



**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON NON-  
PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT**  
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 5-6 April 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ARF ISM on NPD) was held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 5-6 April 2018. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sang-Beom Lim, Director-General for Non-proliferation and Nuclear Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK, Ms. Grata Werdaningtyas, Director of International Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, and Mr. Akihiro Tsuji, Director of International Nuclear Energy Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

2. The Meeting was attended by all ARF Participants except Bangladesh, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and the Financial Action Task Force Training and Research Institute (FATF TREIN) were also in attendance. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 1** and the Agenda appears as **ANNEX 2**.

**OPENING REMARKS** In her opening remarks, H.E. Oh Youngju, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, highlighted the alarming trends in non-proliferation and disarmament including the deteriorating security environment, strategic instability, and rising risk of misperception and miscalculation. H.E. Oh emphasized that looking the 2020 NPT Review Conference the international community should focus more on common grounds than disagreement. In this sense, she stressed that the ARF should serve as a building block for progress in broader nonproliferation cooperation. H.E. Oh also briefed on how the ROK government made efforts to improve inter-Korean relations as a good example of creative diplomacy.

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Tsuji underlined the ARF as an important venue to discuss non-proliferation and disarmament issues in the Asia Pacific region and recalled the significance of the NPT as a cornerstone for both Nuclear Weapon

States (NWS) and Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS). In this connection, Mr. Tsuji expressed a hope that the Meeting would provide added values to the discussion on the three pillars of the NPT (i.e. disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear technology, in particular with the preparation of the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference scheduled in Geneva at the end of April 2018).

4. In her opening remarks, Ms. Werdaningtyas underlined that despite the continued occurrence of vertical and horizontal proliferation, the international community recognized the importance of disarmament efforts that is universal and non-discriminatory, as well as continued the promotion of inalienable rights of all countries to pursue the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Ms. Werdaningtyas also expressed a hope that the NWS and State Parties to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) can work constructively to ensure early accession of the NWS to the Protocol of the Treaty, as mandated by the ARF Hanoi Plan of Action.

## **SESSION 1: OVERVIEW OF DISARMAMENT AND PROLIFERATION THREATS IN THE REGION**

5. While noting that the Asia-Pacific region remains relatively secure and stable, the Meeting expressed expectations for both peaceful solution of North Korean nuclear issue as well as concerns over the threats posed by nuclear and missile program of North Korea. The Meeting expressed a hope that the recent political and diplomatic developments such as the visit of Special Envoy of the ROK to Pyongyang in March 2018 would contribute to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. With regard to the upcoming Summit between the ROK and the DPRK scheduled to be held on 27 April 2018 and the Meeting between the Leader of DPRK and the President of the United States scheduled in May 2018, the Meeting noted that both events are expected to provide a venue for relevant parties to discuss possible measures to reach a peaceful solution and the denuclearization of North Korea.

6. The Meeting discussed the latest development of the Iranian nuclear programme and took note of the reports and the ongoing monitoring and verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Meeting noted that the JCPOA and voluntary application of Additional Protocol of IAEA Safeguards Agreement have provided wider access to information and location of the programme, hence increasing the ability to verify the peaceful use of all nuclear materials in Iran. To

ensure the sustainability of the JCPOA, the Meeting encouraged the ARF Participants to consider providing financial contribution to the IAEA.

## **SESSION 2: NPT REVIEW PROCESS AND DISARMAMENT**

7. The Meeting exchanged views on the current regimes of non-proliferation and disarmament and called all States Parties to the NPT to comply and implement Article 6 of the Treaty, which envisages the need to prevent arms races and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls. The Meeting also elaborated on other NPD regimes and noted the following points:

- a. Canada delivered a presentation on the recent progress of the High-Level Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) Expert Preparatory Group, which was tasked to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of a future treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; FMCT would complement other instruments and serve as a meaningful step toward non-proliferation and disarmament.
- b. The United States shared its views on the state of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which the United States viewed to be inconsistent with the current NPT framework and could potentially hinder future cooperative military relationships with NWS. The Meeting further noted that the Treaty contains several ambiguous texts (e.g. Article 18 which suggests that there is a hierarchy among regimes in non-proliferation and disarmament). Some Participants had differing views and regarded the Treaty to be beneficial for States Parties to the NPT, as the Treaty lifts the minimum baseline for safeguards to the signatory States of the Additional Protocol of the Treaty.
- c. The European Union shared its views on the current progress of the CTBT, which has yet to come into effect as some countries have yet to sign and ratify the document. To ensure compliance to the Treaty, the Meeting also noted the necessity to establish a verification regime which consists of an International Monitoring System (IMS), consultation and clarification mechanisms, on-site inspections and confidence-building measures activities;

8. The Meeting noted the opinion of the majority of participants on the slow progress of disarmament efforts and expressed concern on the lack of political will among NWS to comply with Article 6 of the NPT. The Meeting took note some views that voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing and reduction in nuclear materials production will contribute to long-term disarmament measures and on the efforts

toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The presentation of Canada, the United States and the European Union appear as **ANNEX 3,4, and 5**, respectively.

