

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT

### ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING ON CONFIDENCE- BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

NEW DELHI, INDIA, 11-12 APRIL 2016

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Kuala Lumpur on 6 August 2015, the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy was convened in New Delhi, India on 11-12 April 2016. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Chatoulong Bouasisavath, Deputy Director-General of ASEAN, ASEAN-Lao PDR National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Joint Secretary, Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs of India.

2. Representatives from all ARF participants, except Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka attended the Meeting. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF EEPs) and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS**

3. At the outset, Ms. Preeti Saran, ARF SOM Leader for India, Ministry of External Affairs of India, emphasised the importance of ARF in bringing partners from Asia Pacific and beyond in political and security dialogue and cooperation. She also recognised that while bilateral and multilateral cooperation among countries in the region has been intensifying, the region continues facing existing and emerging global security challenges such as proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), territorial and maritime disputes, humanitarian disaster, cybercrime, piracy, food and energy security, environmental degradation and terrorism. She viewed that the rise of terrorist extremism and radicalisation has been the foremost concern for most countries and on this note, she expressed her condolences to the victims of recent bombing attack in Belgium, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iraq. She further emphasised that the ARF is one of the long-standing fora in the Asia Pacific that has been addressing counter-terrorism and other transnational crimes through the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) and promoting cooperation in this area among its participants. Ms. Saran also highlighted the critical importance of freedom of navigation and overflight and recalled ASEAN's principles of renunciation of the threat or use of force and settlement of disputes in a peaceful manner. She expressed her confidence that the ARF would continue to be the primary forum to discuss future direction of political and security cooperation in the region. In this regard, she called for a more robust coordination among ARF participants particularly in the implementation of ARF Work Plans and ISMs. Her opening remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Chatoulong Bouasisavath reiterated the important role of the ARF as the primary forum to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interests and concerns in the Asia Pacific region and highlighted the importance of the advancement of the ARF process towards the phase of Preventive Diplomacy in parallel with strengthening of confidence building measures. As the Chair of ASEAN and ARF for 2016, he reiterated Lao PDR's commitment to closely work with all ARF participants in order to strengthen the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all participants, including through the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement as well as other work plans based on ASEAN's fundamental principles of consultation and consensus.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

5. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

6. The Meeting adopted the Administrative Arrangements, which appears as **ANNEX 4**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT, THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM AND OTHER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

##### **4.1 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits**

7. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held on 21-22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia highlighted that ASEAN has entered a new era with the establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015 and adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Malaysia briefed that the Leaders signed the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together as well as adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Blueprints for the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillars. The Leaders also signed the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). In total, there were sixty outcome documents issued at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. The Chairman's Statement of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits appears as **ANNEX 5**.

##### **4.2 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum**

8. Malaysia briefed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF in Kuala Lumpur on 6 August 2015 which discussed current security challenges, namely terrorism and violent extremism, the developments in the South China Sea, situation in the Korean Peninsula, developments in Syria, Ukraine and the Middle East, irregular movement of people in South, Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean as well as trafficking in persons and people smuggling. On the future direction of the ARF, the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF discussed on moving towards the preventive diplomacy and promotion of synergy between the

ARF and other ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Ministers noted thirty-two new proposals for implementation in the inter-sessional year 2015-2016 and adopted the ARF Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation, the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017, the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017 and the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2015- 2017. The Chairman's Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF appears as **ANNEX 6**.

#### **4.3 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)**

9. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC in Kuala Lumpur on 29 September 2015. The 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC endorsed illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber as well as people smuggling as new areas under their purview, decided to convene the AMMTC annually starting in 2017, and endorsed ACTIP and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA). The briefing appears as **ANNEX 7**.

#### **4.4 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)**

10. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ADMM-Plus Kuala Lumpur on 4 November 2015. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ADMM-Plus discussed the on-going and potential activities undertaken by the ADMM-Plus platform. Exchange of views in the Meeting centered on maritime security, the South China Sea, the rise of terrorist groups especially the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), cyber security as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Meeting further noted that the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine would be officially launched in Thailand this year. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 8**.

