

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 8 APRIL 2014**

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum's Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF DOD) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 8 April 2014.
2. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Major General Tin Maung Win, Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces Training, Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Brigadier General Walter Huhn, European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union (EU). Representatives of the Ministry of Defence of all ARF participants, except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the Dialogue. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

3. Brigadier General Walter Huhn in his opening remarks welcomed all delegations to Brussels, the capital of Europe. He emphasized that the EU was not only an economic bloc but also, and to an ever-increasing extent, a security provider for its immediate neighborhood and well beyond. He reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to forging closer security cooperation with the Countries in the Asia Pacific region. He highlighted several cooperative activities in the area of maritime security that had been conducted over the past year, including the joint counter-piracy naval exercise between EUNAVFOR Atalanta and a Chinese naval Task Force. He also touched upon the successful conduct of the Seminar on the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy with a focus on EU-ASEAN relations in Brussels in March 2014. Brigadier General Huhn elaborated on the Conclusions on the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Council (Brussels, December 2013). He particularly recalled that the European Council had taken note of a plethora of ongoing workstrands in this EU policy area and that it had kick-started a set of further initiatives in strengthening the EU's operational effectiveness, its defence capabilities and its defence industrial base. His opening remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.
4. Major General Tin Maung Win in his opening remarks recalled the changing global security landscape and the rise of non-traditional security challenges such as piracy, terrorism, natural and man-made disasters, and climate change. He emphasized the importance of cooperative action in addressing these challenges since no single country could handle them alone. He expressed hope that the Dialogue would continue to provide support to the ARF's efforts in confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy. His opening remarks appear as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. The Dialogue adopted the Provisional Agenda. The adopted Agenda appears as **ANNEX 4**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: MARITIME SECURITY

6. At the outset, the Dialogue participants expressed their sympathies for the families of the passengers and crew of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 and observed that the region possessed the capacity for sustained international cooperation and collaboration in a time of tragedy. Lessons should be identified and learned from this.

7. The Dialogue was briefed by Australia and Malaysia - the Co-Chairs of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security (EWG on MS) - on the work of the EWG, notably the successful conduct of the inaugural ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise in Jervis Bay, Australia, October 2013. This Exercise was attended by all ADMM-Plus participating countries, with 11 countries sending naval vessels. The Exercise consisted of passage exercises, boarding exercises, and joint patrols. Challenges encountered during the exercise included a lack of familiarity with international naval standard operating procedures and problems of interoperability between national contingents due to language differences. The intervention papers of Australia and Malaysia appear as **ANNEXES 5-6**.

8. In order to address such challenges, the EWG on MS Co-Chairs are developing a glossary of common terms in various languages. The Dialogue took note of the incoming co-chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand of the EWG on MS and looked forward to receiving further briefings and debriefings about future activities under the aegis of this EWG.

9. The Dialogue received an update on the work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). The Contact Group was established in January 2009 pursuant to UNSCR 1851 and has successfully reduced the number of piracy incidents off the Somali coast through multinational operations. EU - the current Chair of the Contact Group - is compiling a document to capture lessons learned from these operations.

10. The Dialogue was briefed on the ongoing development of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy, which the EU Council of Ministers is expected to endorse by Summer 2014. The European Union Maritime Security Strategy is to provide a single strategic framework for maritime security cooperation. The Strategy will be based on EU's strategic maritime security interests and responsibilities, which are global in nature and go to the very core of the well-being, prosperity and security of its citizens. A key principle of the Strategy is the EU's openness to dialogue and cooperation with partners in a spirit of maritime

multilateralism. The EU is aiming for an actionable Maritime Security Strategy that, once endorsed, shall lead to the adoption of a set of EU action plans in the 2nd semester 2014.