9. The Meeting noted the presentation of CSCAP on the outcome of the Study Group on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Asia Pacific held in Hanoi in October 2017 and prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD on 3 April 2018, which appears as **ANNEX 6 and 7**. The Meeting took note of the view that international organizations (e.g. the IAEA and the Organisation for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW)) provide capacity-building measures for States to strengthen their disarmament efforts through practical activities such as workshops and technical assistance, which are carried out in non-interference basis. The Meeting also noted the CSCAP's suggestion to engage Track 1.5 participants in the discussion of activities under the ARF Work Plan on NPD.

10. The Meeting also took note of the CSCAP's recommendations which are highlighted in the following points:

- a. Taking into consideration that the CTBT has yet to enter into force, there are several capacity building recommendations that can be undertaken by States, among others, through technical initiatives to strengthen global nuclear explosion monitoring i.e. improving data collection, expanding data analysis, and providing civil-scientific application of data;
- b. For States to move forward with the Nuclear Ban Treaty and to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons through verifiable dismantlement, several steps could be taken into consideration, namely: (i) restraining the role of the weapons in which their values will be diminished; (ii) to restrain the number of targets that the weapons would be used for, through negative security assurances between NWS and NNWS; (iii) for the NWS to accept and commit to the "no first use" agreement as applied by China and India; (iv) to formalise low-alert levels among NWS to avoid miscalculation and reduce capacity in responding toward potential threats; and (v) to prohibit the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
- c. Noting that there are differences between "deterrence communities" and "disarmament communities", the Meeting underlined the possible measures to reduce the gaps, including through the establishment of a reconciliatory framework that could encourage NWS to agree to move toward disarmament and for NNWS to never develop nuclear weapon, as well as the reestablishment of dialogues and engagements between the two communities which focus on verification and monitoring mechanism.

### **SESSION 3: WMD THREAT REDUCTION AND COUNTER-PROLIFERATION**

11. The Meeting noted the recommendations of the FATF TREIN in promoting international standards for combating money laundering and the financing of weapons proliferations as mandated by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), through practical measures such as freezing of funds and assets of the alleged perpetrators without delay, and preventing funds and assets from becoming available to the designated persons. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

12. The Meeting took note of the ongoing efforts of the Australia Group (AG), which is an informal forum consisting of 43 State participants and aimed to harmonise the export controls of AG countries to ensure their exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons. The Meeting also took note of AG's objectives to support UN Member States to meet their international obligations reiterated under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the UNSCR 1540. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

13. China briefed the Meeting on its current non-proliferation efforts, comprising three pillars, namely: (i) implementation of conventions and treaties related to NPD, as well as to comply to UNSCRs; (ii) adoption of national legislation on non-proliferation and strengthening export control; and (iii) enhancing international cooperation and increasing its contribution in facilitating capacity-building programmes intra-agencies and to other countries in the region. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

14. The Meeting underscored the objectives of the UNSCR 1540 in preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their means of delivery and related materials to non-state actors, and highlighted the continued efforts of the Proliferation Security Initiatives (PSI) that have been carried out among several ARF Participants through dialogues, exercises, and interdiction of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials.

### **SESSION 4: PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY**

15. The Meeting noted the presentation from the United States on its contribution to nuclear science, which is guided by the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiatives (PUI). The Meeting further noted the United States' contribution to the PUI in the amount of USD 84 millions since its establishment in 2010, which were allocated to, among

others, the renovation of IAEA's nuclear application labs and developing uranium resources. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

16. Thailand briefed the Meeting on its nuclear science programmes and technologies which aimed to improve the quality of life through effective use of radiation technology. The Meeting also took note of the ASEAN Large Nuclear and Synchrotron Facility Network (LNSN), which is the ASEAN platform for the utilisation of nuclear facilities to enhance the competitiveness of academics and nuclear industries. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 12**.