#### **4.5 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)**

11. Cambodia briefed the Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMDM which was convened as a joint session with the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) in Phnom Penh on 16 December 2015. The 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMDM adopted the ASEAN 2025 Vision on Disaster Management, endorsed the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region for adoption by the Leaders at the 28<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and agreed to increase the voluntary contributions of the Member States to the AADMER Fund and the annual and equal contributions for the AHA Centre Fund as well as to set up a dedicated team within AHA Centre to mobilise resources. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 9**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: BRIEFING ON THE ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025**

12. Lao PDR introduced the newly adopted APSC Blueprint 2025. The new Blueprint consists of four main inter-related and mutually reinforcing characteristics, namely (i) rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred community; (ii) peaceful, secure and stable region; (iii) ASEAN centrality in a dynamic and outward-looking region; and (iv) strengthened institutional capacity and presence. As way forward to

implement the APSC Blueprint 2025, a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism which places focus on qualitative analysis and impact assessment is at the utmost importance. In this regard, cooperation from ASEAN organs and sectoral bodies are greatly encouraged. Lao PDR also highlighted the ARF Process which is one of the significant elements of the APSC Blueprint under which there are 8 actions that are strategic in nature and they should be realised and implemented in order to enhance the ARF Process in support of ASEAN efforts in consolidating and strengthening ASEAN Community. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 10**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: BRIEFING BY TRACK 2: THE COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC (CSCAP)**

13. The representative from CSCAP India underlined that the CSCAP has been working in close coordination with the ARF over the years through its study groups, biannual general conferences and annual regional security outlook publication. She further updated the Meeting on the recent activities undertaken by the CSCAP study groups on maritime security, energy security and non-proliferation and disarmament. As of now, CSCAP has produced twenty-seven memoranda, which are available on its website. In this respect, she emphasised the importance of the ARF's substantive feedback on the aforesaid memoranda, particularly on how they support the ARF in developing concrete and effective responses to the region's common challenges. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 11**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE ARF**

##### **7.1 Implementation of the Ha Noi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement**

14. The Meeting shared the view that 2016 is a timely juncture to reflect and review the implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action (PoA) with a view to focusing on more tangible and qualitative outcomes. The Meeting was then briefed by the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat on the progress of implementation of the Hanoi PoA. In total forty-three action lines have been implemented while thirty-one action lines are still pending implementation. The Meeting was encouraged to note that all action lines related to disaster relief, preventive diplomacy and the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) have been implemented. The Meeting encouraged all ARF participants to look at the remaining action lines and continue working towards their completion.

##### **7.2 Consideration on the Recommendations of ARF Experts and Eminent Persons**

15. The Meeting noted the recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting in Singapore on 29 February – 2 March 2016, which appears as **ANNEX 12**. The Meeting exchanged views on the EEPs recommendation on the establishment of a working group to conduct a study on lessons learnt and best practices concerning incidents at sea and noted the draft ARF EEP's Working Group on Preventing and Managing Maritime Incidents-Terms of Reference, which appears as **ANNEX 13**, as well as the outcomes of the three break-out groups' discussion on (i) Maritime Security in East Asia Cooperation; (ii) Korean Peninsula: Modalities and Procedures for the Resumption of Security Discussions and Negotiations; and (iii) Cross-border

Cooperation to Manage IS Threat. The Meeting commented that the breakout groups were useful to discuss regional hotspots issues. The breakout group discussions added value for the ARF amidst the emergence of other ASEAN-led mechanisms that have more resources and/or are constituted a higher level of representation. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the work of the EEPs and took note of some ARF participants' views on the need for ARF to be more proactive and to have a more action-oriented, coordinated and synergised activities. The Meeting noted that the 11<sup>th</sup> EEP Meeting will be held in Canberra in 2017.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF ARF CBMS AND PD**

### **8.1 Outcomes of ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings and Other Activities**

#### **8.1.1 15<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR), Nay Pyi Taw, 25-26 February 2016**

16. The Meeting noted the briefing on the outcomes of the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR, co-chaired by Myanmar, China and Japan, which focused on the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on DR 2015-2017 and highlighted the importance of synergy between regional security frameworks in the Work Plan's implementation. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR appears as **ANNEX 14**.

#### **8.1.2 14<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), Siem Reap, 21-22 March 2016**

17. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC, co-chaired by Cambodia and the European Union, which, among others, discussed the growing numbers of ISIS attacks and foreign terrorist fighters. It was reaffirmed that the ARF ISM on CTTC plays an important role as a platform to enhance stronger cooperation in tackling terrorism through its exchange of views. Suggestions were also put forward in the ISM to enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism at sea, establish bilateral cooperation and mutual legal arrangement on extradition enhance information sharing and conduct cooperation in area of law enforcement. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC appears as **ANNEX 15**.

#### **8.1.3 8<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS), Manila, 6-7 April 2016**

18. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS, co-chaired by the Philippines, Japan and the United States, which discussed issues of marine environment and sustainable development, safety of navigation, and maritime security. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the said ARF ISM on MS will be circulated before the ARF SOM in Luang Prabang in May 2016. Japan will host the next ARF ISM on MS in the first quarter of 2017.

