

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 27-28 NOVEMBER 2012**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 19th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Phnom Penh on 12 July 2012, the meeting of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 27-28 November 2012. The Meeting was co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and China.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Papua New Guinea attended the Meeting. The representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Delegates is attached as **ANNEX 1**.
3. H. E. Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, ARF SOM Leader and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, in his Welcome Remarks recalled the progress of the ARF since its inception and its contribution in building confidence among its participants. He reiterated the need to look ahead to further strengthen the cooperation and work closely together to be able to tackle current and future challenges.
4. In her Welcome Remarks, H.E. Fu Ying, ARF SOM Leader and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, congratulated Brunei Darussalam on its incoming chairmanship of ASEAN and the ARF. She underscored the success of the ARF in achieving its purpose of promoting regional peace and security through cooperation and collaboration for the past 20 years. She affirmed that against the backdrop of evolving regional security architecture, it is the task of all participants to continue to strengthen cooperation and enhance mutual trust in a way comfortable to all parties, building upon what has been achieved in the ARF in order to provide security to all countries in the region.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2: Administrative Arrangements

6. The Meeting noted the administrative arrangements made by Brunei Darussalam, details of which appear as **ANNEX 3**.

Agenda Item 3: Briefing on the Outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, Bandar Seri Begawan, 27 November 2012 (Brunei and China)

7. Mr. Mohd Sahrip Othman, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development) of the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF DOD) held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 27 November 2012. The ARF DOD discussed issues and challenges in multilateral peacekeeping operations and the role of military in counter-terrorism strategies. On peacekeeping operations, the Dialogue took note of the importance of training prior to peacekeeping operations, and discussed several guidelines to participation in peacekeeping operations. On counter terrorism, the Dialogue recognized the need to appropriately address the root causes of terrorism, including de-radicalization efforts. The co-chairs of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) on Peacekeeping Operations and Counter-Terrorism also had the opportunity to brief the Dialogue on the activities of their respective EWGs. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the ARF DOD appears as **ANNEX 4**.

Agenda Item 4: Follow up to the 19th ARF

4.1. Outcome of the 19th ARF (*Cambodia*)

8. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Cambodia on the follow-up to the 19th ARF. On Regional and International Issues, Cambodia recalled that Ministers had acknowledged the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty and the effective implementation of Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which aim at promoting peace, stability and mutual trust. Cambodia reiterated the Ministers' view on the importance of the ARF as the main forum in which to discuss issues of common security and that the ARF should continue to promote confidence building measures while progressing in the implementation of preventive diplomacy. To this end, Cambodia reminded the Meeting on the Ministers' instruction on the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy and other Work Plans, including the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and the revised ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. On the issue of the improving synergies between the ARF and ADMM-Plus, Cambodia underlined the decision of the 19th ARF in which the ADMM-Plus Chair shall be invited to brief the relevant ARF meetings and activities as appropriate. The Ministers had also underlined the need to further utilize the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting as Track 1.5 in advancing the ARF process through providing visionary recommendations.

4.2. Draft ARF Work Plan on Cyber Security (*Russia*)

9. Russia recalled the provisions of the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security including on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by terrorist and criminal groups. The proposal to draft an ARF Work Plan on Cyber Security will be discussed at the next ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC). Russia, as one of the three lead countries – with Australia and Malaysia – for Priority Area 3 (Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism) of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC shared its view on the elements of the draft Work Plan, namely to promote awareness of the current and potential threats in the use of ICTs for criminal and other illegal purposes, to enhance national capabilities for neutralizing current and potential threats in the use of ICTs, and to facilitate dialogue on confidence building, stability and risk reduction measures aimed at enhancing regional and global cooperation in promoting confidence and security in the use of ICTs.
10. Australia recalled the recent activities in the ARF on cyber security and reiterated the need to further discuss this issue in the future, including at the next ISM on CTTC, which Australia will co-chair. In this regard, Australia introduced a non-paper regarding possible implementation of the ARF Statement on Ensuring Cyber Security and the development of the Work Plan on Cyber Security. The non-paper highlighted that Australia would draft a paper outlining possible elements of the draft cyber work-plan, based on input from ARF participants, and circulate it in advance of the next ISM on CTTC. The paper will form the basis of the discussions at the next ISM on CTTC. The non-paper is attached as **ANNEX 5**.
11. The Meeting expressed support for development of the Work Plan on Cyber Security. There were suggestions the draft Work Plan consider other elements such as cybercrime, cyber security capacity building, reducing the digital divide, international legislation, and cyber hacking, as well as incorporate the discussions in other multilateral fora such as the UN and OSCE.