11. The Dialogue indicated that Maritime Security was not only about combating piracy but should be interpreted in a broader sense, linking various policies. The Dialogue, in this respect, exchanged views on the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean and on different maritime-security threats and challenges to be addressed, including maritime piracy, robbery at sea, climate change, illegal and unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, resource disputes and territorial disputes. Participants stressed the need for governments and other stakeholders in the region to cooperate and collaborate in addressing these challenges, highlighting the multinational counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden as an example of successful practical cooperation. Several delegations raised the need for a peaceful resolution of disputes in line with international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in conjunction with the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia. Many delegations commended the reinvigorated negotiations about a Code of Conduct in the China Sea.

12. The Dialogue highlighted Maritime Security as a priority area in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint (APSC Blueprint), noting that ARF could help implement the APSC Blueprint by complementing existing platforms such as the ASEAN Maritime Forum, ADMM-Plus and the East Asian Summit in exploring specific areas of maritime security cooperation. ARF could, in the framework of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security in 2014-2016, also develop new activities such as military cooperation. Participants suggested that the European Union could share experiences on other concrete areas of cooperation in maritime security, such as peaceful management of overlapping claims on maritime borders, joint exploration on the disputed areas, joint monitoring, and maritime border dispute settlement through international arbitration.

13. The Dialogue took note of sub-regional maritime-security initiatives that also contribute to strengthening maritime-security cooperation.

14. The Dialogue exchanged views on the complementarity as well as on the need to avoid overlap and duplication between ARF DOD and ADMM-Plus in the area of maritime security and other areas. Whilst the Dialogue valued very positively the two briefings it had received from the ADMM-Plus during the current inter-sessional year (in Yangon and Brussels, respectively), it also indicated that - notwithstanding differences in mandate and membership - there still was scope for more and deeper synergies between both platforms. The DOD would welcome greater functional coordination on common issues and further initiatives to that effect in the near future. For example, the DOD could continue to promote broad understanding and confidence-building with a view to helping

the ADMM-Plus EWG develop a more effective defence and military response to security challenges in the region. Civil-military cooperation was indicated as another field in which the DOD could add specific value.

15. The Dialogue was briefed on the informal dialogue between the ASEAN Defence Ministers and the United-States Secretary of Defense (Honolulu, Hawaii, 1-3 April 2014). Ministers had discussed, among other issues, Maritime Security and HADR as well as ways to enhance cooperation in these areas.

16. The Dialogue observed that Maritime Security constituted a core element of national security for many countries in the region, recognizing this shared interest as a forceful driver for dialogue and cooperation between them. Participants reaffirmed the important role of the ARF as vehicle for such dialogue and cooperation. They considered that the ARF's broad membership and the involvement not only of governmental actors but also of other stakeholders, such as Track-II organisations and the private sector, made it particularly well suited for this role.

17. Australia, the European Union, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, China, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United States, Viet Nam, and Russia presented their views on this agenda item. Some intervention papers appear as **ANNEXES 7-11**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

18. The Dialogue exchanged views on the role of the military in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). Participants shared national and regional experiences and lessons learned in the deployment of military personnel and assets to HADR operations. Participants stressed that civil-military cooperation and coordination was crucial for effective disaster-relief and response. In this regard, some participants were of the view that military resources were best suited for high-intensity and short-term assignments while long-term reconstruction efforts should be handled by the civilian disaster management organisations. The Dialogue also took note of the suggestion for the ARF to compile the various lessons learned from these deployments and contributions.

19. The Dialogue received a presentation by the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) on the use of military assets in EU disaster response and, more generally, on the synergy between the EU Common Security and Defence Policy and EU HADR activities. The EUMS presentation was complemented by remarks from the European Commission. EU disaster response operations are guided by internationally agreed humanitarian principles and guidelines, including the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief. The EU aims at a better pooling of Member States' assets in order to reduce costs. It

also seeks to avoid duplication of efforts between different institutional actors and a proliferation of structures and levels of bureaucracy within the EU.

20. The Dialogue noted the lessons learned from the deployment and contribution of national and foreign military assets and personnel in several large-scale natural disasters such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008 and Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines in 2013. The magnitude of these disasters demonstrated the necessity of cooperation and collaboration in disaster relief and response, particularly in cases where the national response mechanisms themselves were affected by the disaster up to the point of being incapacitated. Participants suggested to conduct further study into the topic of Standard Operating Procedures for military involvement in HADR.