#### **8.1.4 ARF Bio-Preparedness Table Top Exercise (TTX) and Workshop, Manila, 11-13 August 2015**

19. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the ARF Bio-Preparedness TTX and Exercise, co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States. The TTX discussed ASEAN mechanisms, best practices and responses, management and

measurement tools, CBRNEs policies and other regional cooperation in this area. The Co-Chair's Summary Report of the TTX and Workshop appears as **ANNEX 16**.

#### **8.1.5 19<sup>th</sup> ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM), Nay Pyi Taw, 1-4 September 2015**

20. The Meeting noted the briefing on the outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCIM, co-chaired by Myanmar and India. The HDUCIM focused on encouraging the defence universities, colleges and institutions from ARF participants to further enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation through the HDUCIM as it plays a strategic role in policy discussion. The draft Chairman's Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> HDUCIM appears as **ANNEX 17**.

#### **8.1.6 ARF Workshop on Promoting the Nuclear Weapon-Free Status of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, 3-4 September 2015**

21. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Promoting the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status of Mongolia, co-chaired by the Philippines and Mongolia. The Workshop addressed the promotion of Mongolia's nuclear weapon-free status in three dimensional aspects namely national, regional and international dimensions. The outcomes of the Workshop appear as **ANNEX 18**.

#### **8.1.7 ARF Workshop on Raising Awareness and Promoting ARF Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation, Manila, 8-10 September 2015**

22. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop Raising Awareness and Promoting ARF Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation, co-chaired by the Philippines and the European Union. The Workshop discussed the on-going best practices on CBRN risk mitigation with active participation from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 19**.

#### **8.1.8 ARF Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism and Other Mass Casualty Events, Manila, 22-23 September 2015**

23. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism and Other Mass Casualty Events, co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States. The Workshop discussed the different approaches to assist victims of terrorism through medical, psychological and mental counselling and exchanged views on the role of media and multiagency coordination in increasing regional knowledge on handling the victims of terrorism and mass casualty events. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 20**.

#### **8.1.9 ARF Seminar on Operationalising Cyber CBMs in the ARF, Singapore, 21-22 October 2015**

24. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the Seminar on Operationalising Cyber CBMs in the ARF, co-chaired by Singapore and the United States. The

Seminar discussed a series of international cyber incidents, updates to the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), cyber information sharing, network security, law enforcement, proposal for the establishment of the ARF directory of cyber points of contact and consideration of future cyber CBMs. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Seminar appears as **ANNEX 21**.

#### **8.1.10 ARF Seminar and Training on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation, Yogyakarta, 29 November - 2 December 2015**

25. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Seminar and Training on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation, co-chaired by Indonesia and the European Union in collaboration with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR). The Training achieved its objectives to enhance capability of all participants in preventive diplomacy with deeper understanding of conflict management. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Seminar and Training appears as **ANNEX 22**.

#### **8.1.11 3<sup>rd</sup> ARF Workshop on Space Security, Beijing, 30 November – 1 December 2015**

26. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop on Space Security, co-chaired by Lao PDR, China, Russia and the United States. The Workshop discussed the implementation of national space policies and the issue of space security in the international law. The Workshop also discussed some constructive proposals related to legal means on arms control, transparency and trust building as well as technologies and measures on space security. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 23**.

#### **8.1.12 ARF Seminar on the Regional Confidence Building and Law of the Sea, Tokyo, 3-4 December 2015**

27. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the Seminar on the Regional Confidence Building and Law of the Sea, co-chaired by Viet Nam, India and Japan. The Seminar achieved its objective to enhance the ARF participants' understanding of the principles of the rule of law at sea. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 24**.

#### **8.1.13 ARF Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation, Beijing, 13-15 December 2015**

28. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation, co-chaired by Cambodia and China. The Workshop exchanged views on common maritime security challenges and CBMs in the region, with emphasis on practical maritime security cooperation based on bilateral and multilateral frameworks. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 25**.

#### **8.1.14 ARF Workshop on Maritime Oil Spill Emergency Response Management and Disposal Cooperation, Kunming, 17-18 December 2015**

29. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop on Maritime Oil Spill

Emergency Response Management and Disposal Cooperation, co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, China and the United States. The Workshop discussed studies and best practices on the marine oil spill emergency action and agreed in principle on the need for in depth researches on this issue. Participants welcomed the proposal to establish a network that serves as the platform of communication among experts. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 26**.