4.3. Commemorative Publication of the 20th Anniversary of the ARF (Brunei/China)

12. China updated the Meeting on the progress of the Commemorative Publication of the 20th Anniversary of the ARF. The Meeting took note of the table of contents of the Publication which will include forewords by Foreign Ministers of Brunei and China, a message from the Secretary General of ASEAN, write-ups from officials responsible for shaping the ARF process, a collection of photos from the ARF's history, and milestone documents of the ARF. The Meeting was informed of the deadline for the write-ups and photos

which should be submitted by the end of January 2013. The draft of the Publication will be circulated to all participants before the next ARF ISG for comments and the Publication will be launched during the 20th ARF.

13. The Meeting expressed support for the Publication and suggested the inclusion of write-ups from experts who also helped shape the ARF process. Several participants sought clarification on the composition of the write-ups and whether the Publication will be an official ARF document which will be approved by ARF participants. China clarified that since the Publication is not an official ARF document and is intended to be available to the general public, it will not require the approval of ARF participants, though a draft of the Publication will be circulated to all ARF participants for their comments and suggestions prior to publication. In addition, China requested that the write-ups should be as informative as possible to promote awareness of the ARF to the general public.

4.4. 12th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (Indonesia/Australia)

14. Indonesia informed the Meeting that, the 12th ISM on Disaster Relief will focus on the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief and the efforts to synergize it with other mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the ADMM/ADMM-Plus, as well as to evaluate preparations for the ARF DiREx in 2013. The 12th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) is scheduled to be held in Indonesia at the end of February or the first week of March 2013. Indonesia also informed the Meeting they will be holding their national exercise on disaster relief in May 2013, and ARF participants are invited to take part in this exercise.
15. On the topic of synergizing disaster relief activities among various mechanisms, the Meeting welcomed the attendance of the ACDM Chair to the 11th ISM on DR and suggested that the 12th ISM on DR to continue this practice. Furthermore, participants recalled the EAS non-paper entitled “A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response” which, among others, called for an expanded ACDM to consult the ARF ISM on DR and the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian and Disaster Relief on disaster relief activities. The Meeting was of the view that such consultations are important and needs to move forward. The Meeting took note of the next meeting of the ACDM in Bangkok on 7-11 January 2013 which will include a session with EAS countries.
16. The Meeting exchanged views on the proposed Rapid Disaster Response (RDR) Agreement by the United States which is intended to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief assets in the event of natural disasters. Participants expressed support for the RDR in principle. Some

participants noted that there were difficulties in implementing the RDR, such as national considerations, differences in legal systems, medical practice licenses and varying perceptions of receiving foreign aid and assistance. It was discussed that RDR is a system of bilateral agreements that could facilitate implementation of disaster relief, upon the request of the receiving state, at the eventuality of a disaster and that the RDR agreements are only preparatory agreements for implementation bilaterally. The Meeting welcomed the suggestion to convene a workshop to discuss the issues and challenges in the implementation of RDR.

17. Several participants commented on the number of disaster relief activities and exercises among the various mechanisms which could overlap and create difficulties in participation and attendance, in particular the 2013 ARF Disaster Relief Exercise and the ADMM Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief/Military Medicine Exercise. Such close scheduling places constraints on military assets. In this regard, the Meeting called for ASEAN to better coordinate the dates of exercises to ensure synergy and avoid duplication in the future.

4.5. 11th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (Australia)

18. Australia briefed the Meeting on the topics that would be discussed at the 11th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), including the forthcoming publication of the UNODC Regional Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment for East Asia and the Pacific, minimizing the risks associated with terrorist use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials, issues of cyber security, and a review of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC. The Meeting urged ASEAN Member States to take up the co-chairmanship of the ISM on CTTC with Australia.

4.6. 5th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (Indonesia/Republic of Korea/the United States)

19. The Co-Chairs of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) informed the Meeting that the 5th ISM on MS will be held in Seoul in April 2013 and will discuss the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. In addition, the Meeting was informed that the concept paper for an ARF initiative on the protection of the marine environment, introduced by the United States during the 4th ISM on MS, will be further deliberated at the 5th ISM on MS. The Meeting also encouraged for regional civil maritime agencies to participate in the 5th ISM on MS.

