



Turning Vision into Reality  
for a Dynamic ASEAN Community

LAOS 2016

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM **ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2016**







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# FOREWORD



Since its inception in 1994 as a primary forum for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific region, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), has attained important achievements that have significantly contributed to the enhancement of mutual understanding, trust and confidence as well as to the maintenance and promotion of peace, security and cooperation in the region.

The publication and distribution of the ARF Annual Security Outlook since 2000 has been a useful non-classified document that has made an important contribution to the achievements of the ARF over the past 23 years.

It is my great pleasure and honour, as Chairman of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ARF, to present the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) 2016, comprising contributions from 18 ARF participants. I am confident that the ARF ASO 2016, which is the 17<sup>th</sup> volume of the ARF ASO, will serve as a useful document in promoting understanding, confidence and transparency among the ARF participants, thereby contributing to further strengthening and moving the ARF forward at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants for the common cause of maintaining and promoting peace, stability and cooperation for development in the region and the world at large.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to ARF participants for their support and contributions to the publication of this ARF ASO 2016 under Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship.

**Saleumxay KOMMASITH**  
Chairman of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR

Vientiane, Lao PDR  
26 July 2016



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Annual Security Outlook 2016 combines submissions from 18 ARF participants, providing their respective overview of the regional security environment as well as their contributions, at national, regional and international levels, to the common efforts of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region and wider region.

The submissions broadly viewed that amidst the changing political and economic landscape in the region and the world, the Asia Pacific, in general, while enjoying a peaceful and stable environment and continued economic growth, has also been facing with multifaceted traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as natural disasters, pandemic diseases, climate change, trafficking in person, terrorism, cyber security, space security, maritime security, disarmament and non-proliferation, and unresolved territorial disputes, among others. In this regard, the submissions highlighted the importance of strengthened cooperation to respond to the

challenges of common interest and concern more effectively.

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the ARF to confidence building, and mutual understanding as well as the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and development in the region, and amidst the evolving regional security architecture, the submissions emphasized the importance of ensuring the relevance of the ARF and greater synergy among the ARF and other ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

While welcoming the advancement of the ARF process towards the phase of Preventive Diplomacy in parallel with the strengthening of confidence building measures, the submissions affirmed the commitment of respective ARF participants to the ARF process as a primary forum for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues of common interest and concern in Asia Pacific.





# AUSTRALIA



## **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

### **Introduction**

The best environment for a prosperous and peaceful Indo-Pacific region is one that supports a rules-based order, strategic stability, open societies and economies, and economic integration. Currently the region faces evolving security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional. These include maritime territorial disputes; changing power dynamics; security threats posed by terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters; piracy; natural disasters; and human pandemics.

Constructive and forward-looking bilateral relations, particularly among major powers, are fundamental to addressing these challenges. A strong and consistent US presence in the region will continue to be important in underpinning the region's strategic stability. The United States continues to be Australia's most important strategic partner through our long-standing alliance.

The geopolitical shifts in the region will place more weight on regional institutions. Such bodies can help manage tensions, set the norms of acceptable strategic behaviour, and create and maintain a stable and resilient regional order. Australia appreciates ASEAN's leadership in establishing our existing regional frameworks. ASEAN-centred institutions continue to play a key role in building trust and habits of

cooperation amongst countries in the region.

### **Countering Violent Extremism**

Australia is committed to a regional and international approach to meet the shared challenges of violent extremism. We are working with ARF members, and through ARF mechanisms and multilateral forums such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), to strengthen regional capacity to prevent and respond to violent extremism. In partnership with Indonesia, we continue to support the GCTF's work on the management and custody of terrorist detainees in prisons. As part of our contribution to the ARF work program on counter-terrorism and transnational crime, later in 2016 or early 2017, we will host a workshop on countering online radicalisation. The workshop underscores Australia's strong view that governments need to contest the social media space which is currently being used by terrorist groups such as Daesh to spread terrorism. We are progressing the delivery of outcomes from Australia's 2015 Regional Summit to Counter Violent Extremism, which are focused on building regional capacity to prevent radicalisation and to counter extremist messaging.

### **South China Sea**

Australia has a legitimate interest in the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, unimpeded trade and freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea.



Australia does not take sides on competing territorial claims in the South China Sea, but also does not accept the assertion of maritime rights that are not in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Australia strongly opposes the use of intimidation, aggression or coercion to advance any country's territorial claims or unilaterally alter the status quo. We call on all claimants to exercise self-restraint and halt land reclamation, construction and militarisation. We urge all claimants to take steps to ease tensions and refrain from provocative actions that could escalate instability and uncertainty in the region.

In accordance with international law, Australia supports the right of all states to freedom of navigation and overflight, including in the South China Sea. We call on governments to clarify and pursue territorial claims and accompanying maritime rights and to resolve disputes peacefully in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS.

### **Korean Peninsula**

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are high and Australia is concerned about the increased provocative and dangerous conduct of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2016. The DPRK continues to contravene United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions by developing and proliferating weapons of mass destruction, posing a direct threat to international peace and security. This was highlighted by its fourth nuclear test on 6 January 2016 and series of ballistic missile tests which followed its 7 February ballistic rocket launch, all in contravention of relevant UNSC resolutions. Australia unreservedly condemns these provocations. Australia calls on the DPRK

to comply with its international obligations under relevant UNSC resolutions, including UNSC Resolution 2270 agreed on 2 March. The DPRK needs to take sincere and concrete steps to show it is serious about denuclearisation before discussions of a lasting settlement, including the six-party talks, can resume with any prospects for success.

### **Middle East**

The Middle East and North Africa continue to face significant political and security challenges. Local forces, supported by the Global Coalition, are making progress against Daesh in Iraq and Syria, but the organisation retains territory in both countries and the threat posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters and attacks inspired by Daesh ideology remains. Daesh perpetrates appalling human rights abuses against vulnerable groups, including women, children, and religious and ethnic minorities. The broader conflict in Syria also continues to exact a brutal toll on the Syrian population and foment regional instability; we welcome and strongly support United Nations efforts to bring the Syrian parties together in Geneva. The political situation in both Libya and Yemen also remains unstable and has allowed terrorist groups to thrive, further destabilising the region.

Australia welcomed implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran as a positive development in global security. Attention is now focused on Iran to ensure full compliance with all the requirements set out in the agreement and UNSC Resolution 2231, and to prove it is a responsible and constructive global player. Australia remains concerned about tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.



Violent incidents continue in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, underlining the human-cost of the conflict. Australia continues to call for a return to negotiations towards a two-state solution, with Israel and a Palestinian state existing side-by-side in peace and security, within internationally-recognised borders.

## **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

### **a. Overview of national security and defence policy**

Australia's security and defence policy focuses on appropriate domestic policy settings, strong bilateral ties with countries in the region, including our alliance with the United States, and strengthening multilateral cooperation through regional and international forums. Australia's engagement in the region takes a whole-of-government approach, involving a wide range of agencies.

Supporting this approach is Australia's commitment to transparency in strategic planning. In March 2016, Australia released a new Defence White Paper based on a comprehensive review of Australia's strategic environment. The White Paper identifies three Strategic Defence Interests: a secure, resilient Australia; a secure nearer region, encompassing maritime South-East Asia and the South Pacific; and a stable Indo-Pacific region and rules-based global order. The paper underlines Australia's continued commitment to contribute to regional security and defence capacity building. This includes an increased investment in international engagement over the next 20 years. A more active international Defence presence will positively shape our future security environment, help reduce the risk of military confrontation, build interoperability with key partners and improve the coordination of responses to shared international challenges,

including terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

### **b. Data contributions to ARF Arms Register**

Australia's 2015 fiscal year military expenditure, as provided to the United Nations in accordance with UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures Guidelines, is attached for the purpose of this contribution.

## **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

### **a. Countering terrorism**

Terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge for regional and global security. Countering the threat from terrorist groups such as Daesh, al-Nusrah Front and other Al-Qaeda affiliates requires a collective and coordinated response. Australia has taken robust steps to strengthen our counter-terrorism framework and intensify our counter-terrorism cooperation and capacity building with partner countries and international organisations. National action and international cooperation are crucial to countering terrorism. Australia continues to work regionally to assist states implement their obligations under UNSC Resolution 2178 (foreign terrorist fighters). Australia is committed to addressing and to countering the threat from Daesh and those that espouse its terrorist ideology. We are working closely with the Iraqi Government, our allies and our partners and have developed a strategy with military, political and broader counter-terrorism elements to defeat Daesh.

### **b. Maritime Security**

As a maritime nation, Australia is committed to comprehensive maritime security engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.



We work closely with regional partners and through international forums to enhance maritime security and promote habits of cooperation. Australia will utilise our Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) membership to shape and influence the direction of regional civil maritime security by building mutual understanding with counterpart agencies. Through our membership, Australia intends to formally promote and influence greater agency-to-agency cooperation and demonstrate the importance of information sharing to achieve outcomes.

Australia is engaged in the ARF Inter-sessional meeting on maritime security and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on maritime security. As part of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), an initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation amongst the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region, Australia has developed a working group structure to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, information sharing and counter-piracy efforts.

Regional efforts have been effective in reducing the impact of piracy and armed robbery at sea in South-East Asia. The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), of which Australia has been a member since 2013, has supported this work.

Australia participates in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which supports counter-piracy efforts throughout the Indian Ocean, and in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). Australia is soon to be represented on the Technical Groups being developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), specifically the Heroin Trafficking and the Trafficking in Persons

and Migrant Smuggling Groups. The CMF Heroin Trafficking Group representative is a Royal Australian Navy (RAN) officer. The RAN has also been an active member of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) since its inception in 1989, which aims to increase naval cooperation in the Western Pacific among navies by providing a forum for discussion of maritime issues.

Australia aims to remain the principal security partner for Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Pacific Island countries by deepening its security partnerships, including through the Defence Cooperation Program. The most significant element of this program, the Pacific Maritime Security Program, will provide replacement patrol boats to 12 Pacific Island countries from 2018.

### **c. Non-proliferation, counter-proliferation, arms control and disarmament**

Australia is a strong supporter of international arms control regimes. We are committed to preventing WMD proliferation and encourage regional countries to adhere to and implement effectively the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and UNSC Resolution 1540. Australia engages actively with ARF partners on enhancing strategic export control measures mandated by UNSC Resolution 1540, particularly in our role as permanent Chair of the Australia Group.

Nuclear weapons present a particularly difficult challenge. Australia supports the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the absolute bedrock of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. By controlling the spread of nuclear weapons and their related technologies and providing the foundation necessary for all States to work



together on the elimination of nuclear weapons, the NPT enhances both regional and global security. As a member of the IAEA Board of Governors, Australia also actively promotes the development and sharing of the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons is an enduring challenge for our region. The regulation of cross border trade in conventional weapons is essential if illegitimate trade is to be detected, deterred and prevented. Australia is a strong supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and we urge countries in our region that are signatories to move towards ratification and encourage all other countries to consider accession to the ATT. Australia is willing to work with regional countries to help develop national systems for the control of the conventional weapons trade. Australia has been a leading donor in the clearance of unexploded ordnance, risk education and victim assistance and encourages the accession to and implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Cluster Munitions Convention.