#### **8.1.15 10<sup>th</sup> ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting, Singapore, 29 February - 2 March 2016**

30. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the three breakout group discussions at the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting. On maritime security, the group viewed that cooperation in priority area such as fisheries must be further enhanced and greater cooperation in the issue of east and south china sea should be strongly promoted. On Korean Peninsula it was assessed that while condition has been significantly curbed, tougher sanction and other necessary measures must be at stand by. On managing the threat of ISIS the group suggested that attention should be devoted into three priority areas namely ICT, counter-radicalisation and terrorist financing as well as effective surveillance of border. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 27**.

#### **8.1.16 ARF Workshop on Operationalising Confidence Building Measures for Cooperation during Cyber-incident Response, Kuala Lumpur, 2-3 March 2016**

31. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop Operationalising Confidence Building Measures for Cooperation during Cyber-incident Response, co-chaired by Malaysia and the European Union. The discussion touched upon the issues of CBM on practical cooperation during cyber-incident response, government-led response mechanism existing international cooperation on cyber-incident response, role of private sector, and coordinated and integrated response between government agencies. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 28**.

#### **8.1.17 ARF Training Course on Preventive Diplomacy, Ha Noi, 2-4 March 2016**

32. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the ARF Training Course on Preventive Diplomacy, co-chaired by Viet Nam and the United States. The Training achieved its objective to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding on preventive diplomacy, conflict analysis and ways and means in identifying post conflict peace building including through proper communication and negotiation. The course was a balance between exercise and theory complemented by engagement with experts and practitioners. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Training appears as **ANNEX 29**.

#### **8.1.18 ARF Workshop on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals, Guangzhou, 8-10 March 2016**

33. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals, co-chaired by Thailand and

China. The Workshop discussed the draft ARF Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in the Management of Cross-border Movement of Criminals. The Workshop exchanged views on joint efforts in addressing cross border human trafficking and applauded the progress and achievements of national efforts and regional cooperation in dealing with this issue. The Meeting noted that China has recirculated the draft Statement for review of the ARF participants. The drafts Statement and the Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appear as **ANNEXES 30-31**.

#### **8.1.19 ARF Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management, Honolulu, 22-23 March 2016**

34. The Meeting noted the outcomes of ARF the Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management, co-chaired by Indonesia and the United States. The Workshop discussed on prevention and elimination of the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through cooperation on sustainable fisheries and strong domestic and international cooperation and coordination. This includes strong domestic legal frameworks, surveillance and tracking. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 32**.

#### **8.1.20 ARF Workshop on Green Shipping, Hangzhou, 29-30 March 2016**

35. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Workshop on Green Shipping, co-chaired by Malaysia and China. The Workshop discussed relevant regulations, technologies to greenhouse gas emission and agreed that all parties including the government, public and private enterprises, researchers and other organisations should make joint efforts for energy efficiency of shipping through technology and funding allocation to necessary projects. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 33**.

### **8.2 Updates on the Preparation for ARF Meetings and Activities in the Inter-Sessional Year 2015-2016**

#### **8.2.1 8<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD), Putrajaya, 19-20 April 2016**

36. The Meeting noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD will be held in Putrajaya on 19 – 20 April 2016 and focus on non-proliferation and disarmament as well as peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The invitation package, which appears as **ANNEX 34**, has already been circulated to all ARF participants.

#### **8.2.2 ARF Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Bali, 20-21 April 2016**

37. The Meeting noted that this activity would be the follow-up to the ARF Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management held in Honolulu on 22-23 March 2016. The Workshop aims to identify common regional needs, capacity building initiatives as well as practical forms of cooperation among agencies dealing with IUU fishing. Relevant agencies are encouraged to attend the Workshop. The invitation package, which appears as **ANNEX 35**, has been circulated to all ARF participants.

### **8.2.3 ARF Workshop on Maritime Single National Points of Contact, Cebu, 28-29 April 2016**

38. The Meeting was updated by the Philippines on the preparation for the Workshop, which would focus on establishment of regional norms and practices on cross border security management, working level cooperation, and future frameworks on cooperation in maritime security, including maritime single national points of contact. Invitation package, which appears as **ANNEX 36**, has been circulated to all ARF participants.

### **8.2.4 ARF Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management, Bangkok, 31 May - 1 June 2016**

39. The Meeting was updated on the preparations for the Workshop, which will be an implementation of the ARF Work Plan on DR. It would look into the issues of capacity building to further explore stakeholders' initiative, coordination between governments and stakeholders as well as potential involvement of private sector. The invitation package would be circulated in due course.

### **8.2.5 ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue, Shanghai, May 2016**

40. The Meeting noted that the Workshop has been rescheduled to 10-14 July 2016. The Workshop would feature a joint exercise led by search and rescue (SAR) team. The invitation for the Workshop would be circulated in due course. The ARF participants were encouraged to send representatives from their respective national SAR team to this Workshop.

