



**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
NHA TRANG, VIET NAM, 19-20 MARCH 2010**

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 Nha Trang, Viet Nam, on 19-20 March 2010. The Meeting was co-chaired by Viet Nam and India.
2. Representatives from all ARF Participants except Sri Lanka attended the Meeting. The ASEAN Secretariat was also present. The List of Delegates is attached as **ANNEX 1**.
3. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, in his welcome remarks, reiterated that ARF is valued as the premier forum for regional security dialogue and cooperation. He highlighted in particular the ARF's effort to prepare the Plan of Action to implement the ARF Vision Statement. Co-Chairman Mr. Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India, in his opening remarks, said that ARF has contributed to the primary task of promoting confidence and building mutual trust. It needs to refocus its efforts so as to keep pace with the security challenges of tomorrow. Madam Nguyen Thi Thu Hang, Vice Chairperson of the People's Committee of Khanh Hoa Province joined the Co-chairs to welcome all the delegates attending the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Arrangements

5. The Meeting noted the administrative arrangements made by Viet Nam, details of which appear as **ANNEX 3**

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

3. 1. International and Regional Issues

6. The Meeting commended ASEAN's progress in community building and reiterated support for ASEAN's role as the primary driving force of the ARF.
7. The Meeting discussed the overall regional security situation and was of the view that the general trend in the Asia-Pacific was in favour of peace, stability and cooperation.
8. 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 potential to achieve its goals, including in dealing with terrorism and transnational crimes.
9. The Meeting noted the importance of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) signed by China and ASEAN countries in contributing to confidence building, mutual trust and cooperation for peace and stability in the region.
10. The Meeting took note of the European Union's continued commitment and Canada's decision to work closely with ASEAN towards accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.
11. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Myanmar on recent developments of the democratization process in Myanmar including the announcement of the law related to the General Election in 2010. The Meeting stressed the need to hold a free, fair and inclusive General Election in Myanmar. Some Participants expressed concerns regarding the restrictions in the election law and emphasised the importance of participation by all political parties including that of Aung San Suu Kyi. The Meeting also commended Myanmar's efforts to engage with the international community including holding consultations with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar.
12. The Meeting took note of the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting reiterated support for the Six-Party Talks as the main forum to address denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in accordance with the September 2005 Joint Statement. In this regard, the Meeting called for the unconditional resumption of the Six-Party Talks without further delay and a comprehensive resolution of the humanitarian concerns through dialogue and cooperation. The Meeting also stressed the need to fully implement provisions of the relevant UNSC resolutions.
13. The Meeting exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and observed that countering terrorism and extremism and the need to maintain stability in Afghanistan continue to be of importance to regional and international security. The Meeting noted the contribution by various countries to Afghanistan and expressed support for the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to improve socio-economic conditions and achieve reconstruction and stability. The Meeting also called on the international community to support Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts including through ensuring that outcomes of the London Conference held in January 2010 were followed up.

14. The Meeting took note of the various aspects of nation-building efforts in Timor Leste. Timor Leste informed the Meeting on the preparation for the country's forthcoming election in 2012 as well as reiterated its interests to join ASEAN.
15. The Meeting took note of the briefing made by EU on the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009 and subsequent institutional changes in particular with regard to the EU's participation in the ARF.
16. The Meeting noted commitments by Australia and New Zealand to assist Fiji following Cyclone Tomas, including through delivery of emergency aid. Some participants expressed concern about the political situation in Fiji and urged support for efforts to return to democracy and the rule of law in Fiji.

3. 2. Non-Traditional Security Issues

17. The Meeting shared the view that the ARF can become a process to mobilize and coordinate efforts in addressing non-traditional security challenges.
18. The Meeting agreed on the need for continued cooperation in addressing underlying factors exploited by terrorists, capacity building, information sharing, enhancing inter-agency coordination, deterring the expansion of radicalization, cutting off financial operations and dismantling of terrorist groups.
19. The Meeting touched on the importance of international cooperation on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Some participants shared views on international efforts in nuclear disarmament, including the upcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, as well as cooperation to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Meeting also emphasized that it is critical to proceed with international norms regarding non-proliferation.
20. The Meeting recognized the critical importance of promoting maritime security. The Meeting noted briefing by the EU on operation Atalanta in the Gulf of Aden which mandate has been extended till December 2010 and which involves also NATO, China, India, Japan and Russia. The Meeting welcomed the EU's Critical Maritime Routes Programme covering the Straits of Malacca in support of the anti-piracy efforts in Southeast Asia, including the cooperation through the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery (ReCAAP).
21. The Meeting welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). The Meeting noted the need to improve coordination between ARF and ASEAN in disaster relief. The Meeting also noted the need for improving national disaster response capacities.
22. The Meeting touched on non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, food security, climate change, illegal migration, drug and human trafficking, and piracy. In this respect, the need for concrete actions and enhanced cooperation to address these challenges was widely agreed among ARF Participants. The Meeting noted the increasing role played by ASEAN defence establishments to help address nontraditional security challenges in Southeast Asia especially those related to disaster management.

Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the outcome of the Defense Dialogue

Major General K S Sethi of the Ministry of Defense of India briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue convened on 18 March 2010.

Agenda Item 5 : Briefing by Track II

5.1. Briefing by CSCAP

No briefing by CSCAP was made at the Meeting due to the absence of its representative.

5.2. Briefing by ASEAN-ISIS

No briefing by ASEAN-ISIS was made at the Meeting due to the absence of its representative.

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

6.1. Review of CBMs and PD Activities

6. 1. 1. Outcome of the ARF Seminar on Measures to Enhance Maritime Security

23. The Meeting took note of the EU and Indonesia briefing on the outcome of the ARF Seminar on Measures to Enhance Maritime Security held in Brussels on 19-20 November 2009. The Seminar highlighted that international laws do not cover all aspects of maritime security and there are a number of problems at domestic level with regard to implementation of international laws pertaining to maritime security. The Seminar recommended the establishment of a mechanism for sharing of experiences on maritime security, including practical lessons learnt from the joint operation in the Gulf of Aden and the maritime security efforts undertaken in Southeast Asia. The report of the Seminar appears as **ANNEX 4**

6. 1. 2. Outcome of the 4th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting

24. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Thailand and the Republic of Korea on the outcome of the 4th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting held in Bangkok on 10-12 March 2010. The issues of civil-military cooperation, the need for specialized training on areas beyond the military mandates, and the interest to see how peacekeeping could become an active area where ARF builds practical cooperation were among the issues raised in the discussion. The report of the meeting appears as **ANNEX 5**

6. 2. ARF Work Plans

6. 2. 1. ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy

6. 2. 1. 1. Outcome of the 4th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons in Bali, Indonesia

25. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Indonesia and New Zealand on the outcome of the 4th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons held in Bali on 14-15 December 2009 (**ANNEX 6**). Indonesia and New Zealand highlighted the key aspects of possible elements for an ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy that were prepared by the EEPs. The Meeting recommended that the SOM submit the EEP Report to Ministers at the 17th ARF and suggest that Ministers in turn mandate the SOM to draw, as appropriate, on the EEP Report, in the development on a Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan.
26. The Meeting agreed that it was important for the ARF to make progress regarding development of preventive diplomacy as envisaged by the ARF Vision Statement. In this connection, the Meeting reiterated the importance of respect for sovereignty and mutual trust in moving from CBMs to PD. The Meeting also emphasized that the ARF should continue its efforts on CBMs while progressing toward the preventive diplomacy.
27. The Meeting took note of the need to have a balanced emphasis given to traditional and non-traditional security issues. The Meeting took note of the suggestions for the Work Plan to give initial emphasis to non-traditional security issues and that the Work Plan to refer to previous documents that ARF has agreed upon.
28. The meeting noted the offer made by Timor-leste to host the next EEP Meeting.
29. The Meeting welcomed Singapore's initiative to prepare a draft ARF Work Plan on PD for consideration during the next inter-sessional year, drawing on relevant materials developed in both Track I and Track II of the ARF.

6. 2. 2. ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief

30. The Meeting took note of the proposal by the EU to co-chair with an ASEAN counterpart a Training on Post-Disaster Needs Assessment to be held in September 2010. On this note, the Meeting was informed that for a new project initiative to be included in the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief, the proponent country should consult all ARF Participants. In the absence of complete lead shepherd for the implementation of the Work Plan, the ARF Unit will act as the focal point for submission of new project proposals. The identification of voluntary lead countries, especially from ASEAN, for each priority area are encouraged in order to ensure the effective coordination and advancement of the work plan.

6. 2. 3. ARF Work Plan on CTTC

31. The Meeting took note of the absence of complete composition of lead countries for the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC. The Meeting urged ASEAN Member States and non-ASEAN ARF participants to consider volunteering to take up this role.
32. The Meeting took note of the United States' and Australia's proposed project on biosecurity/bioterrorism and the United States's project on cybercrime as well

6. 2. 4. ARF Work Plan on Nonproliferation and Disarmament

33. The Meeting took note of the United States' draft work plan on non-proliferation and disarmament, which reflected earlier consensus at the 1st ARF ISM on NP & D in July 2009, that future ISMs on NP&D would give balanced consideration to disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Meeting also noted that the work plan should take into account the current ongoing international initiatives and obligations.