#### **d. Transnational Crime**

##### **People Smuggling and Human Trafficking**

Australia works with countries in the Indo-Pacific region to strengthen cooperation in countering people smuggling and human trafficking and to address irregular migration. The 48 members of the Bali Process, which Australia co-chairs with Indonesia, is the leading regional forum for coordinated regional responses and capacity building in tackling these issues. At the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2016 members adopted, for the first time, a

negotiated political declaration, affirming their commitment to countering criminal networks, promoting safe migration pathways, protecting refugees and other vulnerable people and addressing human trafficking and returns issues. Australia is also amplifying its efforts to end human trafficking and slavery in our region under our *International Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery*. Domestically, Australia's policies aim to provide safe and legal migration pathways to those in need and to discourage people from relying on people smugglers. Australia accepts vulnerable refugees through our humanitarian resettlement programme, which is increasing from 13,750 places this year to 18,750 in 2018-19. In addition, Australia is taking 12,000 people who have been displaced by the conflicts in Iraq and Syria and is also providing substantial humanitarian assistance to affected countries.

##### **Organised crime**

The rapid pace of economic growth, enhanced transport links and increased digital connectivity across the Indo-Pacific region have provided significant opportunities, but have also exacerbated the region's vulnerability to organised crime. Organised criminal networks continue to perpetrate a broad range of criminal activities in the region including human trafficking, money laundering, corruption, drug and illicit tobacco trafficking, illegal fishing and wildlife trafficking. The Australian Government continues to work at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels to strengthen regional resilience and our collective capacity to respond to transnational organised crime. This occurs via information-sharing and law enforcement cooperation through the Australian Federal Police international network and the



Department of Immigration and Border Protection, including its operational arm the Australian Border Force, as well as a broad range of training and capacity building programs. Australia's efforts span the prevention, investigation and asset recovery stages of transnational crime cooperation. In the Pacific region, we continue to provide ongoing support for the Pacific Transnational Crime Network, which consists of 19 individual Transnational Crime Units operating across 13 Pacific Island countries.

### **Illicit drugs**

Despite intense law enforcement efforts, illicit drugs remain among the highest value transnational crime commodities produced and trafficked in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia works closely with law enforcement partners in the region to counter narcotics trafficking, including through cooperative transnational investigations, exchanges of information and capacity building activities. For example, Australia provides funding to the UNODC in support of its efforts to combat cross-border trafficking and smuggling, including of illicit drugs, in Southeast Asia. Crystal methamphetamine ('ice') has been identified as posing the highest risk of all illicit drugs for Australian communities. The Australian Government has developed a strategy, supported by an additional A\$298 million, to reduce the harm caused by 'ice' in Australia. This includes initiatives to strengthen law enforcement cooperation to disrupt the flow of 'ice', other amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. For example, in 2015 a joint taskforce between the Australian Federal Police and China's National Narcotics Control Commission (Taskforce Blaze) was established

to focus on investigating syndicates responsible for supply of 'ice' to Australia. We also continue to work cooperatively across the region to counter the illicit trafficking of new psychoactive substances and opium products.

### **Cyber issues**

A priority for Australia in the ARF is to develop practical measures to address unexplained cyber incidents which could lead to conflict. There is a need for measures to address misperception, prevent miscalculation, and facilitate de-escalation. At the same time, there is a need to enhance the region's capacity to manage and respond to cyber incidents, including by developing crisis management arrangements. We are helping build regional mechanisms for effective incident response, crisis management and risk reduction through proposals such as the ARF Directory of Cyber Points of Contact to reduce risk of conflict arising from cyber incidents. As Chair of the Steering Committee of the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT), a critical regional institution for operational cyber security and CERT information sharing and collaboration, Australia is working to enhance effective incident response.

In April 2016, the Prime Minister launched Australia's new Cyber Security Strategy which sets out a new national partnership on cybersecurity between government, business and the research community. The Strategy will also strengthen Australia's cyber defences, improve Australia's capacity to promote internationally an open, free and secure internet, promote growth and innovation, and deliver cyber security skills and knowledge.



### **e. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

A number of large disasters hit the region in 2015 requiring international assistance in support of nationally led responses. Australia's response to the Nepal earthquake included \$20 million in assistance for immediate humanitarian relief, as well as recovery and reconstruction activities. During the Myanmar flood response Australia provided 1000 family kits from prepositioned relief supplies in the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia. The Australian Defence Force provided air lift support to transport relief supplies for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (the AHA Centre) from Subang to Myanmar. In addition to assisting with emergency response, Australia will continue to promote the development of regional disaster capacity through the ARF and other institutions, including the East Asia Summit.

Australia is working with a number of East Asia Summit countries to further develop the East Asia Summit Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit, a regional resource on arrangements for sending and receiving international disaster assistance, including testing it during the Indonesian national tabletop exercise in late 2016. Australia is providing \$5.7 million over three years to United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific region.

### **Space Security**

Outer space is becoming increasingly congested, contested and competitive as more states turn to space-enabled capabilities to deliver economic prosperity and other social

benefits. Australia continues to work within the ARF to build norms of responsible behaviour in outer space and work to establish practical transparency and confidence building measures that enhance space security for all. Australia values regional consultation on these matters and has supported several ARF Space Security Workshops.

### **IV. Role of the ARF**

Australia continues to see the ARF as an important part of our engagement in the region's security architecture. As a foreign minister-led process with a well-developed work program, the ARF complements the leaders-led East Asia Summit and defence minister-led ADMM-Plus. ARF members have an interest in maintaining a rules-based international order and the ARF as an important platform for frank and constructive dialogue on regional security challenges. Australia continues to make a significant contribution to the ARF in a range of areas.

On counter-terrorism, we will co-host a workshop examining the legislative and non-legislative challenges to combating on-line extremist messaging. We will also take over as co-lead (with Malaysia) on counter-radicalisation under the ARF's Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Work Plan.

On maritime security, we co-chaired the ARF workshop on Maritime Single Points of Contact with the Philippines and the United States in April 2016. We will take over as co-chair with Vietnam of the ARF Maritime Security work stream in 2018-19. - stream in 2018-19.

With Malaysia and Russia, Australia co-chairs the Work Plan on Security of and in the use of



and in the use of Information and Communication Technologies. We will continue to consult and engage with ARF partners on the establishment of a voluntary directory of cyber points of contact to reduce the risk of conflict arising from cyber incidents.

We will continue to co-chair the 1.5 track ARF Expert and Eminent Persons Group (EEPs) for 2016-17. Australia and Vietnam will co-host the next EEPs meeting in Australia in 2017.

Australia will also continue to participate in the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue and ARF Security Policy Conference. These meetings offer valuable opportunities to support coordination between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus and to foster civil-military cooperation within the ARF framework.





## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

The diversity of the Asia-Pacific region ranging from its geographical landscape to its culture and people has brought with it an array of security challenges for the region to face together, both in terms of traditional and non-traditional security threats.

The Asia-Pacific region faces a range of non-traditional security threats, which includes natural disasters, terrorism, sea piracy, transnational crimes and climate change among others. Terrorism has increasingly become a more pressing issue in the region, as there have been raised concerns over the emergence of threats coming from sub-state groups. The rise of the self-styled Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has brought with it new types of security challenges for countries to face including radicalisation through social media, international attacks and the possibility of trained individuals returning to their home countries and pursue their ideological and territorial objectives. Thus, it is imperative for the ARF member countries, home to several countries with Muslim majority, remain vigilant in preventing the radicalisation and recruitment of individuals from the region. At the same time, natural disasters continue to plague the region given its geographical vulnerabilities. Brunei Darussalam itself continues to face flooding, landslides, forest fires and haze whereas earthquakes, tropical cyclones and tsunamis are a few that affect other countries in the region.

### **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

#### **a. Overview of national security and defence policy**

In 2004 Brunei Darussalam took an important step forward with the publication of its first Defence White Paper, “Defending the Nation’s Sovereignty”. The paper laid the foundations for a much more comprehensive, robust and integrated approach to protecting and promoting the nation’s security.

The White Paper recognised the essential characteristics of the nation’s strategic environment and how the capabilities of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces might best be developed and employed to most effectively support the national interest in a range of circumstances.

In the decade since, substantial progress has been made towards achieving those objectives. Guidance has been further refined through the 2007 Defence Update, “Shaping the Force Today”, and subsequent 2011 Defence White Paper, “Defending the Nation’s Sovereignty: Expanding Roles in Wider Horizons”.

The 2011 White Paper outlines Brunei Darussalam’s vision of how to respond effectively to the new security agenda. Those reviews ensured that defence planning remained sensitive to changes in the security environment, identified the most immediate priorities for development, and underscored the



importance of being able to work closely with other national agencies and regional partners in responding to current and prospective challenges.

#### **b. Data contribution to ARF Arms Register**

##### **i. Total defence expenditure on annual basis**

###### **1. Defence expenditure**

In the 2016/2017 fiscal year, the approved defence spending is BND\$564,650,540.00 (Five hundred and sixty-four million, six hundred and fifty thousand, and five hundred and forty Brunei Dollars). This was 4.7 per cent increase from the approved defence spending for 2015/2016. Staff salaries comprise \$330 million of the budget allocation, while recurring expenditure totaled \$139 million, and special expenditure amounted to \$94 million. Compared to the breakdown for the 2015-2016 budget, personnel expenses remained largely unchanged, with recurring expenditure seeing a significant decrease of around 17 percent.

2. Defence expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP): 3.2%

3. Defence expenditure per capita: B\$1,314

##### **ii. Total number of personnel in national armed forces**

1. Brunei Darussalam's total active manpower is as follows:

Total: 8,290

Ministry of Defence: 1,600

Army: 3,900

Navy: 1,200

Training Institute: 390

2. Brunei Darussalam's total Reserve is as follows:

Total: 700

#### **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

##### **i. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

Brunei Darussalam is an active contributor to HADR operations in the region. In 2013, Brunei Darussalam deployed Royal Brunei Air Force CN235 aircraft, and Royal Brunei Navy vessels, KDB Darulaman and KDB Darussalam to the typhoon afflicted area of Tacloban, Philippines. The relief efforts consisted of contribution and delivery of necessities, such as food, water, medical goods and others.

More recently, Brunei Darussalam joined the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) personnel from the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Coordination Centre (RHCC) by sending a team comprising of one RBAF medical officer, four RBAF paramedics and three personnel from the Gurkha Reserve Unit (GRU) to Nepal in support of the humanitarian relief assistance after the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck in April 2015. In this collaboration with SAF, RBAF was able to provide medical aid to this mission, codenamed 'OPERASI KUKRI'.

##### **ii. Maritime Security**

Brunei Darussalam is currently co-chairing the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Maritime Security (MS) alongside New Zealand for the 2014 – 2017 cycle. The ADMM-Plus EWG on MS is aimed at developing more effective defence and military response to maritime strategic challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, with the objectives to enhance maritime



cooperation, identify risks in the maritime domain, especially non-traditional threats, and widen information sharing.

The ADMM-Plus EWG on MS also aims to ensure that its agenda complements that of existing groupings, most notable the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meetings on Maritime Security (ARF ISM on MS); the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF); the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF); the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP); and the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).

Under the co-chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand, the ADMM-Plus EWG on MS held a Joint Exercise between the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and the ADMM-Plus Counter Terrorism alongside with Singapore and Australia, the ADMM-Plus Future Leaders' Programme, development of ADMM-Plus Maritime Security FTX Standard Operating Procedures, and enhancement of ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Community Information-Sharing Portal (AMSCIP).

The ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism Exercise was held on 2 – 12 May 2016 in both Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. The exercise was aimed to promote practical maritime cooperation in information sharing among ADMM-Plus countries and build a common understanding to establish and practice baseline interoperability procedures in maritime security matters, including baseline reporting and boarding procedures in multilateral maritime operations. The successful conduct of the ADMM-Plus MS & CT Exercise

brought the ASEAN and Plus countries' militaries together, and it is hoped that the practical collaboration continues to forge close cooperation and reduce or negate possible security threats towards a more peaceful region. The Exercise involved approximately 3,500 personnel, 18 naval vessels, 25 aircrafts and 40 Special Forces teams.

The ADMM-Plus EWG on MS will also be conducting Exercise Mahi Tangaroa '16 in New Zealand, from 13 – 17 November 2016. The aim of the Exercise is to promote cooperation and interoperability, as well as information sharing among the ADMM-Plus member countries in addressing global common non-traditional maritime security threats.

### **iii. Peacekeeping**

As stipulated in the Defence White Paper 2011, Brunei Darussalam looks to participate in regional and international efforts as part of its contribution to the global community.

Since October 2004, Brunei Darussalam has been participating in the peace-keeping and monitoring mission of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) led by Malaysia in the Southern Philippines. Currently, the 12th group deployed includes 9 Brunei Darussalam IMT personnel serving in Mindanao.

Similarly, Brunei Darussalam has deployed its personnel to Lebanon under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), embedded in the Malaysian Military Forces' UN peacekeeping mission since 2008. Currently, the 12th group deployed includes 29 RBAF personnel in the Malaysian Battalion 850-3 (MALBATT 850-3).



#### **iv. Direct Communications Link in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Process**

Brunei Darussalam has undertaken the initiative of establishing a Direct Communications Link in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Process in 2013. The DCL aims to be a key confidence- and security-building measure to be established bilaterally between the ten ASEAN Defence Ministers. The establishment of a DCL at defence minister level would complement the existing bilateral naval initiatives or procedures, and add value to the existing information-sharing mechanisms in the region, as well as enhance coordination and cooperation in addressing non-traditional security challenges.

The establishment of a DCL is aimed at providing a permanent, rapid, reliable and confidential means by which any two ASEAN Defence Ministers may communicate with each other to arrive at mutual decisions in handling crisis or emergency situations, in particular related to maritime security. The DCL is also aimed to prevent or defuse misunderstandings and misinterpretations, and therefore to prevent escalation; and to promote quick-response cooperation in emergency situations. The goal would not be to resolve underlying issues, but to effectively manage and contain tensions in the event of a possible military encounter, to foster de-escalation, and to provide channel for initial quick reaction and assistance in emergency situations.

The establishing of the DCL is divided into three phases, Phase 1 is the interim voice and facsimile solution, while Phase 2 and Phase 3 is the e-mail solution. The initiative has seen two

technical workshops in February 2014 and August 2014, and two Ad Hoc Working Group meetings in October 2014 and May 2015, all of which were held in Brunei Darussalam. The ASEAN Member States are looking to operationalise Phase 1 by November 2016.

#### **v. Logistics Support Framework**

The establishment of the ADMM Logistics Support Framework was proposed by Brunei Darussalam in 2013. ASEAN regional cooperation in defence and military has flourished over the years. Cooperation in logistics, in particular through a Logistics Support Framework, would contribute to enhance coordination and cooperation in upholding and defending peace, security and stability. This will help enhance ASEAN's capacity, develop further capabilities, strengthen interoperability and thus, contribute to operational effectiveness and efficiency in ASEAN militaries in addressing non-traditional security challenges.

The Framework shall guide existing and future cooperation in non-traditional security challenges to include but not limited to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and anti-piracy. It is aimed at promoting and achieving effective cooperation among ASEAN defence and military establishments in areas of common interests.

Since the adoption of the concept paper to establish the ADMM Logistics Support Framework, ADMM logistics experts and policy makers have convened for two workshops held in April 2014 and December 2014, in Brunei



Darussalam, to draft the ADMM Logistics Support Framework. A Table Top Exercise was also held in January 2016 in Brunei Darussalam to validate the document.

The ADMM Logistics Support Framework was finalised and endorsed during the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting in April 2016, Lao PDR. Furthermore, the draft Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operation (SASOP) recognises and makes reference to the ADMM Logistics Support Framework in Chapter VI. Future workshops will look into its further incorporation into the finalisation of SASOP Chapter VI and its implementation under the ADMM and ADMM-Plus framework.



## CAMBODIA



### **I. Cambodia's Assessment of the Regional Security Environment**

The Asia-Pacific region is confronted with a number of security challenges, especially non-traditional security issues such as global terrorism, maritime security, transnational organized crimes, natural disasters, environmental degradation and other related security issues.

In fact, some actors cannot commit their crimes unless they operate in a globalized environment. Take, for example, piracy and transnational crime. These criminals try to take advantage of the overlapping authority between states to commit their malicious acts. Even with events that are not of human makings such as natural disasters often transcend border. This fact makes these transnational security concerns a threat for all nations in the same region.

Terrorism threat has entered a new dimension never before seen in world history. It is not a mere underground organization, but at least it claims to be a state. To make matter worse, the self-proclaimed Islamic State aspires to become a global state with physical control over territories outside its current area of operations in the Middle East. More specifically, Islamic State has aspired to build what they call "wilaya" in South East Asia in order to spread their extreme ideology. Terrorism is no longer a single issue of a country or nation but it is now global.

In the world today, security is not limited to the threats of terrorism or maritime security, but also, major issue of natural disaster that are occurring in higher frequency and of bigger magnitude. Every year, disasters cause immense suffering for millions of people. Over the past year, Countries in the region have put a lot of efforts to improve national and regional disaster response capability through development existed mechanisms, including strengthening the capacities to manage disaster, improving humanitarian coordination and preparedness, and providing adequate assistance for emergency relief. The needs of disaster management are expected to continue to rise in the coming decades because of an increased in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

In addition, a seemingly routine activity, but one that can cause trouble is the issue of military modernization. Military modernization arises from the need to address current security challenges. Sometimes, we see military modernization because the economic conditions finally allow it. Non-traditional security threats such as piracy, smuggling, terrorism, natural disaster, as well as the need of peacekeeping forces, all require appropriate responses from the armed forces. Therefore, military modernization is not necessarily bad. But in other context, obscure modernization can easily lead to mistrust and strategic miscalculation.



## **II. Cambodia's National Security and Defense Policy**

In response to the fast changing national, regional, and global security environment, Cambodian security and defense priorities have also been continuously redefined and revised. The Defense Strategy Review 2013 was released in addition to the Defense White Paper 2006 for Cambodia's defense policy and security strategy within these emerging new security paradigms in region and world at large. Those include the key areas of strengthening border defense measures; PKO capability building, counter-terrorists and counter-transnational crimes capabilities, maritime security initiatives, disaster respond capability building, and others. These changes have resulted in the justification of principles more realistic features, that is, they have been aligned more closely with the situation and practical needs. This has enabled the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces to overcome various obstacles. To realize the national goal, specific policies and measures have been implemented as follows:

- Contribute to external security and guarantee national unity and political stability for economic growth;
- Contribute to peace operation and building around the world. For instance, since April 2006, under the United Nations framework, Cambodia has sent its peacekeeping forces to several zones of conflict in Africa and the Middle East;
- Strengthen border protection capability to prevent transnational crime and infiltration of terrorists and to increase contributions

to infrastructure and community development along the border;

- Expand reform measures, especially demobilization, raising the living standard of the defense force, reorganizing units and restructuring training systems;
- Set up force development mechanisms as quickly as possible to ensure the sustainability and quality of the defense force;
- Increase participation in national development, especially in the field of engineering, relief operations, suppressing and elimination circulation of illegal small arms, environmental protection particularly preventing deforestation, replanting trees, and other humanitarian activities;
- Cooperate with community and fellow countries in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, Maritime Security and natural disaster management.

## **III. Cambodia's Contributions to Regional Security**

### **i. Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC)**

Cambodia has clearly shown its commitment to joining the world to combat international terrorism. Cambodia has been strengthening and improving the RCAF's capability in preventing, deterring and fighting against terrorism to maintain peace, stability, security and promote cooperation in the region and the world.



To respond to the above-mentioned perspectives, Cambodia has conducted international cooperation as a priority and the active participation from relevant inter-ministries and institutions for timely deterrence, prevention and recovery. The National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC) is the top institution for command and control in the fight against terrorism and its secretariat is to serve as a coordination mechanism in compliance with the Counter-Terrorism Planning Book and Cambodia's Counter-Terrorism law, which was signed and come into effect on 20 July 2007.

Collaboration has been made with the central bank (National Bank) to prevent and combat terrorist money laundering and financing. The Royal Government of Cambodia has also collaborated with relevant parties to conduct investigations in all forms into all connections with terrorists.

The development of high quality human resources to combat terrorism depends on the National Counter Terrorism Plan and requires a strategic plan to combat terrorism in ASEAN and in the region. The RCAF has closely cooperated with the NCTC, the National Headquarters of Counter Terrorism Special Forces (NCTCSF) and the Royal Gendarmerie to respond to any incidents. Therefore, counter terrorism forces have been strengthened through training, supplies of equipment and support.

## **ii. Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**

Cambodia is committed to implement the International obligation such as treaties,

conventions, and agreements. Cambodia is committed to non-proliferation regime based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has been actively engaging in various diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful and safe world free of Nuclear weapons. To support the global movement on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Cambodia ratified the NPT in 1972. Cambodia resumed its membership with IAEA in 2009 and ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of nuclear Material in 2006.

Furthermore, in November 2012, the National Assembly of Cambodia ratified two international conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and Nuclear Safety to maintain peace, security, safety and to prevent nuclear proliferation. At the regional level, Cambodia acceded to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-weapon-free Zone Treaty in 1997. During its chairmanship of ASEAN in 2012, Cambodia successfully convinced the five nuclear weapons states to sign the protocol to the treaty.

In order to fully engage in the prohibition of CBRN weapons' efforts, the Royal Government of Cambodia established the National Authority for prohibition of CBRN weapons (NACW) under the Royal Decree No. 0606.275 dated 27 June 2006. The core function of this institution is to serve as a national central point for effective liaisons with other organizations and states party and to control and prohibit the proliferation of CBRN Weapons. Moreover, the Royal Government of Cambodia put into force the law on the Prohibition of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons in December 2009.





### **iii. Humanitarian Assistant and Disaster Relief (HADR)**

Frequent natural disasters have exacerbated the vulnerability of the rural population. Drought, flood and health issues have severely affected the livelihood of many Cambodians.

Cambodia is working with its ASEAN member states to develop guidelines for response to natural disasters. Furthermore, Cambodia maintains its partnerships with regional and civil-military institutions in disaster response operations. By participating in regional initiatives, Cambodia hopes to lessen the impact of natural disasters within the country as well as the region.

Currently, disaster management in Cambodia is focused at both national and local levels, particularly on preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and response. To strengthen community capability, Cambodia has been working with UN agencies, NGOs and IOs, and donors to incorporate capacity building and training for officials and communities. Cambodia continues to strengthen its capacity to prepare and respond to disasters, but will likely require continuing assistance from the international community for many years. It will take concerted efforts in coordination and cooperation with regional countries and other foreign nations, as well as support from the international humanitarian community, to enhance its capability to prepare for respond, and minimize the effects of disasters.