17. Singapore briefed the Meeting on its experience and regional cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which comprises the following measures: (i) technical cooperation with the IAEA; (ii) Enhanced Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) MOU; and (iii) conducting activities through the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). The Meeting took note of the current development of ASEANTOM, which is an ASEAN Sectoral Body reporting to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and is currently in the process of developing a five-year work plan. The Meeting further noted that ASEANTOM is currently engaging with the IAEA. Singapore's presentation appears as **ANNEX 13**.

18. The Meeting noted Indonesia's efforts into strengthening nuclear security infrastructure, *inter alia*, through fuel conversion from high enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) through the installation of radiation portal monitors in its main ports, and the establishment of I-CoNSEP as a center of excellence in nuclear security and emergency preparedness.

19. The Meeting also exchanged views on the efforts that have been carried out by ARF Participants in developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy and noted the close connection between nuclear energy and the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to the peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The Meeting further noted the possible areas for the implementation of peaceful nuclear applications which include tsunami warning and prevention, health, food processing and agriculture, marine and ocean environment, water resources management, as well as the establishment of gamma irradiator facilities, and underlined the importance of making these initiatives accessible to all states through cooperation and financial assistance.

## **SESSION 5: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND FUTURE WORKS**

20. New Zealand briefed the Meeting on an overview of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which aimed to address the humanitarian consequences

and unacceptable harm caused to civilians by cluster munitions, through categorical prohibition and a framework for action. The Meeting noted the main provisions of CCBM, which includes: (i) ban on production, stockpiling, transfer and retention of cluster munitions; (ii) destroying stockpiles within 8 years; (iii) clearing areas contaminated by cluster munitions; (iv) providing care and support to victims; (v) providing assistance as well as transparency reporting. The Meeting further noted that currently there are 103 State Parties to the Convention and 17 signatory countries who have yet to ratify the convention. New Zealand's presentation appears as **ANNEX 14**.

21. The Meeting expressed concerns over the repeated use of chemical weapons in different parts of the world, which constitutes violation against the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Meeting also condemned the incidents involving the use of toxic agent in Khan Shaykhun, Syria in April 2017, Kuala Lumpur international Airport in February 2017 and in Salisbury, United Kingdom in March 2018. Regarding other forms of weapons, the Meeting noted the role of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) in promoting awareness to remove Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) in the region. The Meeting also took note of the discussion carried out by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) in Geneva in 2017 on examining emerging technologies in the area of LAWS from various angles, including its scope and definitions, as well as from technological, military, ethical and legal dimensions. The Meeting was updated that the upcoming Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4) of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will be held in Tokyo, on 20-24 August 2018.

22. With regard to the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (WP on NPD), the Meeting took note of Russia's query regarding the inclusion of the topic for future work under Priority Area 3, i.e. exchange of views on ballistic missile development and testing issues, which was included in the Work Plan upon the consensus of all ARF Participants at the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD held in 2016.

23. On a query of the way forward with the Work Plan, ASEAN Secretariat shared with the Meeting that the ARF Work Plan on NPD adopted by the ARF Ministers in 2012 is a living document which could be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary. Further to this, the Co-Chairs requested that further inputs and comments to the Work Plan, if any, be submitted to the Co-Chairs by 18 April 2018. The Meeting also took note that the outcomes of the Meeting will be shared with the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD) in May 2018 and reported to the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and subsequently to the ARF Ministerial Meeting this year.

24. The Meeting took note of China's proposal to convene an ARF High-Level Symposium on Nuclear Security Capability Building for the inter-sessional year 2018-2019, which aims to provide a platform for ARF experts to share experiences and best practices on nuclear security management and technology development, as well as to seek appropriate approaches to promote nuclear security cooperation.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

25. The Co-Chairs provided a summary of the Meeting and thanked the Participants for their active contribution to the discussion and to the Government of ROK for the hospitality and excellent arrangements. The Meeting took note that the 11<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD will be held in Indonesia.

## ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

26. Issues arising from the Meeting that need to be followed up are:

No	Key Decisions/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	ARF Participants to provide further inputs to the draft updated ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament	18 April 2018	Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on NPD for the 2018-2020 cycle (Indonesia, Japan, ROK) and ARF Participants
2.	To identify the ASEAN Co-Chair for the new proposed activity	Prior to the 25 <sup>th</sup> ARF, August 2018	Proponent and ARF Participants
3.	To submit concept notes of new activities for comments/inputs	Prior to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD, May 2018	Proponent of the Activities