6. 3. ARF Ongoing Initiatives

6. 3. 1. ARF ASO Standardized Format

34. The Meeting was briefed on the updated draft ARF ASO Standardized Format (**ANNEX 9**). The Meeting supported in general the current draft and agreed to submit the draft to the ARF SOM with the understanding that additional comments are still welcomed.

35. The Meeting took note of the following comments conveyed during the discussion:

- The ISG should refer to the ARF SOM regarding the Executive Summary of the ASO, particular on whether to have it, and if so, who shall prepare it.
- The Standardized Format should be voluntary, simple and suitable to the capacity and capabilities of the ARF participants.
- The ARF arms register should be aligned with UN reporting standards, such as the UN Standardized Instrument on Military Expenditures and the UN Register on Conventional Arms.

6. 3. 2. Japan/Indonesia Co-Chairs Meeting of ARF DiREX 2011

36. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Indonesia on the preparation of the ARF DiREX 2011 (**ANNEX 10**).

6 3. 3. ARF Voluntary Model Arrangements for Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief

37. The Meeting took note of the briefing by the United States on the development of the draft MCDA Model Arrangements (**ANNEX 11**) and considered submitting the draft for consideration of the ARF SOM. The Model Arrangement would be submitted to Ministers for their general support and would be tested and further refined by the ARF DiREX 2011.

6. 3. 4. ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

38. The meeting took note of the Australia briefing on the latest status of the development of the Strategic Guidance (**ANNEX 12**). The Meeting agreed in general that the draft will be submitted to the ARF SOM and the 17th ARF in July 2010.

6. 3. 5. ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service Initiative

39. The Meeting took note the briefing by Australia and Singapore on the development of the ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Services Initiative. Australia invited ARF participants to submit their national contacts points for provision of geospatial organizations for contributions.

Agenda Item 7: Future Direction of ARF

7. 1. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement

40. The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Working Group Meeting on the drafting of the Plan of Action that was convened prior to this ISG. The Working Group agreed that ARF Participants would comment on the draft and send to Viet Nam their comments by 9 April. If need be, the Working Group will be reconvened prior to the ARF SOM. The Draft Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement appears in **ANNEX 11**

7. 2. ARF Linkages with Track II and other organizations

41. The Meeting took note the briefing by Thailand on its participation at the CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in Jakarta on 19 November 2009 and the OSCE Asian Contact Group Meeting in Vienna on 26 February 2010 at their invitation, on the basis of ARF's decision to enhance links with Track II and other regional and international organisations. The Meeting was informed of the suggestions made by CSCAP and OSCE respectively on how to enhance links with the ARF. The gist of the suggestions appears as **ANNEX 12**.

7. 3. Strengthening the ARF: Defense Officials' participation in ARF

42. The Meeting discussed strengthening linkages between ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue with the other ARF activities in order to enhance the role of the defense officials in the ARF.

43. The Meeting noted the suggestion that the ASPC should be reporting to the ARF Ministers through the ARF SOM.

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

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

The Meeting was briefed on the ARF Notional Calendar for Inter-Sessional year 2009-2010, which appear on **ANNEX 13**

44. Brunei Darussalam and the Russian Federation informed the Meeting that the 8th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 28-30 April 2010. Russian delegation made a presentation of the draft Statement of the ARF Ministers of Foreign Affairs on securing international information security proposed by Russian Federation that will be discussed at this ISM and asked ARF participants to forward as soon as

45. Singapore, China and the United States announced that they would co-host the 2nd ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the first or second week of July 2010.
46. Viet Nam stated that the ARF SOM-related meetings will be held in Viet Nam from 17-20 May and the 17th ARF will be held in Hanoi on 23 July 2010.
47. Japan informed the Meeting of the possible convening of an informal meeting on preparation for the ARF DiREX, back-to-back with the ARF SOM in Viet Nam in May 2010.
48. Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam and the United States informed that the ARF Seminar on Cyber Crime would be held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 27-28 April 2010 prior to the ISM on CTTC. Initial meeting details distributed appear as **ANNEX 15**
49. The United States informed that it would host the 14th ARF Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions (HDUCIM) on 3-6 November 2010.
50. Thailand informed the Meeting that the next meeting of the ISM on Disaster Relief, to be co-chaired with the United States, would be convened in Thailand in September 2010.
51. Timor Leste informed that it will co-host with Thailand the 5th ARF EEPs Meeting in Dili towards the end of 2010.
52. The EU informed that it might co-host with an ASEAN counterpart an ARF Seminar on Security Implications on Climate Change in Brussels in June 2010.

Agenda Item 9: Co-Chairs' Summary Report

The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam 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.