The RCAF plays a significant role in disaster response and relief operations. The RCAF has been trained with foreign militaries and other partners on improving coordination and response measures. The Royal Cambodian

Gendarmerie is designated as a core force in using capability and equipment in disaster response operations. The Royal Cambodian Gendarmerie cooperates fully with the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM).

### **iv. Maritime Security**

It is clear that the importance of the maritime domain is increasing nowadays. The need of common rules and laws at sea and in the air is the most crucial instrument for international community to ensure peace and development in the region and the world at large. Cambodia always attaches great importance to the Gulf of Thailand and its great potential for national economy. The gulf is very important not only because of its rich natural resources, but also because it is a crucial water way, as well as it is crucial in terms of national defense and security.

Cambodia national interests in the maritime affairs are immense. To properly protect those interests, appropriate maritime policy has been developed and put in place by taking into account the constitutional provisions, and national strategy and vision. Cambodia also actively takes part in a number of initiatives to develop the world maritime policy. Cambodia is a party to the four 1958 Geneva Conventions on the Law of the Sea. Cambodia is also a party to the Optional Protocol concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes, from 1970. Cambodia has been a signatory to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea since 1983. Cambodia participated in almost all forms of maritime security fora, including ARF, ADMM and ADMM-Plus. It is also an active member of a sub-regional organization namely Gulf of Thailand (GOT) Maritime Law Enforcement Interoperability Initiatives.



The basic law of the country proclaims that Cambodia shall follow policy of peaceful coexistence and cooperation with its neighboring countries and other members of the global village. It also stipulates that all international conflicts and issues must be solved through peaceful means and based on full respect of mutual interest.

The Royal Cambodian Navy plays a pivotal role in protection Cambodia's maritime coastline and territorial waters, monitoring the security of its main deep water ports and major waterways. The Royal Cambodian Navy has strengthened and expanded its capability to serve as the core force for the National Committee for Maritime Security (NCMS) in leading, managing, commanding and coordinating security protection forces, operational forces and law enforcement. This enabled it to protect, prevent and suppress all forms of security threats and offences offshore.

#### **IV. Role of ARF**

The ARF as the most inclusive and influential security forum in the Asia-Pacific has played an indispensable role in enhancing mutual trust among Asia-Pacific nations and shaping a harmonious regional environment. The principle and modalities of dialogue and cooperation fostered by the ARF, such as mutual respect, dialogue on an equal footing, non- interference in each other's internal affairs and accommodating each other's comfort level, together with the cooperative security concept, are increasingly accepted by country in the region.

As a long-standing and active ARF member, Cambodia is contributing to regional peace and stability and supporting the development of a more robust, rules-based regional security order. Cambodia has engaged actively with ARF partners at various levels, e.g. through Inter-sessional Meetings, the Inter-sessional Support Group (ISG) and the related Defense Officials' Dialogue, ARF Security Policy Conference, the Senior Officials' Meeting and the ARF Ministerial.

The uniqueness of the ARF as a forum where the regular collaboration and meeting between military and civil elements in the Asia Pacific region take place should be utilized as the pulling factor and not as the dividing factor. To ensure that ARF could serve its tasks, we know that as an inclusive forum, the ARF depends entirely on its participants. It is therefore in our interest to see a more robust, substantive, proactive and action-oriented ARF to maintain peace and stability all participants have to renew their commitment. For its part, Cambodia will continue to make its valuable contribution to the ARF through active participation, ideas and initiatives, and co-chairmanship of various ARF activities.



## CHINA



### **I. Security Situation in the Asia-Pacific Region**

In 2015, the Asia-Pacific region maintained overall stability and the positive momentum. The trend of peace and development remained strong.

The Asia-Pacific has been a stable region in the global landscape. It is the strategy and common aspiration of most countries in the region to promote peace, stability and development. Political mutual trust among countries is strengthened, and major countries have maintained frequent interactions and cooperation. It is the policy of countries to address differences and disputes through dialogue and consultation. Regional hotspot issues and disputes are basically under control, and no major conflict or turbulence has occurred. The region has secured steady and relatively fast growth, continuing to lead global growth. Regional integration has gathered pace with booming sub-regional cooperation and greater interdependence among nations. The ASEAN Community, the first ever sub-regional community in the history of Asia, was launched. Free trade arrangements in various forms made steady progress and a new phase has started for dynamic connectivity building.

On the other hand, Asia-Pacific still faces multiple destabilizing and uncertain factors. The nuclear issue on the Korea Peninsular is complex and sensitive; the reconciliation process in Afghanistan remains slow; and disputes over territorial sovereignty and maritime

rights and interests continue to unfold. Some countries are increasing their military deployment in the region, certain individual countries seek to shake off military constraints, and some countries are undergoing complex political and social transformation. Non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, natural disasters and transnational crimes have become more prominent. Asia's economy still faces downward pressure as a result of its structural problems as well as external economic and financial risks.

### **II. China's Defense Policy and Military Diplomacy**

#### **1. China's Defense Policy**

China pursues a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, advocates common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and commits itself to stronger security cooperation with other countries to safeguard peace and stability in the region and the world at large. China stands for peaceful settlement of international disputes and regional hotspot issues and opposes willful threat or use of force, aggression and external expansion.

The basic elements of China's defense policy include: safeguarding national security, unity and development interests; realizing comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of national defense and the armed forces; improving the armed forces' capabilities underpinned by information technology application; implementing a military strategy of



self-defense; and building a security environment that is conducive to peaceful development of China.

China's armed forces consist of the active and reserve forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the People's Armed Police Force and Militia Force, the size of which was 2.3 million. On 3 September 2015, at the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the victory of the War of Chinese People's Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, President Xi Jinping announced that China will downsize its troops by 300,000 and bring the total number down to 2 million. This move, which is aimed at optimizing the military structure, will be completed before the end of 2017. Moreover, adapting to new developments, China is vigorously promoting the reform of the military leadership and management system and the command system for joint operations. China is adjusting the headquarter system of Central Military Commission (CMC), implementing the CMC multi-department system, building leading organs of the PLA Army, improving the leadership and management system of the services and arms, readjusting and delimiting theaters, and establishing theater-level command organ for joint operations. At the end of 2015, the command of the PLA Army, the PLA Rocket Force and the PLA Strategic Support Force were established.

China is the only major country in the world that is yet to realize national reunification. Confronted with multiple security risks and challenges, it faces an arduous task of safeguarding national unity and territorial integrity. Advancing defense modernization is necessitated by its legitimate

quest for national security and peaceful development. China's national defense expenditure is transparent, reasonable and appropriate. In 2015, China's national defense budget was around US\$ 146.9 billion, about 1.3% of its GDP, which was less than those of other major countries and the world average of 2.6%.

## **2. Military Diplomacy**

China's armed forces advocate international security cooperation and have contributed to and taken part in such cooperation. Follow the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, they conduct external military exchanges across the board, work for cooperative military relations featuring non-alignment, non-confrontation and non-targeting at any third party, and promote collective security and military confidence-building mechanisms that are just and effective. Committed to open and practical cooperation, China's armed forces have increased interactions and cooperation with the militaries of other countries, intensified cooperation on confidence-building measures (CBMs) in border areas, and promoted dialogue and cooperation on maritime security. They have participated in UN peacekeeping missions, international counter-terrorism cooperation, international escort missions and disaster relief operations, and conducted joint exercises and training with foreign counterparts.

In 2015, China-US military relations maintained momentum of steady progress on the whole. Military leaders had frequent exchange of visits. Institutionalized dialogues such as Strategic Security Dialogue and Maritime Military Security Consultation were carried out smoothly.



The two sides signed the additional annex *Military Crisis Notification* to the *Mutual Notification of Major Military Activities* and additional annex *In Air Encounters* to the *Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters*, further enhancing risk management and control and crisis communication between the two sides. The two militaries also realized "five first-times": the first time for the Chief of Joint Staff Department of CMC and his counterpart Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to have a video call; the first time for the two ministries of defense to have Security Dialogue on the Asia-Pacific; the first time to conduct US-China Army-to-Army Dialogue Mechanism Meeting; the first time for China to send an army brigade to the United States for a joint military exercise; and the first time for China to send troops, at the invitation of the United States, to participate in the Khaan Quest 2015 multinational peacekeeping military exercise. In January and November 2015, the two sides held the Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Field Exercise and Disaster Management Exchange in China and the US respectively. China also participated in Exercise Kowari, a China-US-Australia trilateral military exercise, and Cooperation Spirit-2015, a quadrilateral humanitarian disaster relief exercise among China, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

China-Russia military relations made further progress. The two militaries commemorated together the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and sent high-ranking military officers and formations to each other's commemoration activities and military parade. For the first time, the two militaries successfully held joint maritime drill twice in a year. The Chinese delegation

participated in all the 12 events of the International Military Skill Competition hosted by Russia, and the first Chinese Military Culture Week was successfully held in Russia. The two militaries also maintained close coordination within the defense and security cooperation framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Chinese military maintained high-level mutual visit, defense and security consultation, personnel training and joint military training and exercise with other Asian countries, including the following: the defense and security consultation and dialogue among the defense ministries of China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia and India, the first China-Mongolia joint anti-terrorism training; joint anti-terrorism training between the Chinese and Indian armies; joint anti-terrorism drill between the Chinese and Pakistani special forces; China-Malaysia joint military exercise; China-Pakistan and China-Thailand joint air force exercises; and China-Pakistan joint naval exercise.

The Chinese military continues to take an active part in multilateral security dialogues and cooperation. High-ranking military officials attended important regional security dialogues such as the Moscow Conference on International Security, the 3rd ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus, the defense ministers meeting of the SCO member states, the Shangri-La Dialogue, the Asia-Pacific Defense Chiefs Conference, the South and Southeast Asian Nations (SASAEN) Defense Chiefs' Dialogue. China's military, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Civil Affairs, together with the Malaysian side, held the 4th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise; the PLA National Defense University hosted the



ARF Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation; China hosted the China-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting for the first time and conducted the 6th Xiangshan Forum. For the first time, China sent troops to the multinational peacekeeping military exercise Khaan Quest in Mongolia, and continued to participate, as a participant country of humanitarian relief operations, in the humanitarian relief exercise "Cobra Gold", an exercise co-hosted by Thailand and the United States.

### **III. China's Efforts to Promote Security in the Asia-Pacific Region**

China is committed to promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. It follows the path of peaceful development and the win-win strategy of opening up, and pursues friendly cooperation with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It has participated in regional cooperation in an all-round way and taken active steps in response to both traditional and non-traditional security challenges, contributing to an Asia-Pacific region of lasting peace and common prosperity.

#### **1. Relations with Major Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region**

##### **China-US Relations**

Since 2015, the overall relationship between China and the United States has remained stable with new progress made. The two countries have maintained close contacts at the leadership and other levels. In September, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to the United States at the invitation of President

Obama, during which the two presidents had a candid and in-depth discussion on each other's domestic and foreign policies, China-US relations and major regional and international issues, and agreed to continue working towards a new type of major-country relationship based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation. In November, President Xi had a meeting with President Obama during the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. The 7th round of Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED), the 6th round of High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE), the 26th session of Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) as well as the first High-level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues were held successfully and yielded positive results. New progress was made in practical cooperation in economy and trade, mil-to-mil relations, cyberspace, cultural exchanges, law enforcement as well as at the local level. The two countries kept close communication and coordination on major regional and global issues such as the Iranian nuclear issue, the nuclear issue on the Korea Peninsula, Syria, Afghanistan, climate change and the fight against Ebola epidemic.

