the ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue.
- Consider time line for projects that come out of the Plan of Action, e.g. short, medium and long term until the year 2020.
- Anticipate possible end-goals for each area of cooperation, where appropriate.
- Adopt a comprehensive security approach for the consideration of traditional and non-traditional security issues in preventive diplomacy.
- Add consolidation of CBMs to the section on development of preventive diplomacy.
- Develop the Plan of Action in coordination with other area-specific work plans.
- Utilize the existing mechanism envisaged in the ARF Vision Statement such as the ARF Chair, Friends of the ARF Chair and the ASEAN Secretary General.

5. 2. Implementation of the Work Plan on CTTC

25. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on recent developments on the ARF Work Plan on CTTC. Viet Nam briefed the Meeting on the follow-up to the 7th ISM, including project proposal on Cyber Security and Cyber Scam.
26. Brunei Darussalam and Russia as Co-Chairs of the 8th ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime informed the meeting that the topic of the ISM on CTTC will be Combating Cyber Crime and Establishing International Information Security.
27. The Meeting took note of the Concept Paper on the ARF Conference of Experts and Training seminar on Cyber Crime by the United States (**ANNEX F**). Russia suggested that the paper be discussed at the 8th ISM on CTTC. United States said that it will seek an expedited procedure for the Conference in accordance with the approved Working Methods paper. Thailand, as ARF Chair, will communicate to ARF participants about this matter soon. Delegates from the United States, Russia and Brunei will continue consultations regarding the Conference's complementing the ISM-CTTC meeting.
28. The United States informed the Meeting that it is working on a project on narcotics control and is looking forward to partnering with other ARF countries in implementing the Work Plan.

5. 3. Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

29. The United States discussed plans to table the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Singapore, China and the US are the co-chairs of the ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) and are working on the preparation for the convening the 2nd ARF ISM on NPD in Singapore in 2010.

30. The Meeting also took note of the following suggestions:

- Australia suggested that regional strategic trade management could be one of the areas to be included in the Work Plan, noting the non-paper it submitted at the ISM on NPD in July 2009.
- Indonesia suggested that in addition to non-proliferation the Work Plan should also focus on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on disarmament.

b. Outcome of the 9th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, September 16-18, 2009

31. The United States and Thailand briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the 9th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief in Honolulu, Hawaii on 16-18 September 2009 **(ANNEX G)**.

i. ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief

32. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on recent developments in the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief.

33. Regarding the nomination of ASEAN Lead Countries for priority areas of the Work Plan, the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) would have to reschedule its Meeting at the earliest possible to consider such nomination as the ACDM could not meet as scheduled in October 2009 due to the typhoon in the Philippines.

34. The EU informed that it was now working on the training on developing capacity for needs assessment in the aftermath of a natural disaster and would propose a seminar on this subject in the first half of 2010.

ii. ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service Initiative

35. Singapore and Australia updated the Meeting on the Disaster Relief Mapping Service Initiative. The project is a voluntary geo-spatial data-sharing and data mapping service which seeks to bring together available geospatial data required to expedite planning and delivery of aid. Australia and Singapore

invited the ARF participants to submit to Australia information on the contact points of geospatial agencies. Development of the website to support the initiative is underway and contributions to it would likely be sought in the second quarter of 2010. The DRMS would be tested during the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise in Indonesia in 2011.

iii. ARF Voluntary Model Arrangement for Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief

36. The United States updated the Meeting on the latest drafting process of the Model Arrangement. The United States invited ARF participants to submit their comments to the revised version by 31 January 2010 (**ANNEX H**)

iv. ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

37. Australia updated the Meeting on the progress in the drafting of the ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Comments from ARF members had now been incorporated into the Strategic Guidance, along with other revisions, and the proposed version for endorsement at the 17th ARF Ministerial Meeting in July 2010 was tabled. (**ANNEX I**).

v. Disaster Relief Exercise

38. Indonesia and Japan briefed the Meeting on the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise to be held in North Sulawesi, Indonesia in March 2011. Indonesia and Japan will conduct a site visit in view of the preparation of the Exercise. In early 2010, Indonesia and Japan will meet for a bilateral consultation. Following the bilateral consultation, Indonesia and Japan will welcome potential co-sponsors to discuss with Indonesia and Japan. Indonesia and Japan invited comments on the concept paper of the exercise (**ANNEX J**).