### **8.2.6 ARF Capacity Building Workshop on Ship Profiling, Malaysia, May 2016**

41. The Meeting was updated on the preparation for the Workshop, which would be held in Kuala Lumpur on 24-25 May 2016. The Workshop would discuss various issues under this matter including customs, insurance, security and environmental protection, with a focus on improving regional capacity and furthering best practice guidelines. The invitation for this Workshop will be circulated to all ARF participants in due course.

### **8.2.7 ARF Workshop on Maritime Security, Kuala Lumpur**

42. The Meeting was updated on the preparation for the Workshop. The invitation package of this Workshop would be circulated to all ARF participants in due course.

### **8.2.8 Workshop on Concept Development of the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC)**

43. The Meeting was updated that the Workshop would be tentatively held in August 2016. The Meeting agreed to include this Workshop as a carried forward activity to be implemented in the inter-sessional year 2016 – 2017 for adoption of the Ministers at the 23<sup>th</sup> ARF.

### **8.2.9 ARF Workshop on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)**

44. The Meeting was updated that the Workshop is rescheduled to be held in the

next inter-sessional year. The Workshop would focus on the comprehensive and holistic approach in TIP as well as other relevant organised crimes such as document forgery.

### **8.3 Consideration of CBMs and PD Initiatives**

#### **8.3.1 ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies**

45. The Meeting was briefed by Japan on its draft concept paper on the establishment of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on ICTs which appears as **ANNEX 37**. The briefing emphasised that the increased importance of cyber security and the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs prompted the necessity for a formalised implementation mechanism.

46. The Meeting noted that ASEAN had an initial discussion on this proposal and viewed that the issue of ICTs is one of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC priority areas (Priority Area 3) and therefore the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs should be implemented under the auspices of the ARF ISM on CTTC. Furthermore, in view of the process of streamlining ASEAN meetings, new proposals for a new mechanism should take this into account. As a matter of procedure, the proposal to establish a new mechanism should first be discussed through the proper channels, i.e. in the ARF ISM on CTTC, prior to its submission to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD before subsequent submission to the ARF SOM and the ARF Ministers.

47. The ARF participants share divergent views. Some expressed their support for the proposal to establish the ARF ISM on ICTs with the view that the ISM on ICTs would allow for the establishment of a study group on confidence-building measures (CBMs) in cyber security, proposed under the ARF Work Plan on the Security of and in the Use of ICTs (Work Plan on ICTs), to be further examined. Others were of the view that the establishment of the new ARF ISM on ICTs is not specifically prescribed in the ARF Work Plan for ICTs and would not directly correspond with the proposed activities outlined in the Work Plan.

48. The Meeting clarified that the establishment of the ARF ISM on ICTs would not require a review of the Work Plan on ICTs. It was that ARF participants could consider the possibility of merging the ARF ISM on CTTC and the proposed ARF ISM on ICTs. Some ARF participants added that the proposed ARF ISM on ICTs would bring to the table a different set of experts from those of the ARF ISM on CTTC, which would allow the ARF to maintain its relevance to evolving regional developments. The Meeting discussed the query on the new areas that to be covered by the proposed ARF ISM on ICTs as opposed to what was already covered under the existing ARF ISM on CTTC and the concerns by some ARF participants over the slow implementation of the ARF Work Plan on ICTs.

49. The Meeting concluded that more time was required to review and consult with relevant agencies on the proposal at the national level. Furthermore, the Meeting emphasised the need to build consensus through further discussion at various levels rather than to immediately seek to implement this new proposal.

### **8.3.2 Draft ARF Statement on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals**

50. The Meeting was briefed on the background of the draft Statement, proposed by China as one of the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals in Guangzhou on 8 – 10 March 2016. The Meeting took note of the support of the ARF participants and the request for more time to review the draft Statement. The revised draft Statement would be circulated to the ARF participants in the week after the Meeting. The draft ARF Statement appears as **ANNEX 38**.

### **8.3.3 Draft ARF Statement to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing**

51. The Meeting took note of the draft Statement to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing which appears as **ANNEX 39**, proposed by Indonesia, United States and Timor Leste. The ARF participants were encouraged to provide comments on the draft Statement to the proponents by 15 April 2016. The draft would be further discussed at the ARF Workshop on IUU Fishing in Bali on 20 – 21 April 2016.