The two countries maintained communication and coordination on Asia-Pacific affairs through bilateral exchanges and relevant mechanisms at all levels. During President Xi's visit to the United States in September and the 7th round of S&ED in June, the two sides exchanged views in depth on Asia-Pacific affairs and agreed to build a bilateral relationship of positive interaction and inclusive cooperation in the region. The relevant points of agreement were included in the outcome list of President Xi's state visit to the United States and that of the strategic track under the S&ED. The two countries have also kept communication and cooperation on



regional and global affairs, including climate change, anti-terrorism, marine environmental protection and disaster prevention and reduction under multilateral frameworks such as APEC, East Asia Summit and ARF. The trilateral agriculture and personnel training cooperation projects carried out by the two sides in Afghanistan and East Timor proceeded smoothly.

### **China-Russia Relations**

In 2015, the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination maintained high-level development. Focusing on joint commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the Second World War and cooperation on synergizing the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Eurasian Economic Union, the two countries deepened people-to-people and cultural exchanges represented by the China-Russia Youth Friendly Exchange Year. They had close coordination on international affairs, strengthened political mutual trust and achieved new important results in practical cooperation in various areas. All this has lent a strong boost to the two countries' development and revitalization, and injected positive energy into the building of a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at the center.

Being each other's biggest neighbor, permanent members of the UN Security Council and major emerging market economies, China and Russia have maintained sound cooperation on the Asia-Pacific affairs. The two countries will continue to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as universally recognized norms governing international relations and promote a multi-polar world and

greater democracy in international relations. Advocating common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, both China and Russia are dedicated to building a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at the center, and safeguarding peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

### **China-India Relations**

In 2015, the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity was further deepened. The two countries made new progress in exchanges and cooperation in various areas and maintained sound communication and coordination on regional and international issues.

Leaders of the two countries had frequent exchange of visits with political mutual trust further enhanced. India's Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and Home Minister visited China successively. On the Chinese side, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Zhang Dejiang, and Vice President Li Yuanchao visited India successively. In July 2015, President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 7th BRICS Summit in Ufa. In November 2015, Premier Li Keqiang met with Prime Minister Modi during the leaders' meetings for East Asia cooperation in Malaysia. Practical cooperation between the two countries made concrete progress in various areas.

The two countries maintained communication and coordination on international affairs and enhanced collaboration in the United Nations, BRICS, the G20, China-India-Russia and other



mechanisms. They cooperated on climate change, the WTO Doha Round of negotiations, energy and food security, reform of international financial institutions and global governance, upholding the common interests of China, India and other developing countries.

### **China-Japan Relations**

In 2015, China-Japan relations remained momentum of improvement started at the end of 2014. Upon invitation, President Xi Jinping met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the margins of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the Asian-African Summit, and gave an important speech at the China-Japan Friendship Exchange Meeting. Premier Li Keqiang met with Prime Minister Abe during the China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting. The two sides resumed contacts at government, NPC-Diet and party levels in an orderly way, held two rounds of high-level political dialogue and steadily pushed forward exchanges and cooperation in various areas. Positive factors in bilateral relations increased further.

On the other hand, in response to Japan's negative moves such as the "Abe's Statement", "9.3" Commemorative Activities and its new security laws, China maintained pressure on Japan, urging it to honor and implement the four-point principled agreement with concrete actions so that China-Japan relations can tide over sensitive historical junctures. Although the bilateral relationship is moving towards greater stability on the whole, due to multiple complex and sensitive factors concerning history, Taiwan, maritime and military issues, the bilateral relationship remains fragile.

## **2. Regional Cooperation**

### **China-ASEAN Cooperation**

China regards ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, and firmly supports ASEAN Community building and ASEAN's centrality in regional cooperation. Following the principles of mutual respect, equality, good-neighborliness and win-win cooperation, China and ASEAN further strengthened strategic dialogue, enhanced political mutual trust, and deepened practical cooperation in economy and trade, connectivity, finance, security, maritime, social and cultural affairs, making continuous progress in their relations.

On 21 November 2015, the 18th China-ASEAN Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during which Premier Li Keqiang gave a comprehensively review of the progress on and past experience on promoting relations between the two sides, and put forward a six-point proposal on deepening cooperation in the context of the 25th anniversary of the China-ASEAN dialogue relations in 2016. He pointed out that both sides should seize the historical opportunity, align their development strategies and improve the overall development level of China and ASEAN countries so as to complete the building of East Asia Economic Community by 2020 and promote lasting peace and prosperity in East Asia.

In 2015, China-ASEAN trade volume stood at US\$472.16 billion, down by 1.7%. On 22 November, the two sides signed the *Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between China and ASEAN* during the leaders' meetings on East Asia cooperation, officially concluding the negotiation on an upgraded





China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA). In October, the China-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting and the first "Security for Prosperity" China-ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Law Enforcement & Security Cooperation were held in China. The two sides also held the 9th China-ASEAN Telecommunication Ministers' Meeting, the 14th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations, the 14th China-ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting and the 9th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference.

### **ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation**

As the main channel of East Asia cooperation, ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation made fresh progress in 2015. China called upon all parties to increase input for implementing the *Report of East Asia Vision Group II* and cooperation working plan, advanced the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) process, and supported greater effectiveness of CMIM and the upgrading of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to an international organization and capacity building of the office. China also worked on other parties to conclude negotiations on trade in goods, trade in service and model of access to investment market under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in order to move to substantive consultation on offers and requests.

On 21 November 2015, the 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during which Premier Li Keqiang made six proposals on enhancing APT cooperation: to accelerate East Asia economic integration, to make concerted efforts to maintain regional financial stability, to increase

the level of connectivity, to conduct international production capacity cooperation, to deepen agriculture and poverty reduction cooperation, and to expand people-to-people exchanges.

In 2015, China vigorously promoted practical cooperation within the APT framework and held a series of events, including: the 7th East Asia Business Forum, the ASEAN Plus Three Training Program on Understanding China, the 9th Workshop on Cooperation for Cultural Human Resource Development, the East Asia High-Level Investment Forum, the 6th Roundtable Meeting on Food Security, "Return to China" Project Cultural Event Series, the 4th International Workshop on ASEAN Plus Three Connectivity Partnership, the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Village Leaders Exchange Program, and the 14th Asia Arts Festival.

### **China-Japan-ROK Cooperation**

As major countries in East Asia, China, Japan, and the ROK are the key drivers of East Asia economic integration. Stronger trilateral cooperation is conducive not only to the development of the three countries, but also to regional stability and prosperity.

In 2015, China-Japan and ROK-Japan relations, improved to some extent, bringing in a new phase of greater practical cooperation among the three countries in various fields. The 6th China-Japan-ROK leaders' meeting was held on 1 November in Seoul, South Korea, where leaders of the three countries had in-depth exchange of views on trilateral cooperation and international and regional issues of common interest. Leaders of the three countries reiterated the importance they place on trilateral cooperation, and agreed to properly



handle the relevant issues in the spirit of “facing the history squarely and working together for the future”, and enhance cooperation in political, economic, trade, fiscal, financial, and cultural sectors and on sustainable development. The meeting issued the Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia and other joint statements in agricultural, educational, and economic and trade sectors, which further enriched the trilateral cooperation and pointed out the direction for future cooperation.

Since 2015, a number of meetings, forums and events among China, Japan and the ROK have been held, including: the 7th China-Japan-ROK Ministerial Conference on Tourism, the 2nd Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Water Resource, the 17th Tripartite Environment Ministers’ Meeting, the 14th Trilateral Finance Ministers’ Meeting, the 7th Central Bank Governors’ Meeting, the 2nd Trilateral Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting, the 7th Heads of Personnel Authorities Meeting, the 7th and the 8th rounds of FTA negotiations, the 3rd Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultation, the 2nd Trilateral Director General Level Meeting on Forestry Cooperation, the 5th Meeting of Trilateral Committee for Promoting Exchange and Cooperation among Universities, the 10th Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum, the 2015 International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation, the 3rd Tabletop Exercise on Disaster Management. The three countries will also hold ministerial meetings on culture, intellectual property and public health.

### **East Asia Summit (EAS)**

Remarkable progress was made in EAS cooperation in 2015. With China’s advocacy, the 5th EAS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting decided to extend the deadline of implementing the *Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh*

*Declaration on EAS Development Initiative* to 2017. At the 10th EAS Summit Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015, Premier Li Keqiang made three proposals on future EAS cooperation: first, to accelerate regional economic integration and make East Asia a pole of steady growth for the world economy; second, to carry out political and security dialogue to explore a security architecture that fits the region; and third, to strengthen dialogue and exchanges among Asian civilizations to promote harmonious coexistence of civilizations.

In June 2015, the 4th EAS Earthquake Search and Rescue Exercise was jointly held in Mongolia by the China Earthquake Administration and relevant departments from New Zealand, the United States and the United Nations. China hosted the 2nd EAS New Energy Forum in September, and the 2nd EAS Clean Energy Forum in November. In December, to advance the implementation of the EAS Declaration on Combating Wildlife Trafficking adopted at the 9th EAS, China hosted an EAS Wildlife Protection Symposium.

### **Lancang-Mekong River Cooperation (LMC)**

To establish the Lancang-Mekong River cooperation (LMC) framework was an important initiative put forward by Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th China-ASEAN Summit in November 2014. This initiative aims to deepen good-neighborliness and friendship among the six countries along the Lancang-Mekong River through pragmatic cooperation, promote sub-regional economic and social development, and forge a community of shared future for mutual benefit and win-win cooperation in the



CHINA

sub-region. The LMC members are: China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Through preparation of a year and more, Lancang-Mekong River cooperation has registered encouraging progress. So far, one leaders' meeting, one foreign ministers' meeting, three senior officials' meetings and three working group's meetings have been held. In November 2015, the 1st Lancang-Mekong River Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held successfully in Jinghong, Yunnan province of China, where foreign ministers of the six countries launched the LMC process together, reached broad consensus on the direction of future cooperation and the structure of LMC, and put forward suggestions on a number of cooperation projects.

On 23 March 2016, the 1st Lancang-Mekong River Cooperation Leaders' Meeting was held in Sanya, Hainan province of China, officially launching the LMC framework. Leaders of the six countries reviewed past progress, shared their vision for the future of LMC, and agreed on the mechanism of "3+5 cooperation". The meeting issued the *Sanya Declaration of the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting* and the *Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation Among Lancang-Mekong Countries*, adopted a joint list of 45 early harvest programs in areas of connectivity, water resources, public health and poverty alleviation, and issued two non-papers respectively on the *List of Projects for Future Consideration* and *Poverty Reduction Cooperation among the Lancang-Mekong Countries*.

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

In 2015, the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO) maintained sound and steady development thanks to joint efforts of all its member states. New progress was made in political, economic, cultural and security cooperation, leading to a stronger international standing and greater influence of the SCO.

President Xi Jinping attended the 15th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of SCO member states from 9 to 10 July in Ufa, Russia where heads of member states signed the *Ufa Declaration and the Agreement on Border Defense Cooperation*, approved the *Organization's Development Strategy until 2025* and the *2016-2018 Cooperation Program on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism*, and agreed on formulating a *Treaty on Anti-Extremism*. The meeting started procedures for India and Pakistan's full membership in the organization, elevated Belarus to the status of observer, and accepted Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal as new dialogue partners. A press communiqué, the *Statement on the 70th Anniversary of the World Anti-Fascist War and WWII*, and the *Statement on the Drugs Issue* were released at the meeting.