39. Australia proposed that the ARF disaster relief mapping service website could be tested in the exercise.

c. Briefing on the 14th Tokyo Defense Forum on Disaster Relief

40. Japan briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 14th Tokyo Defense Forum in Tokyo in October 2009 (**ANNEX K**).

Agenda Item 6: Briefings by Track II

6. 1. Briefing by CSCAP

41. In the absence of representatives from CSCAP and ASEAN-ISIS the Meeting agreed to invite Ambassador K K S Rana to brief the Meeting in his capacity

as Chairman of the CSCAP India. He touched on the CSCAP Study Group on Preventive Diplomacy. He reiterated that CSCAP is committed to continue supporting the ARF to develop preventive diplomacy. The Meeting reaffirmed that the ARF appreciate contributions of CSCAP and would continue to work in close collaboration with CSCAP.

42. The Meeting noted that the CSCAP General Conference and Steering Committee will convene in Jakarta, 16-18 November 2009.

Agenda Item 7: Future Direction of ARF

7. 1. ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan

43. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the progress on the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan, noting that the next major step would be the 4th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting in Bali, 14-15 December 2009, which Indonesia and New Zealand have volunteered to co-host. The Concept Paper of the EEPs meeting appears as **ANNEX L**. The EEPs will focus on developing PD mechanisms. New Zealand urged members to send EEPs to this meeting.

44. The Meeting took note of the paper on approach of the development of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy proposed by Singapore (**ANNEX M**) and agreed that this paper would serve as a basis for further discussion during the 4th ARF EEPs Meeting in Bali in addition to the Matrix of Relevant Recommendations for follow up from the joint ARF Study on Preventive Diplomacy.

7. 2. ARF ASO Standardized Format

45. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on recent developments in developing the Simplified Standardized Format of the ARF ASO. The ARF participants were invited to submit comments on the draft paper by the end of 2009 (**ANNEX N**). The ASEAN Secretariat will incorporate these comments in a revised standardized format for further discussion at the ISG Meeting in Viet Nam in March 2010.

46. The Meeting took note of the suggestions to further simplify the ASO standardized format to involve the defense officials in preparing national submission of the ARF Security Outlook.

7. 3. Strengthening the ARF: Review and re-arrangement of Defense Meetings in ARF

47. The Meeting expressed appreciation of the role played by the defense officials in the ARF and emphasized the importance of maintaining close

interaction of the defence officials with the ARF. The Meeting took note of Vietnam's suggestions on a possible re-arrangement of the ARF Defense Meetings and agreed that the matter would be further discussed with the concerned defense channels **(ANNEX O)**.

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

8.1. ARF Notional Calendar for Inter-Sessional year 2009-2010

48. The Meeting noted the notional calendar for inter-sessional year 2009-2010 put forward by Vietnam, which includes:
 - a. ISG on CBMs and PD, Viet Nam, 17-20 March 2010.
 - b. ARF SOM – third week of May 2010
 - c. 17th ARF – third week of July 2010
49. The Republic of Korea informed the Meeting that Thailand and the Republic of Korea will co-chair the 4th ARF Peacekeeping Experts Meeting in 2010.
50. Russia and Brunei Darussalam announced that the 8th ARF ISM on CTTC will be convened in the third or fourth week of April 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
51. The EU updated the Meeting on the preparation of the Seminar on Maritime Security in Brussels, 19-20 November 2009, which will focus on legal and practical aspects of maritime security.
52. New Zealand informed the Meeting on the preparation for the 2nd ARF ISM on Maritime Security to be held in Auckland from 29-30 March 2010, to be co-chaired with Indonesia and Japan.

Agenda Item 9: Co-Chairs' Summary Report

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