4.7. 5th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (*the Philippines/Japan/Australia*)

20. The Philippines informed the Meeting that the 5th ISM on NPD will tentatively be held in Manila in May 2013 and will focus on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan added that they will host the 6th ISM on NPD in 2014, which will focus on the issue of nuclear disarmament.

4.8. 7th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting (*the United States*)

21. The United States raised the question of how to effectively utilize the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to support the Track I process and recalled the discussions on the role of the EEPs during the previous ARF ISG in Wellington in May 2012. The United States cited the work of the US-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group as an example which the ARF could consider to be applied to the EEPs, and suggested that the EEPs could also assist in the coordination of ARF activities to avoid duplication in other mechanisms.
22. In response to the questions raised by the United States, the Meeting recalled the initial discussions on the creation of the EEPs and took note of several suggestions to advance the work of the EEPs, including nominating EEPs with sufficient institutional memory of the ARF process, attendance of the ARF Chair in EEPs meetings to guide the EEPs' discussions, institutionalizing the EEPs meeting through a rotational and overlapping co-chairmanship system, building the capacity of EEPs, and conducting a review of the Terms of Reference for the ARF EEPs which was adopted by the 8th ARF in July 2001.
23. The Meeting noted the European Union's new EEP's which consists of Mr. Esko Hamilo, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Dr. Wolfgang Zellner and Dr. Giovanni B. Andornino from Finland, France, Germany and Italy respectively.

4.9. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise 2013 (*Thailand/Republic of Korea*)

24. Thailand and the Republic of Korea reported to the Meeting on the preparations on ARF DiREx 2013 which is scheduled to be held on 7-11 May 2013 in Cha-am/Hua-hin, Thailand. The exercise will address civil-military coordination through an operational/strategic focused Table Top Exercise (TTX) and a tactical level oriented Field Training Exercise (FTX). The Meeting was informed that the TTX will focus on Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration while the FTX will focus on Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities integrated with medical, engineer, and chemical response requirements and Incident Command System (ICS). The Meeting was further informed that the Republic of Korea and Thailand will co-host an Initial Planning Conference (IPC) in Bangkok and Site Survey (SS) in Cha-am/Hua-

hin during 14-16 January 2013 and the Final Planning Conference (FPC) which will be held on 1-3 April 2013. Thailand and the Republic of Korea have distributed the invitation and relevant information to all ARF participants as well as relevant international organizations and urged all ARF participants to attend the ARF DiREx 2013 IPC and participate in the ARF DiREx 2013.

25. Several participants suggested commencing discussions on the co-chairmanship of the 2015 ARF DiREx ahead of time to facilitate preparations and participation. In response to the suggestion, the Meeting encouraged ARF participants to volunteer for the next co-chairmanship of the ARF DiREx as earliest as possible.

4.10. 2nd ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (Thailand/the United States)

26. Thailand informed the Meeting that the 2nd ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, co-chaired with the United States, is currently being scheduled for February or March 2013.

4.11. ARF Seminar on Preventive Climate Diplomacy (the European Union)

27. The Meeting was informed by the European Union that the ARF Seminar on Preventive Climate Diplomacy has been re-scheduled to 2013.

4.12. ARF Workshop on Space Security (Viet Nam/Australia)

28. Australia informed the Meeting that the ARF Workshop on Space Security, co-chaired with Viet Nam and co-sponsored by Japan and the European Union, would be held in Hoi An on 6-7 December 2012 and discuss such topics as space capabilities and dependencies in the Asia Pacific, the current international space security framework, prospects for a space arms control, strategies for improving the security and safety of the space environment, space transparency and confidence-building measures, and the contributions of regional cooperation and organizations to space security.
29. The Meeting took note of a workshop on the protection of space environment organized by Japan and a UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) regional seminar on international code of conduct for outer space activities co-sponsored by Japan to be held in Malaysia on 12 December 2012. The workshop and the seminar aim to support regional cooperation in the area and contribute to the formulation of an international code of conduct for outer space activities.

4.13. ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling (New Zealand/Brunei Darussalam/Malaysia)

30. New Zealand informed the Meeting that the ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling will be co-chaired with Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia and will tentatively be held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2013 prior to the 5th ISM on MS. ARF participants were invited to assign officials and practitioners with knowledge and expertise in the field of ship profiling to attend the Workshop. The updated Concept Paper for the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 6**.

4.14. Workshop on Concept Development on the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC) (United States)

31. The United States updated the Meeting on the development of the ATTIC concept which is divided into three phases and invited ASEAN Member States to co-chair the workshop which is necessary to move the process forward. The United States recalled the success of the Central Asian Regional Information Center (CARIC) in disrupting the international drugs trade and suggested that ATTIC could build upon this example in its conceptual development.