Premier Li Keqiang chaired the 14th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of SCO Member States held in China from 14 to 15 December. Leaders at the meeting laid out plans for cooperation in various fields for the next stage, signed a joint communiqué, issued the *Statement on Regional Economic Cooperation*, adopted the resolution on preparation for *creating the SCO Development Bank and the SCO Development Foundation (Specialized account)*, and witnessed the signing of the *Program of Interaction for Customs Agencies of the SCO Member States for 2016-2021* and



*a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the SCO and the Secretariat of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.*

In 2015, the SCO also held a series of important meetings participated by security council secretaries, foreign ministers, defense ministers, public security and interior ministers, chiefs of the general staff, economic and trade ministers, culture ministers, justice ministers, transport ministers, heads of disaster relief departments, heads of epidemic prevention departments and heads of tourism departments of the member states. These meetings deepened and expanded cooperation in various fields and increased the SCO's international influence.

In 2015, China promoted and participated in SCO cooperation across the board. China's bilateral relations with other SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partners continued to grow.

### **3. Regional Hotspot Issues**

#### **Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue**

In 2015, the overall situation on the Korean Peninsula was stable on the whole, but remained complex and sensitive. The DPRK insisted on its strategy of pursuing nuclear weapons and proceeded with its "Byongjin" policy of jointly pushing forward economic development and nuclear armament. The DPRK declared in high profile its rights to peacefully explore space and to launch satellite, and reiterated that it had reactivated the Yongbyon nuclear facilities. On the other hand, the DPRK exercised restraint and refrained from nuclear test and satellite launch. The DPRK proposed that the United States and ROK put on hold their joint military exercise in exchange

for the suspension of DPRK's nuclear tests, and a peace treaty to be signed by the United States and DPRK to replace the Armistice Agreement. However, these proposals received no positive response. Early 2016, the DPRK had a nuclear test and a satellite launch, causing the escalation of tension on the Korean Peninsula.

China's position on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is clear-cut. China is committed to the denuclearization of the Peninsula, its peace and stability, and settlement of the issue through dialogue and consultation. Over the years, China has made tremendous efforts to facilitate the process of denuclearization on the Peninsula, safeguard the overall peace and stability there, and realize an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. China has urged all parties to do more to help ease tension and stick to the right direction of solving the issue through dialogue and consultation so as to bring the issue back to the track of negotiations on an early date. The DPRK must pay a price for its nuclear test and satellite launch in violation of the Security Council's resolutions.

China has openly declared that it supports the new UN Security Council resolution to prevent DPRK's further pursuit of nuclear weapons. At the same time, parties concerned should not give up efforts to resume talks or their responsibilities to safeguard peace and stability on the Peninsula. China will continue to work with the international community and strive for denuclearization of the Peninsula and long-term peace and stability of the Peninsula and the Northeast Asia.

#### **Afghanistan**

In 2015, the first year of Afghanistan's 10-year-transition period, the overall political



situation in Afghanistan was stable. Efforts of the National Unity Government should be recognized. The first round of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban was opened in July and then suspended after Omar's death was announced. The security situation in Afghanistan remained unstable with frequent violent attacks.

China supports peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan, and hopes to see an Afghanistan that is united, stable, prosperous and at peace with its neighboring countries. In 2015, China increased assistance to Afghanistan in support of the government's capacity building. In the aftermath of a 7.8-magnitude earthquake in northern Afghanistan in October, China provided assistance to Afghanistan for its disaster relief efforts. China believes that only an inclusive reconciliation process that is "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" can provide the ultimate solution to the Afghan issue. China will continue to play a constructive role in advancing the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

#### **4. Non-traditional Security Cooperation**

##### **Disaster Relief**

Since 2015, the Chinese government has remained actively involved in dialogues and cooperation on disaster relief in the Asia-Pacific region. China hosted the 8th SCO Meeting of Heads of Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies and the 3rd China-Japan-ROK Table Top Exercise on Disaster Management, co-hosted with Malaysia the 4th ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx), and participated in the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the 4th China-Japan-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management,

the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), the 14th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, the 5th SCO Meeting of Heads of Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies in Border Regions, the 2nd ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting, the 4th Session of the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 9th APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials' Forum.

In January 2015 when Malaysia was hit by a devastating flood, China responded immediately to Malaysia's request and China's relief supplies, including tents, electric generators, sewage pumps, and water purification equipment, were the first to arrive in the country. In the aftermath of severe earthquakes in Nepal in April 2015, China sent rescue teams, medical teams and transportation detachments to the country, provided field mobile hospitals in support of disaster relief efforts, and consulted with Nepal on a assistance plan for its post-disaster reconstruction. In July 2015 when Myanmar was hit by heavy floods, China sent tents, blankets, electric generators and other relief supplies to the country.

The Chinese government will continue to work with relevant parties to establish and improve mechanisms of mutual visit of officials, information sharing, personnel training, technological exchanges, simulation exercises, scientific research cooperation, material reserves and emergency aid in an effort to enhance bilateral and multilateral practical cooperation in disaster relief in Asia-Pacific and improve disaster mitigation and relief capacity in the region.



## Counter-terrorism Cooperation

The anti-terrorism situation in the Asia-Pacific region is undergoing complex and profound changes. The region faces severe security and stability challenges posed by violent and extremist ideologies spreading at a faster pace, terrorist and extremist forces that are more active, rising threat from cyber terrorism, and frequent violent and terrorist activities, in particular the infiltration of international terrorist organizations and the inflow of foreign terrorist fighters.

Terrorism is a common hazard to the world and a common threat to humanity. The Chinese government opposes terrorism in all its forms and calls on the international community to cooperate for synergy in fighting terrorism on the basis of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other universally recognized norms governing international relations. China believes that dialogue among different civilizations should be enhanced and a holistic approach should be taken to eliminate the breeding grounds of terrorism by addressing both its symptoms and root cause through political, economic and diplomatic means. At the same time, there should be no double standard in fighting terrorism, and terrorism should not be associated with any particular country, ethnicity or religion.

In 2015, China cooperated with a number of neighboring countries in combating terrorism-related human smuggling, arrested a number of terrorist suspects and human smugglers active in the region, dealt a heavy blow to illegal human smuggling networks of the “East Turkistan Islamic Movement” and other terrorist organizations. These actions effectively countered and prevented the infiltration of the “Islamic State”, the “East Turkistan Islamic

Movement” and other terrorist organizations.

In 2015, China had bilateral anti-terrorism consultations with the United States, Russia, Canada, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, the ROK and Indonesia, successfully hosted the 13th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes, and promoted cooperation on combating Internet violent and terrorist audios/videos and cross-border terrorist activities. In addition, China took an active part in the APEC Counter-terrorism Working Group of, the Global Counter-terrorism Forum, the ASEAN plus China Meeting on Transnational Crime at ministerial level and at senior official level, and the ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference, strengthening exchanges with foreign countries on anti-terrorism cooperation.

## Cooperation on Combating Transnational Crimes

The Chinese government places high importance on combating transnational crimes and is committed to comprehensive and earnest implementation of the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. China has concluded 123 judicial assistance and extradition treaties with 70 countries and actively promoted the establishment of bilateral judicial and law enforcement cooperation mechanisms with the United States and Canada. These efforts have provided a solid legal basis and effective platform for China's cooperation with relevant countries in combating transnational crime in all its forms.

China is actively involved in international cooperation on combating transnational organized crimes and maintains sound cooperation with the United Nations and



regional organizations. China has promoted security and law enforcement cooperation in the Mekong sub-region and conducted many joint actions with relevant Southeast Asian countries in combating transnational organized crimes, waging an effectively fight against human trafficking, telecom fraud, economic crimes, and drug-related crimes that are prevalent in the region.

In the Second Safe Mekong Joint Operation by China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, over 10,000 suspects were arrested, and more than 9,000 drug-related cases were solved. The campaign also seized over 100 million tablets of methamphetamine, 460 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, 1.3 tons of heroin, and 300 tons of precursor chemicals. These achievements testify to the strong vitality of law enforcement cooperation among China and ASEAN countries.

In October 2015, China hosted the China-ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation under the theme "Security for Prosperity" and the Ministerial Meeting on Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation along the Mekong River. In December, China hosted the China-South Asia & Middle East Seminar on Non-Traditional Security Issues. These efforts has contributed to the practical cooperation on security and law enforcement in the region.

China stands ready to enhance judicial and law enforcement cooperation with relevant countries in a joint effort to fight transnational crimes, and calls on all countries to enhance their political will for international cooperation, overcome differences in legal systems, promote cooperation under the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including on extradition, provide widest possible judicial assistance, and cooperate on the recovery and sharing of criminal proceeds. China also encourages countries concerned to conclude extradition and criminal judicial assistance treaties for more concrete outcomes in cooperation against transnational organized crimes.

## Cyber security

In 2015, cyber security acquired greater importance. Asia-Pacific countries place high importance on cyber security and increased input and conducted active dialogues and regional cooperation on the issue. China is a staunch supporter for and an active participant in international efforts of safeguarding cyber security. China believes that cyberspace should be used to promote economic and social development, maintain international peace and stability, and improve the well-being of all people. Countries should work together, on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, to build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace and a democratic and transparent international Internet governance regime. It is imperative that an universally accepted international code of conduct is formulated under the UN framework.

In 2015, China continued to promote cyber security under the UN framework and was deeply involved in the process. The SCO member states jointly submitted an updated version of *International Code of Conduct for Information Security* to the UN General Assembly. China was actively involved and facilitated efforts of the UN's Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber Security to produce its final report, which affirms that the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, including sovereign equality, non-interference in others' internal affairs, and no use of force, also apply to cyberspace, contributing to efforts to formulate international rules governing cyberspace. China also played a constructive role in the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and Governance Forum (IGF) and the High-level Meeting on the Overall Review of the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

China has been consistent in strengthening bilateral dialogues and practical cooperation on cyber security with countries in the region. China and Russia signed the *Information Security Cooperation Agreement* and held a new round



of consultation on cyber security. China-Japan-ROK, China-ROK and China-EU dialogues on cyber security were held respectively. China and the United States held the High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues as well as the meeting of JLG on Law Enforcement on Fighting Cybercrime.

China attaches great importance to and takes an active part in regional mechanisms for network cooperation under the ARF, BRICS and SCO in order to promote balanced and inclusive development of network security cooperation in the region. China is actively involved in the BRICS Expert Working Group on Cyber-Security and the SCO Expert Group on International Information Security and has worked on the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to establish a Working Group on International Legal Issues of Cyber Space. China also successfully hosted the 2nd World Internet Conference, Forum on Global Internet Governance under Boao Forum for Asia and China-ASEAN Information Harbor Forum, and actively implemented the APEC Initiative of Cooperation to Promote Internet Economy. China contributed to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Steering Group on the Internet Economy and held the ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building with Malaysia to encourage regional countries to build consensus and deepen cooperation on important cyber-related issues, including cyber security capability building, international rules governing cyberspace, Internet governance, and combating cyber crimes and terrorism.

### **Maritime Security Cooperation**

The overall maritime situation in the region

remains stable on the whole. There is no problem regarding the freedom of navigation. At the same time, non-traditional maritime threats are on the rise; the ecological environment in many sea areas is disrupted; marine natural disasters occur frequently; leaks of oil or hazardous chemicals and navigation and aviation accidents happen from time to time; and cases of piracy, transnational organized crimes and smuggling are also on the rise. Besides, misunderstanding and lack of mutual-trust among some countries on traditional security issues also pose risks to maritime security.