### **8.3.4 Draft ARF Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies**

52. The Meeting was briefed by Viet Nam on the draft ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies, proposed by Viet Nam. Viet Nam explained that the proposed Statement would implement one of the action lines of the ARF Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement and be in line with the ongoing works of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security's implementation. The ARF participants were encouraged to provide inputs and comments to Viet Nam by 25 April 2016. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 40**.

### **8.3.5 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Workshop on Preventing Violent Extremism**

53. The Meeting noted the draft Concept Paper on the ARF Workshop on Preventing Violent Extremism, proposed by the Philippines and the European Union which was discussed at ISM on CTTC. The ASEAN Member States were invited to co-chair the Workshop. The Workshop would be tentatively held in Brussels in the first quarter of 2017. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 41**.

### **8.3.6 Draft Concept Note on ARF Workshop on Medium-to-Long-Term Support for Victims of Terrorism**

54. The Meeting noted the draft Concept Note on ARF Workshop on Medium-to-Long-Term Support for Victims of Terrorism, proposed by the United States. The proposed Workshop would be built upon the ARF Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism and Other Mass Casualty Events in Manila on 22-23 September 2015. The United States encouraged the ASEAN Member States to take the role as the co-chair for this activity. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 42**.

### **8.3.7 Draft Concept Note on ARF Workshop on Raising Awareness and Promoting Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation**

55. The Meeting took note of the draft Concept Paper on the ARF Workshop on Raising Awareness and Promoting Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation, proposed by the United States. The ASEAN Member States were invited to co-chair the Workshop with the United States. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 43**.

### **8.3.8 4<sup>th</sup> ARF Workshop on Space Security**

56. The Meeting took note of the draft Concept Paper on the 4<sup>th</sup> ARF Workshop on Space Security, proposed by Singapore and the United States. The Workshop would be a follow-on to the previous series of Workshops on this issue. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 44**.

### **8.3.9 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Directory of Cyber Points of Contact**

57. The Meeting took note of the draft Concept Paper on the ARF Directory of Cyber Points of Contact, proposed by Malaysia and Australia. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 45**.

58. Some participants recalled that one of the proposed activities of the ARF Work Plan on the Security of and in the Use of ICTs was to establish a study group on the CBMs on cyber security. As outlined in the Work Plan, the proposed study group should also develop a network among experts on cyber security. Several ARF participants viewed that the establishment of the directory of cyber points of contacts does not correlate with this proposed study group. Some others viewed that the proposed ARF directory of cyber points of contact was a practical measure recommended at several past ARF workshops on the issue of cyber security, its development would not impede the establishment of the study group as outlined in the Work Plan and both initiatives could be implemented in parallel. The Meeting concluded with a suggestion that concerned participants continue consultations at the experts' level with the proponents of this initiative to find an agreeable solution.

### **8.3.10 Draft Concept Paper on ARF seminar on Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation and Early Warning Systems**

59. The Meeting took note of the draft Concept Paper on the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation and Early Warning System, proposed by the European Union, which would build upon the previous ARF activities on this subject. The ASEAN Member States were invited to co-chair the proposed Seminar with the European Union. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 46**.

### **8.3.11 Draft Concept Paper on the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues**

60. The Meeting took note of the draft Concept Paper on the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues, proposed by China. The proposed Seminar would explore the possibility of preventive diplomacy in addressing non-traditional security issue. The ASEAN Member States were invited to co-chair the proposed Seminar. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 47**.

### **8.3.12 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Training Program on Disaster Loss Assessment and Reconstruction**

61. China informed the Meeting that the ARF Work Plan on DR has identified this issue as priority and China would convene the Training in the first half of 2017 with a view to enhancing participants' capacity building. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 48**.

### **8.3.13 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Workshop on Management of Marine Hazards in the Asia-Pacific**

62. The Meeting noted that the Workshop would entail up-to-date progress on the management of marine hazards including the accuracy of their forecasting and monitoring. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 49**.

### **8.3.14 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy in a Post-conflict Environment**

63. The Meeting took note of the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy in a Post-Conflict Environment, proposed by New Zealand and Timor Leste. The proposed Workshop would be held in the first half of 2017. The ASEAN Member States were invited to co-chair the Workshop with New Zealand and Timor Leste. The Workshop would study measures to ensure peace and reconciliation in a post-conflict environment is sustainable, including the role of peace support operations and community engagement. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 50**.

### **8.3.15 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Workshop on National Earthquake Disaster Response and USAR Capacity Building**

64. The Meeting took note of the draft the ARF Workshop on National Earthquake Disaster Response and USAR Capacity-Building, proposed by China. The proposed Workshop would be held in the first half of 2017. A one-day visit would be organised in an earthquake disaster management agency. China invited the ASEAN Member States and possibly another non-ASEAN ARF participant to co-chair the Workshop. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 51**.