4.15. 2nd ARF Workshop on Non-proliferation Nuclear Forensics (Viet Nam/United States)

32. The United States informed the Meeting that the Workshop, co-chaired with Viet Nam and the European Union, will tentatively be held in the spring of 2013.

Agenda Item 5: Review and Consideration of CBMs and PD

5.1. Evaluate the CBMs and PD activities that have taken place since the 19th ARF

5.1.1. Outcomes of the 5th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting, Ulaanbaatar, 27-28 August 2012 (Indonesia/Mongolia)

33. Indonesia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 5th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting which was held in Ulaanbaatar on 27-28 August 2012 and took the theme of "Cooperation of Regional Peacekeeping Centers and Challenges in the Peacekeeping Training". The report of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 7**.

5.1.2. Outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event, Manila, 5-7 September 2012 (*the Philippines/Australia/the United States*)

34. The United States briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event which was held in Manila on 5-7 September 2012. The Workshop is a continuation on previous activities in biosecurity which falls under the ambit of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC, and the Meeting noted that the Workshop produced a set of best practices which will be circulated to all ARF participants prior to the next ISM on CTTC. The report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 8**.

5.1.3. Outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Cyber Incident Response, Singapore, 6-7 September 2012 (*Singapore/Australia*)

35. Australia briefed the Meeting on outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Cyber Incident Response which was held in Singapore on 6-7 September 2012. The workshop enabled participants to explore in a practical setting the many issues facing the region in responding to cyber security incidents. The report of the workshop appears as **ANNEX 9**.

5.1.4. Outcomes of the ARF Seminar on Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace, Seoul, 11-12 September 2012 (*Malaysia/Republic of Korea*)

36. The Republic of Korea briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Seminar on Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace which was held in Seoul on 11-12 September 2012. The Seminar noted a series of specific recommendations for the ARF to effectively implement confidence building measures in cyberspace including implementing the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security. The report of the seminar appears as **ANNEX 10**.
37. Malaysia informed the Meeting on the development of a template for a list of cyber incident focal points which will be useful in the event of a cyber-attack to enable immediate response. The Meeting noted the suggestion for the template to be placed in a password-protected section of the ARF Net and incorporated in the draft ARF Work Plan on Cyber Security.

5.1.5. Outcomes of the 16th ARF Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM), Beijing, 4-8 November 2012 (*Brunei/China*)

38. China briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 16th ARF HDUCIM which was held in Beijing on 4-8 November 2012, co-chaired with Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was convened under the theme of "Education on

National Security Strategy in a Changing World”. The Meeting was attended by 72 participants and discussed the need to adapt to the significant changes in the current security environment. The Meeting was informed that the 17th ARF HDUCIM will tentatively be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2013 and co-chaired with the Republic of Korea. The report of the Meeting is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

5.2 Consider new proposals for consideration of Ministers at the 20th ARF

5.2.1. ARF Roundtable on Training Resources for Preventive Diplomacy (New Zealand)

39. New Zealand presented an overview of the Roundtable which seeks to identify possible resources for preventive diplomacy training and capacity-building programmes. The Meeting supported the proposal and viewed that further work was required to flesh out the details for the Roundtable including consultations with experts from the academic community. The proposal is intended to be finalized and presented to the next ARF ISG for further endorsement by the ARF SOM in May 2013.

5.2.2. 6th ARF Peacekeeping Experts’ Meeting (China)

40. China informed the Meeting on the proposal to convene the 6th ARF Peacekeeping Experts’ Meeting in the inter-sessional year of 2013-2014. The Meeting will take the theme of “Enhancing Pragmatic Cooperation: Improving Peacekeeping Training with Joint Efforts”. The concept paper for the Meeting is attached as **ANNEX 12**.
41. The Meeting noted the suggestions which were forwarded during the ARF DOD to develop a common training syllabus among the peacekeeping training centers in the region and to adopt a common approach to peacekeeping operations.
42. Taking into consideration the growing discourse on and interest in peacekeeping operations within the ARF, several participants raised the issue of whether the time is right for the ARF to resume the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Peacekeeping Operations which will discuss the policy aspects of peacekeeping operations. The Meeting agreed that this issue will be put forward to the ARF SOM.