China stands, as always, for peaceful development and exploitation of the sea and advocates equal, practical and win-win maritime security cooperation. China adheres to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, universally recognized international law and modern maritime law, the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in dealing with regional maritime security issues, and is committed to joint response to maritime traditional and non-traditional security threats.

2015 was the year of China-ASEAN maritime cooperation. Maritime cooperation is an important part of building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. China and the ASEAN countries conducted a series of exchange and cooperation events on marine economy, maritime connectivity, scientific research, environment protection, maritime security and maritime humanities. To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its diplomatic relations with Thailand, China, together with Thailand, conducted a scientific expedition in the Andaman Sea, and held the 4th Joint





Committee Meeting on Marine Cooperation. China and Malaysia signed the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of China-Malaysia Joint Oceanographic Research Center*. The construction of the China-Indonesia Center for Ocean and Climate and the Joint Oceanic Observation Station proceeded in an orderly way. China successfully hosted the 3rd China-Southeast Asian Countries Marine Research and Environmental Protection Cooperation Forum. In November, the Coordination Meeting on China-ASEAN Countries Joint Table-top Exercise on Maritime Search and Rescue was held in China, making preparations for the joint maritime search-and-rescue exercise in 2016. In the same month, China and Indonesia held maritime search-and-rescue tabletop exercise.

China has actively promoted dialogues and cooperation under multilateral frameworks. China hosted the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Administrations Conference in April and the multi-task exercise "Cooperation of Law Enforcement 2015" of the North Pacific Coast Guard Agencies Forum (NPCGF) in July. In September, China and the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) jointly held an international training course for lighthouse management personnel. In December, China held the Asia-Pacific Mass Rescue Operation (MRO) Training Course & Tabletop Exercise. In the same month, China, together with Brunei, Thailand and the United States, held the ARF Workshop on Marine Oil Spill Emergency Management Response and Disposal Cooperation, and together with Cambodia held the ARF Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation. China continued its cooperation with Australia and Malaysia in the search of the Malaysian Airline

flight MH370, and provided 20 million Australian dollars for follow-up search-and-rescue efforts.

As an initiator of the *Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery (ReCAAP)*, China supports capacity building and development of the Information Sharing Center (ISC) under the Agreement, and participated in the meetings, exercises and training programs of the ISC. In March 2015, Chinese representatives attended the 9th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC and donated US\$50,000 to the center. From December 2008, when China sent its first naval fleet to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters for escort missions, to January 2016, the Chinese fleets conducted 909 missions, escorting 6,112 Chinese and foreign civilian vessels. The Chinese naval fleets conducted active exchanges and cooperation with fleets from other countries providing escort services in the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters and shared information and cooperated with relevant countries and organizations.

China has ample historical and legal evidence for its sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands and the surrounding waters. China agrees with and advocates the "dual-track approach" put forward by ASEAN countries to deal with the South China Sea issue, that is, relevant disputes should be resolved through negotiation and consultation by countries directly concerned on the basis of respecting historical facts and international law, while peace and stability in the region is safeguarded by China and ASEAN countries working together. In 2015, China maintained close communication with ASEAN countries on the South China Sea issue, promoted all-round practical maritime cooperation, enhanced



mutual trust, and effectively safeguarded peace and stability in the South China Sea. In 2015, China and ASEAN countries held two senior officials' meetings and three joint working group meetings on implementing the *Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea* (DOC) to exchange views on full and effective implementation of the DOC and stronger practical maritime cooperation. The two sides also held consultations on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea under the framework of the DOC. Parties worked together to move the COC consultation to the new stage on "crucial and complex issues", and went through the "list of crucial and complex issues" and the "list of elements for the outline of a COC". Besides, parties agreed to discuss and formulate "maritime risk management and control preventive measures" to manage maritime risks and maintain regional maritime security before the conclusion of COC.

### **Cooperation on Non-proliferation and Disarmament**

China supports and takes an active part in international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation effort and stands for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China has earnestly implemented the provisions of the final document of the 8th NPT review conference, and was actively involved and played a constructive role in the 9th NPT review conference and the P5 Conference on Implementing the NPT. China stands ready to work with all parties through unremitting efforts to achieve the three NPT goals of "nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear power".

China holds that establishing a South East Asia

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is of great significance to promoting regional and global peace and stability. China supports the efforts of ASEAN countries to establish a South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and stands for the early signing and taking effect of the protocol to the *Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone*. China has solved all the remaining issues concerning the protocol with ASEAN, and looks forward to the signing of the protocol at an early date. China will continue to participate constructively in consultation between the ASEAN and the five nuclear countries, and facilitate consultation between ASEAN and other four nuclear countries to resolve their differences so that the protocol can be signed and come into effect at an early date.

China stands for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, opposes the development, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons by any one, and supports the purposes and goals of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction* (Chemical Weapons Convention) and the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). China is earnest in fulfilling its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention in its entirety and attaches great importance to and supports international exchanges and cooperation under the convention. China and the OPCW jointly held the 13th Regional Meeting of National Authorities of Asian States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) and the 1st Regional Meeting on



Education and Outreach for States Parties in Asia in May 2015, and the Advanced Protection and Assistance Course for Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia in September 2015. China supports UN's important role in the field of non-proliferation. In September 2015, China, together with the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, held the Training Course on National Points of Contacts of States in the Asia-Pacific Region in Qingdao to improve the capacity of Asia-Pacific countries of implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

At the end of November 2015, China, together with Laos, Russia and the United States, held the 3rd AARF Workshop on Space Security in Beijing. China also sent representatives to the Asia Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation, the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Workshop on Non-Proliferation and the ARF Bio-Preparedness Tabletop Exercise.

#### **IV. China's Perspectives on the Future Development of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

ARF has become an influential and inclusive official platform for multilateral security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Parties, focusing on confidence-building measures, are committed to steadily promoting preventive diplomacy based on consensus and substantiating cooperation on non-traditional security. Going forward, ARF should stick to the following principles:

First, openness and inclusiveness. ARF should adhere to the concepts and principles already established and champion common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable

security. It should advocate consultation and dialogue rather than threat of force, openness and inclusiveness rather than exclusion, and win-win cooperation rather than zero-sum games, and explore a path that ensures security for all, by all and of all. It should stick to the principles of seeking consensus through consultation, making incremental progress, accommodating the comfort level of all parties, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. These principles provide the bedrock and essential guarantee for ARF to conduct security dialogues and cooperation in the region. To ensure sound development of ARF, it is important to stay committed to ASEAN centrality, promote dialogue and cooperation in the "ASEAN Way", and properly balance the concerns and interests of all parties. In the meantime, ARF should be open and inclusive and continue to motivate non-ASEAN member states, and strengthen coordination with other mechanisms in the region. In doing so, ARF should strive to forge synergy while avoiding duplication to increase its effectiveness.

Second, mutual respect and mutual trust. ARF should stay focused on and continue to give priority to confidence-building measures throughout its development. In promoting preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific, rather than rushing for quick success, ARF should build consensus, take into full account regional diversity diversity and complexity, and respect the reality and practical needs of all member states. Only when strong mutual trust is established among all parties can a solid base be laid for successful preventive diplomacy. To carry out preventive diplomacy in Asia-Pacific region, ARF should not blindly copy the practice of other regions. Instead, it should abide by the *ASEAN Regional Forum Concept and Principles*



of *Preventive Diplomacy* (2001), stick to the principle of non-coercion and non-interference in others' internal affairs, and try to find a way that fits the conditions of the region.

And third, pragmatism and efficiency. Cooperation in non-traditional security fields should be further substantiated. Non-traditional security challenges such as natural disasters, terrorism, transnational crimes are becoming more serious. Tackling these challenges, more than anything else, serves the common interests of regional countries. ARF should tap into its strengths and remain focused on preventing and addressing regional non-traditional security challenges in its cooperation, and emphasize practical results and efficiency. It should deepen cooperation on disaster relief, combating terrorism and transnational crimes, maritime and cyber security so as to inject new vitality into its development.

As a founding member of ARF, China has taken an active part in the development of ARF over the past 20 years and more and played a constructive role in ensuring ARF's sound progress by promoting practical cooperation in various sectors. Going forward, China is ready to work with other members to expand areas of cooperation and promote sound and steady development of the forum, and contribute more to forging a sound security environment in the Asia-Pacific region.



## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

The security situation of the Asia-Pacific region for the past year has been unprecedentedly unstable and dangerous.

In several parts of the region, threatening behaviors inciting confrontation became more pronounced due to step-up of destabilizing factors such as territorial disputes.

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed the continuing all sorts of military exercises and consequently, the mistrust and confrontation among forces, countries and nations have been further aggravated.

Particularly, high-handed arbitrariness of the US that seeks regional supremacy through the strengthening of military alliances and intensive deployment of its military forces in the region heightened the concern and anxiety and brought about arms race among the regional states.

The realities vividly show that peace and security of the region is still faced with a serious challenge.

### **II. Situation on the Korean Peninsula and National Security Policy and Reunification Line**

#### **Situation on the Korean Peninsula**

Vicious cycle of confrontation and the escalation of tension persists in the Korean Peninsula

owing to the US increased hostile policy toward the DPRK and nuclear war provocations.

The US staged the aggressive joint military exercises in South Korea March and April this year with mobilization of the hugest amount of troops, all kinds of nuclear striking means and even the special forces.

The US-south Korea joint military exercises constitute a concentrated expression of the US hostile policy toward the DPRK.

The US no longer bothered to disguise its joint military exercises as “defensive” and “annual” by openly waging the offensive drills for “Decapitating Operation”, “inland occupation” and “advance towards Pyongyang” targeting the supreme headquarters and the toppling of system of the DPRK this year.

It is quite natural for the DPRK to counter the US nuclear threat with nuclear weapon.

The DPRK's consecutive measures to strengthen its national defense capabilities against the aggressive maneuvers of the US are, in all aspects, the legitimate exercise of the right to self-defense to cope with the political and military pressures of the US.

Nevertheless, the US attempts to shift the blame for escalation of the tension on the Korean Peninsula and the region on to the DPRK in order to put the international pressure against the DPRK.



The nuclear threat and blackmail, the joint military exercises, sanctions and suffocation are the very root cause that made the situation of the Korean Peninsula strained to the extreme stage of the breaking point.

The pressing issue which should be solved in the Korean Peninsula is to thoroughly eliminate the US hostile policy toward the DPRK, the very root cause of all the issue.

### **The National Security Policy**

It is the goal of the DPRK to build a peaceful world free from war and it is the consistent stand of the DPRK government to struggle for regional and global peace and security.

The DPRK has built its self-defensive military force with the nuclear deterrent as a pivot and frustrated the US war provocations at every step, thereby reliably safeguarding the peace and security of the Korean-peninsula and the rest of the world.

It is attributable to the independent politics, Songun politics of the DPRK that could prevent war and safeguard the peace in Korean Peninsula where the constant danger of nuclear war is imminent because of the US unceasing provocations of a new war.

The US is now clamoring about any “threat” provoking the DPRK with the self- defensive measures for increasing defense capabilities and space development for peaceful purpose. It is nothing but a pretext to justify its aggressive hostile policy toward the DPRK and strategy of domination for Asia.