### **8.3.16 Draft Concept Paper on ARF Workshop on Legislative and Non-Legislative Challenges to Countering on-line Extremist Messaging**

65. The Meeting took note of the ARF Workshop on Legislative and Non-Legislative Online Extremist Messaging, proposed by Australia. The proposed Workshop would provide a platform for policy makers in the government to identify best practices on this issue. The Meeting invited the ASEAN Member States to co-chair the Workshop with Australia. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 52**.

### **8.3.17 ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety Navigation Instrument**

The Meeting took note of the draft Concept Paper on the ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments, proposed by the Philippines. The ARF participants were invited to co-chair the Workshop. The draft Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 53**.

## **8.4 Co-Chairs of ARF Meetings and Activities for the Next Inter-Sessional Year**

### **8.4.1 ARF ISG on CBMs and PD**

66. The Meeting welcomed the Philippines as the next ASEAN Co-Chair of the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and invited non-ASEAN ARF participants as Co-Chair.

### **8.4.2 15th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

67. The Meeting noted Indonesia's consideration as the ASEAN Co-Chair and host of the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC. The Meeting noted India's interest to co-chair the meeting.

### **8.4.3 16th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief**

68. The Meeting welcomed the Republic of Korea as the non-ASEAN Co-Chair of the 16<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR and encouraged the ASEAN Member States to co-chair the meeting.

### **8.4.4 11th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting**

69. The Meeting welcomed Viet Nam and Australia as Co-Chairs of the 11<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting, which would be held in Canberra in March 2017.

### **8.4.5 20th ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM)**

70. The Meeting welcomed India to chair the 20<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCIM in October 2016 and encouraged the ASEAN Member States to be the Vice Chair.

### **8.4.6 ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2017**

71. The Meeting encouraged the ARF participants to co-chair the ARF DiREx 2017.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARF WORK PLANS**

### **9.1 ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy**

72. India briefed the Meeting on the progress of the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy. The briefing recognised the outcomes of the ARF seminars and trainings on preventive diplomacy conducted since 2014. Overall, the Meeting viewed that the ARF has gained momentum in moving forward in preventive diplomacy and it would continue with upcoming activities on preventive diplomacy in the next inter-sessional year.

### **9.2 ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017**

73. The Meeting noted the review of the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism

and Transnational Crime at the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC in Siem Reap on 21 – 22 March 2016.

74. The Meeting welcomed Australia as the new co-lead country in the implementation of priority area no. 4 on counter-radicalisation, succeeding Japan.

### **9.3 ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament**

75. The Meeting noted that Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand are currently updating the Work Plan, which would be further discussed at the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD in Putrajaya on 19-20 April 2016.

### **9.4 ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017**

76. The Meeting noted that four new proposals in line with the implementation of the Work Plan have been submitted for consideration of the ARF and implementation in the next inter-sessional year 2016 – 2017. In the meantime, the ARF ISM on MS Co-Chairs have been deliberating on ways to move forward to implement the Work Plan beyond 2017.

77. The Meeting welcomed Viet Nam's interest to co-chair the next cycle of the ARF ISM on MS.

### **9.5 ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017**

78. The Meeting was encouraged to co-lead priority areas no. 1 on promote networking and information sharing to enhance the capacity of the ARF participants for disaster risk reduction and disaster response, particularly in the areas of risk assessment, monitoring, early warning and reconstruction and no. 2 on promote international cooperation and assistance in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations, of the Work Plan.

79. The Meeting welcomed China to co-lead priority area no. 1 and invited the ASEAN Member States to co-lead with China.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: REPORT OF THE ARF DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE**

80. The Meeting noted the Report of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) which was held on Monday, 11 April 2016, in parallel with the first day of the ISG on CBMs and PD. The Dialogue discussed two issues, namely, 1) the armed forces and marine sustainable economic development and 2) countering violent extremism. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 54**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

81. The Meeting observed that regional and international situations have been undergoing significant changes involving traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The Meeting recognised the increasing international endeavour to tackle these challenges. The Meeting also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015.