5.2.3. Meeting on Cyber Security (China)

43. China submitted a proposal to host an ARF Meeting on Cyber Security, which is scheduled for the next inter-sessional year in the fourth quarter of 2013. The Meeting will discuss the views and practices on coping with

cyber security issues, norms of responsible behavior, the role of domestic and international legislation in combating cybercrime, cyber security awareness, and cyber security capacity building for developing countries. China invited ARF participants to co-chair or co-sponsor the activity and to submit comments and inputs to the proposal. The concept paper for the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 13**.

44. Several participants reiterated the need to address cyber security concerns through the development of existing methods and mechanisms as well as to discuss cyber-attacks, which are perpetrated by both private and state actors.

Agenda Item 6: Updates on the ARF Work Plans

6.1. ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (Australia)

45. Australia informed the Meeting that the next ISM on CTTC will review the current Work Plan on CTTC and discuss whether an update to the Work Plan might be required.
46. The Meeting was informed that the European Union will be proposing an initiative on CBRN which will fall under Priority Area #2 of the Work Plan on CTTC. The proposal will be tabled at the next ISM on CTTC for further examination by ARF participants.
47. The Meeting took note of a workshop on counter-radicalization to be held in February 2013, which will be co-chaired by Malaysia and Japan. The Meeting noted that the workshop will be held outside the ARF framework. The concept paper for the workshop is attached as **ANNEX 14**.

6.2. ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief (Indonesia/Australia)

48. The Meeting was updated on the development and adoption of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster 2012-2014 and encouraged participants to take the lead in the priority areas.

6.3. ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security (Indonesia/Republic of Korea/the United States)

49. Indonesia informed the Meeting on the progress of implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security through the ISM on MS and ad-hoc activities such as the ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling. The Meeting encouraged participants to take the lead in Priority Area 1 (Information/intelligence exchange and sharing of best practices) and

Priority Area 3 (Capacity Building of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region) of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security.

50. The Meeting noted that as a lead country of Priority Areas 2 (Confidence Building Measures based on international and regional legal frameworks, arrangements and cooperation) of the said ARF Work Plan, Japan will consider promoting cooperation among ARF participants in this field and shall put forward a proposal at the next ISM on MS.

6.4. ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (*the Philippines/Japan/Australia*)

51. The Philippines updated the Meeting on the adoption of the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and its status as a living document. The Meeting encouraged participants to align their activities on NPD to the priority areas of the Work Plan.

6.5. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020 (*ARF Unit*)

52. The ASEAN Secretariat presented an update on the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action since the 19th ARF, including progress in the area of counter-terrorism and transnational crime and peacekeeping operations. The Meeting welcomed the commencement of the Compilation Study on the Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Peacekeeping Operations in the ARF which is being undertaken by the ARF Unit with the support of the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility (US-TATF). A survey form has been circulated to all ARF participants and the Meeting was encouraged to contribute to the study and submit responses to the survey form.

Agenda Item 7: Exchange of Views on Regional and International Issues

53. The Meeting welcomed the outcomes of the 21st ASEAN Summit and the 7th EAS Summit held in Phnom Penh on 18-20 November 2012. The adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) at the 21st ASEAN Summit was a step forward for the protection and promotion of human rights in the region.
54. The Meeting stressed the importance of common efforts to develop an open transparent and inclusive regional security architecture in Asia-Pacific based on principles of equality and generally accepted norms of international law.

55. The Meeting underlined the importance of peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Some participants expressed continued concerns over the DPRK's nuclear weapons and programs including its uranium enrichment activities; and calls on the DPRK not to conduct any further provocations including nuclear tests and launches using ballistic missile technology and to fully comply with its international obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874. The Meeting reiterated the importance of the Six-Party Talks and urged all parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from taking any action that might cause tension in the region, and to comply with their international obligations and the commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Some participants referred to the importance of addressing humanitarian issues in the DPRK such as food security, abductions and family reunions.
56. The Meeting stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea, the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by parties concerned, and the promotion of confidence building in this area. The Meeting called upon parties concerned to undertake peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged ASEAN Member States and China to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) to promote conducive conditions for parties concerned to eventually solve their disputes. The Meeting welcomed the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC, the ASEAN Statement on the Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, the Joint Statement of the 10th Anniversary of the DOC, and the on-going dialogues by ASEAN Member States and China on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.
57. The Meeting commended the positive developments in Myanmar and its continued efforts towards democracy and national reconciliation. The Meeting noted the US President Barack Obama's recent visit to Myanmar and looked forward to deeper engagement with Myanmar by the international community. On that note, the Meeting welcomed the on-going lifting of sanctions against Myanmar. Several participants encouraged all remaining sanctions against Myanmar be lifted and that Myanmar be provided with a conducive environment to continue advancing its reforms. The Meeting expressed support for Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN and the ARF in 2014.
58. On the issue of nuclear non-proliferation, the Meeting encouraged the nuclear weapons states (NWS) to sign the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty, which is an important contribution to preserving the Southeast Asia region free from weapons of mass destruction, though concerns were raised over the reservations made by some NWS. The Meeting stressed the

need to move forward on the three pillars of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and welcomed the ratification by Viet Nam as well as the intention of Myanmar to sign and ratify the IAEA Additional Protocol.