21. The Dialogue took note of the successful conduct of the ADMM-Plus HADR and Military Medicine Exercise in June 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. The Dialogue also welcomed Lao PDR and Japan as the incoming Co-Chairs of the ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (EWG on HADR).

22. Myanmar, the European Union, China, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Canada presented their views on this agenda item. Some intervention papers appear as **ANNEXES 12-15**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: VOLUNTARY BRIEFINGS

23. The Dialogue was briefed by a representative of the European Defence Agency (EDA) on the development of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) and on EDA's activities in general. The EDA's main mission is to support EU Member States and the European Council in their effort to improve European defence capabilities. The EDTIB will be an integral element in achieving this mission. Defence establishments face similar challenges, whether in EU, NATO or nationally. EDA's role is to propose cooperative solutions among EU Member States and between EU Member States and non-EU partners. Though modest (120-130 staff), its strengths are:

- A strong mandate rooted in the Treaty on European Union itself;
- Close involvement of Member States at Ministerial level;
- “Variable geometry”: none of EDA's projects is compulsory or requires unanimous decision-making by all EU Member States: some of EDA's activities involve all Member State – for example standardization & certification – but two Member States can already start a project: others can join subsequently; EDA's structures themselves are also flexible.
- Possibility to establish relations with third states and other partners.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

6. 1. Operational Issues

24. The Dialogue was briefed by Rear Admiral Bruce Williams, Deputy Director-General of the European Union Military Staff, on EU's more than 20 military operations and civilian missions conducted around the globe over the past eleven years in the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Ten CSDP civilian missions and 5 CSDP military operations are still ongoing, with more than 7.000 men and women in the field. Rear Admiral Williams spoke about the current status and lessons learned of several military missions, including EUFOR Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina, EUNAVFOR Atalanta, EUTM Somalia and EUCAP Nestor in the Horn of Africa, and EUTM Mali. He also highlighted EUFOR RCA in the Central African Republic, launched just one week before the current DOD, with potentially up to 1.000 military. The EUMS briefing is attached as **ANNEX 16**.

6. 2. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of ARF DOD and ASPC

25. The Dialogue noted that the next ARF DOD and the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) will be convened in Yangon, Myanmar, 6-8 June 2014.

26. The Dialogue took note of the suggestion to invite the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to the next ARF DOD and ASPC to brief ARF participants on the role of the AHA Centre and its scope of work.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

27. In his closing remarks, Major General Tin Maung Win expressed his gratitude to all ARF participants for the active participation and constructive contributions in the Dialogue. He also commended the effective leadership of the European Union Co-Chair. He hoped that the outcomes of the Dialogue would contribute to the on-going discussions in the ARF on enhancing cooperation in HADR and maritime security.

28. Brigadier General Walter Huhn in his concluding remarks expressed appreciation for the contributions and proposals by the ARF participants in the discussions on the issues of Maritime Security, Disaster Relief, and Defence Capabilities. He underscored the important role of the ARF DOD in stimulating discussions on the above issues and expressed hope that ARF participants would continue to conduct practical cooperation in the immediate future, for example in the development of strategies, concepts, table-top exercises and training. With respect to training, he expressed hope that the EU CSDP course with focus on ASEAN, held in March 2014 and open to all ARF members, may give rise to further, possibly joint initiatives to emanate from the DOD. He also stressed that, in line with ARF Ministerial guidance, coordination between DOD

and ADMM-Plus (and possibly other ASEAN-related fora) should be continued and even intensified, these fora being complementary and different in coverage and scope. His concluding remarks appear as **ANNEX 17**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

29. The Dialogue expressed appreciation for a candid and fruitful discussion. The Dialogue commended the effective co-chairmanship by Myanmar and the European Union, which had contributed to the success of the meeting. The Dialogue extended their gratitude to the European Union for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Dialogue.

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