82. The Meeting reaffirmed that the ARF has contributed significantly to promotion of confidence and trust among countries in the region and at large. As the primary forum for constructive dialogue for political and security issues of common concerns, the ARF allows candid and frank discussion to enhance mutual understanding and promote peace and security in the region. The Meeting exchanged views on the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula. Most ARF participants expressed grave concerns on the nuclear test on 6 January 2016, the missile launch on 7 February and the subsequent ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which are in violation of the relevant UNSC resolutions. The Meeting called for full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2270 by the DPRK and for all parties to implement all obligations under this Resolution. In this regard, several participants strongly urged the DPRK to refrain from further provocations and to abandon all its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. Several participants underlined the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the issues of abduction and family reunion. One ARF participant proposed the replacement of Armistice Agreement with Peace Pact and expressed its view that its nuclear development is for self-defense. Some other ARF participants emphasized the importance of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as the top priority. Some participants expressed support for the Republic of Korea's initiatives aimed at promoting trust-building and laying the groundwork for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting also noted supports to the commitment expressed by China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to continuing efforts to resume the meaningful Six-Party Talks to make substantial progress in denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, at the Trilateral Summit in November 2015.

83. The Meeting took note of the constructive works including Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) that aims to promote a habit of dialogue and cooperation in Northeast Asia, noting that this initiative would contribute to the development of the ARF process by advancing multilateral cooperation in the region.

84. The Meeting recognised the increasing importance of maritime connectivity, which warrants countries to maintain freedom of navigation and overflight. On the South China Sea, it was emphasised that disputes be resolved through peaceful means without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. There were also views that territorial and jurisdictional disputes shall be resolved through friendly consultations and negotiations by parties directly concerned. Some participants commented on the land reclamations and military activities in the South China Sea and urged all parties to exercise self-restraint and refrain from unilateral actions that could increase tensions. Some participants emphasized the importance of full respect for legal and diplomatic process. There were views that all parties should respect and support the endeavor of the parties concerned to solve related disputes on basis of mutual consent and consensus. The Meeting also noted the suggestion by one participant to apply the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) in the context of ASEAN Member States and China. The Meeting stressed the importance of full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and welcomed and expressed supports to the ongoing negotiation process among

ASEAN Member States and China towards the early conclusion of a code of conduct. Few participants referred to the G-7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security, issued in Hiroshima on 11 April 2016.

85. The rise of terrorism and extremism has raised serious concerns among the countries in the region. Threats posed by returning foreign fighters and the expansion of ISIS' influence required cooperation among police and experts on counter-radicalisation. A long-term solution to curb the rise of extremism by ending the wars in Syria and Iraq, through joint efforts to promote counter-terrorism capabilities was suggested. In this context, some ARF participants called for a solution to internally displaced people in Iraq, a situation which has been deteriorating over time. The Meeting noted the recent contributions of several ARF participants through military deployments in support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Syria and Iraq. In the Southeast Asian region, the Meeting welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Digital Counter Messaging Centre in Malaysia this year.

86. The Meeting reaffirmed its support for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the Middle East through direct talks between concerned parties. Concerns were expressed over security developments and the illicit trafficking of drugs in Afghanistan.

87. The Meeting exchanged views on maritime related issues, piracy, armed robbery at sea, management of marine resources including marine environmental pollution and reiterated the importance of joint efforts to tackle these issues as well as other non-traditional security issues such as climate change, IUU fishing, natural disasters and cyber security.

88. The Meeting expressed its condolences to the Government of India and the victims of the recent fire disaster in a temple in Kollam, Kerala, India.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS**

### **12.1 ARF Annual Security Outlook**

89. Lao PDR informed the Meeting on the preparation for the 2016 ARF Annual Security Outlook (ARF ASO) which they aim to issue at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ARF in Vientiane. In this regard, all ARF participants are encouraged to provide their contribution to the 2016 ARF ASO by 30 May 2016.

### **12.2 Dates and Venue of the ARF SOM**

90. The Meeting was briefed on the preparations for the ARF SOM in Luang Prabang on 8 May 2016. The invitation package for the Meeting has been circulated to the ARF participants and the draft Provisional Agenda of the ARF SOM would be circulated in due course.

## **AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS**

91. Mr. Chatoulong Bouasisavath expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to the Indian Co-Chair for the cooperation in co-chairing the Meeting

and the excellent arrangements that have contributed to the success of the Meeting. He also thanked all ARF participants for the contribution and productive outcomes of the Meeting.

92. Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill expressed gratitude to the ARF participants for the continued supports and the rich and substantive discussion throughout the Meeting. He appreciated the candid and respective exchanges of views with a high degree of professionalism by the ARF participants. He believed that the outcomes of the discussion would feed to the upcoming ARF SOM in Luang Prabang in May 2016. He wished a happy New Year for colleagues who celebrate this festival.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

93. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the candid and fruitful discussion. The Meeting commended the effective co-chairmanship by Lao PDR and India, which contributed to the success of the Meeting. The Meeting extended their gratitude for the Government of the Republic of India for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

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