59. The Meeting exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the violence in Gaza and Syria. The Meeting expressed support for the ceasefire between Israel and Palestine. Some participants expressed concern over the situation in Syria and called for all parties to exercise restraint on provocative actions and to place diplomacy and dialogue at the forefront of any endeavors. Several participants also commented on the threats of terrorism and drug trafficking in Afghanistan which constituted a serious challenge to international peace and stability.
60. The Meeting welcomed the successful presidential and parliamentary elections in Timor-Leste and noted some participants had participated as voluntary election observers on a bilateral basis. Timor-Leste informed the Meeting that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was coming to an end and expressed appreciation for the assistance of the UN in the peacekeeping and reconstruction of Timor-Leste. The Meeting welcomed the recent visit of the UN Secretary-General to Timor-Leste and underscored the need to look beyond the UNMIT mandate.
61. The Meeting discussed the threat of people smuggling and the importance of enhancing cooperation and collaboration in addressing this threat, among others through capacity building of relevant officials. The Meeting took note of the suggestion to include people smuggling as a priority area of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC. The Meeting also noted the successful convening of the 1st UN Transnational Crime Working Group on Human Smuggling which took place in May-June 2012.
62. The Meeting welcomed the ratification of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) by Lao PDR on 12 November 2012. With this ratification, 9 out of 10 ASEAN Member States have ratified the ACCT which entered into force on 28 May 2011.
63. Some participants commented on the recent positive developments in Fiji and continued the call for the return of democracy and the conduct of free, fair, open and inclusive electoral and constitutional processes in Fiji.

Agenda Item 8: Future Direction of the ARF

8.1. Improving Synergies between the ARF and ADMM-Plus

64. The Meeting recalled the discussion paper on Improving Synergies between the ARF and ADMM-Plus introduced by previous ARF ISG co-chairs

Cambodia and New Zealand which recommended, among others, the coordination of ADMM-Plus activities with the ARF through the ASEAN Secretariat as well as in the national level, and the participation of ADMM-Plus officials in ARF meetings and activities. The Meeting noted that that these recommendations have been implemented in several cooperation areas such as maritime security and disaster relief.

65. The Meeting noted the suggestion of institutionalizing the coordination of ARF and ADMM-Plus through, among others, a meeting of the respective chairs and a joint calendar of activities. In this regard, an ARF/ADMM-Plus Joint Calendar is expected to be produced by the ASEAN Secretariat at the next ARF ISG.
66. With a view of ensuring proper follow up and continuity of work, the Meeting also noted the suggestion for an overlap Co-Chairing System between an ASEAN and a non-ASEAN ARF participant to be introduced in other annually held activities of the ARF, as practiced in the ARF EEPs Meetings.

8.2. Discussion Paper on Moving towards Preventive Diplomacy

67. The Meeting welcomed the Discussion Paper on Moving towards Preventive Diplomacy, introduced by Brunei Darussalam, to facilitate the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy. The Paper outlined preventive diplomacy into three possible phases to implement the Preventive Diplomacy stage of the ARF process. The Discussion Paper appears as **ANNEX 15**.
68. The Meeting noted several suggestions on developing preventive diplomacy, including lessons learned from other regional organizations such as the SCO and utilizing Track II resources such as ARF EEPs, ASEAN-ISIS, and CSCAP.
69. The Meeting noted that Brunei Darussalam will consider all the comments and refine the discussion paper for further deliberation at the next ARF ISG.

Agenda Item 9: Other Matters

9.1. Dates and Venue of the Next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD (*China*)

70. China informed the Meeting that the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will tentatively be held on 29-30 April 2013.

9.2. Dates of the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum (*Brunei*)

71. Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting that the tentative date for the ARF SOM will be 24 May 2013 and the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum will be 27 June 2013.

Acknowledgement

72. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government of Brunei Darussalam 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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