The DPRK will make a vigorous effort to fundamentally put an end to the danger of a

nuclear war imposed by the US and defend the regional and global peace on the basis of the mighty nuclear deterrent.

The DPRK will consistently take hold on the strategic line of simultaneously pushing forward the economic construction and the building of nuclear force and boost self-defensive nuclear force both in quality and in quantity as long as the US persists in its nuclear threat and arbitrary practices.

As a responsible nuclear weapon state, the DPRK will not use a nuclear weapon unless its sovereignty is encroached upon by any aggressive hostile forces with nukes and it will faithfully fulfill its obligation for non-proliferation and strive for the global denuclearization.

### **The Line for National Reunification**

The DPRK maintains the line to achieve national independence and great national unity and ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and reunify the country by federal formula.

The US should abandon its anachronistic hostile policy toward the DPRK, replace the armistice agreement with peace agreement and withdraw all the aggressive troops and war equipment from the South Korea.

The US should not instigate the South Korean authorities to the confrontation with fellow countrymen and get off its hands from the issue of the Korean Peninsula.

The South Korean authorities must discontinue all reckless political and military provocations and war drills against the fellow countrymen and endangering peace and security on the Korean peninsula by blindly following the US.



Japan should give up its ambition of reinvasion on the Korean Peninsula. And Japan should honestly reflect on and apologize for the past crimes committed against the Korean nation and not disturb the reunification of Korea.

Surrounding nations will have to respect the sovereignty of the DPRK and play a positive role, so that the reunification of Korea can be made in the independent and peaceful way as desired by all Koreans.

### **III. Role of the ARF**

ASEAN played a big role in the development of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Especially, its observance of the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in others' internal affairs and equality becomes the main factor that gives rise to the advancement of the Forum as we witness today.

The present situation prevailing in the region teaches a lesson that there can be no peace and security, no development and no prosperity if these fundamental principles are disregarded in the international relations.

The DPRK considers that the future development of the ARF as well depends upon whether it continues to abide by these principles or not in the coming days.

The DPRK will make every possible effort to further develop neighborly friendship and friendly and cooperative relations with various countries of the world that respect our national sovereignty and are cordially to us, and safeguard the regional peace and security and realize the global independence in accordance with the idea of its external policy – independence, peace and friendship.



## EUROPEAN UNION



### I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment

#### - General observations of contemporary regional security environment according to each country's security perspective

The inter-sessional year 2015 to 2016 was a year of consolidation and deepening of the EU's relations with its Asian and Pacific partners. The EU's objectives have been to reconfirm its engagement with its current strategic partners (China, India, Japan, South Korea), to enhance its engagement in and with the emerging regional security architecture and to launch policy initiatives concerning the EU's future cooperation with ASEAN.

EU engagement in Asia remains comprehensive in nature, ranging from political dialogues to cooperation on global challenges, from crisis management to cooperation on humanitarian and development assistance. The EU's actions are framed by the core tenets of the Lisbon Treaty: to contribute to peace, security, sustainable development, solidarity, free and fair trade, the eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights and the development of international law.

Against the background of our own experiences, the EU is a natural supporter of efforts aiming at building a robust multilateral and rule-based, cooperative security order in Asia. Since its accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 2012 the EU has intensified engagement with the **ASEAN Regional**

**Forum (ARF)** and EU leaders have attended key high-level multilateral meetings on security in the region, from the Shangri-La Dialogue on Security in Asia to annual ARF Ministerials.

Since 2014, EU-ASEAN cooperation was further strengthened, through the implementation of the Brunei Plan of Action 2013-17. Working towards a more ambitious EU-ASEAN political partnership, several high-level visits and meetings<sup>1</sup> took place that confirmed the positive momentum. Both sides agreed to work towards the upgrading of the partnership to a strategic one and tasked their Senior Officials to develop a roadmap for this goal.

The EU has taken this task very seriously. In order to contribute to this objective, the Commission adopted in 2015 the Joint Communication "The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose". The Joint Communication was endorsed by EU Member States in their Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions adopted on 22 June 2015. In addition, the EU appointed a dedicated ambassador to ASEAN and the EU increased its financial support to the region from EUR 70 million to EUR 170 million in the period 2014-2020. Bilateral funding to ASEAN countries still eligible for development assistance counts €3 billion (2014-2020) from €2.2 billion (2007-2013).

In the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN and the EU, together with other partners,

<sup>1</sup> Amongst which: the EU-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee in Jakarta (February); HRVP F. Mogherini's visit to Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue (May); the EU-ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting in Brussels (July); HRVP Mogherini attending the EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference and the ASEAN Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur (August); the first EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Human Rights in Brussels (October); the breakfast-meeting of the High Representative with ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg (November).





continued to address regional and international security issues. The EU High Representative/Vice President of the Commission took part in the 22nd ARF Ministerial in Malaysia on 6 August 2015, setting out the EU's stance on the nature of the main security challenges affecting the region and on the need for comprehensive and rules-based solutions. She also reiterated the EU's ambition to take part in the East Asia Summit.

## **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

### **a. Overview of national security and defence policy**

#### **- Identify and briefly discuss national security and defence orientation, doctrine, and/or strategy**

2015 was another decisive year for the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Armed conflict, destruction and the loss of human lives in the European Union's neighbourhood called for swift and determined action and demonstrated the need for a truly united European Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Over the past year the EU used the entire range of its tools – CFSP and non-CFSP – to respond to these challenges, to tackle them in an integrated way and to alleviate their impact on the countries concerned as well as on Europe. The broader global changes driving the numerous and simultaneous crises we faced also highlight the need to forge a long-term strategy for the EU's external action.

The EU dedicated itself to even greater coordination between the European External Action Service, the European Commission

services and Member States to maintain a truly global reach for the EU in supporting peace, democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Throughout the year, the EU coupled diplomacy with new and existing eighteen Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations on the ground, humanitarian intervention in areas hit by crisis and development aid for those in need. We also worked closely with international, regional and local partners including in the Asia Pacific.

The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy contributes to global peace and security in a number of ways. First, the EU is directly involved in – and in some cases leads – international peace negotiations on behalf of the international community. The EU played a crucial role in the landmark achievement of the normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President Federica Mogherini leading several rounds of the Belgrade–Pristina dialogue. In July 2015, following years of EU-led diplomacy, a historic international agreement was reached on Iran's nuclear programme. The EU, together with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, brokered the agreement. Iran pledged that under no circumstances would it ever seek, develop or acquire nuclear weapons. Following this agreement, the chances for the development of an enhanced and productive EU relationship with Iran are greatly increased.

Throughout the year the EU continued to play a leading role in international efforts to solve crises in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Ukraine. It worked tirelessly with its international partners against the activities of ISIL/Da'esh.



Second, the EU can assemble a wide range of tools – political and economic – to tackle important foreign policy challenges. In a world where security challenges are becoming ever more complex, the EU's approach to external action adds particular value by addressing all dimensions of a crisis, from its roots to its immediate manifestation. We see the benefits of such an approach in situations as diverse as EU action to address the crisis in Ukraine and in how it has dealt with countering piracy at the Horn of Africa.

Third, the EU works closely with – and materially support – international and regional partners to deal with regional challenges where only collective efforts can deliver results, such as climate change, sustainable development, and disaster risk management and relief. In 2015 the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the long awaited climate deal agreed in Paris. To promote democracy, the European Union undertook election observation missions to Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Haiti, and unfolded six election observation missions to African countries.. The EU also intensified cooperation with its regional and strategic partners to meet global threats and challenges.

The development of the EU Common Security and Defence policy (CSDP) has allowed significant and increasing EU-UN civilian and military crisis management cooperation, such as off the coast of Somalia (EU NAVFOR Somalia), Kosovo (EULEX), Mali (EUTM Mali), Central African Republic (EUMAM RCA) and continues to be an important part of our overall partnership. On 22 June 2015 the Council launched the EU naval operation against human

smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean called EUNAVFOR MED Sophia. During summer 2015 the EU reached out to countries of transit and origin of migrants in an unprecedented way. Migration has become a specific component of ongoing common security and defence policy missions already deployed in countries like Mali and Niger, where more focus was put on border management. A new dialogue with Sahel countries began, focusing on issues such as the control of borders, the fight against international crime networks and development. In Asia, the EU continued to provide successive border management programme support, including with the support of INTERPOL, the exchange of information between immigration officials in ASEAN capitals and the support for the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals within the region (EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme, 4.7 million €, 2012-2015). It also provided support to various local projects on migration and trafficking of human beings amongst which in many ASEAN member states but also in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. While the EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee has continued to make progress, the EU has also agreed with Afghanistan and Bangladesh to hold high-level dialogues on migration and cooperation on readmission.

A total of 17<sup>2</sup> EU CSDP missions and operations were operating on the ground in 2015; one new military operation was established: EU NAVFOR MED Sophia of which its core mandate is to undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers, in order to contribute to





wider EU efforts to disrupt the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean and prevent the further loss of life at sea.. A total of around 7000 staff is deployed under CSDP. The contribution of partners to CSDP is commendable. The EU continued close co-operation with international organisations including UN, NATO, AU, OSCE. It was key in addressing crises in Africa, Middle East, Ukraine, Afghanistan and the Balkans in a comprehensive and complementary manner.

### **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

#### **Participation in cooperative arrangements in/germane to Asia-Pacific**

- **Identify and briefly discuss national cum regional responses to the following security issues as per their enclosed sub-categories. If necessary include additional categories and discuss responses.**

#### **i. Counterterrorism**

The fight against terrorism continued to take centre stage in the work of the EU during the year. The EU's key objectives at global level remain to deepen the international consensus and enhance international efforts to combat terrorism, including in the framework of the ARF and its ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime. Eleven counterterrorism and security experts were appointed to eleven EU delegations, and counterterrorism and political dialogues were held with a number of countries and international institutions, such as the United Nations and the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations. The EU continued to strengthen its comprehensive approach to external conflict and crises. It was active in supporting conflict prevention measures in more than 30 countries, including through mediation and analytical work.

The EU continued to support the key role of the UN in multilateral cooperation in combating and preventing terrorism. Overall, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is integral to the EU's approach to counter-terrorism. The EU strongly supported UNSG efforts on implementation of the UN Global CT Strategy. Within this framework, the EU and its member states worked on effectively addressing the threat of the foreign fighters through concrete measures. The brutal terror of Daesh made it necessary to concentrate even more on the situation in Syria and Iraq. EU action in Iraq is guided by the regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the ISIL/Da'esh threat, adopted by the Council in March 2015. The EU proactively facilitates the efforts of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, particularly in the areas of counterterrorism, stabilisation and humanitarian assistance. It also supports the government of Iraq in its reforms promoting inclusiveness and national reconciliation. The EU is a driving force in the United Nations-led international effort to facilitate a political solution to the conflict in Syria, which has forced an estimated 12 million people to leave their homes. The EU has allocated €4 billion to assist Syrians and host communities, particularly in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. A substantial funding increase is planned through the new EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis (the Madad Fund').

<sup>2</sup> Military Missions: EUFOR ALTHEA (Bosnia Herzegovina), EUNAVFOR MED (Mediterranean), EUTM (Mali), EUMAM RCA (Central African Republic), EUTM (Somalia), EU NAVFOR ATALANTA (Somalia).

Civilian Missions: EULEX (Kosovo), EUBAM (Libya), EUAM (Ukraine) EUPOL (Afghanistan), EUPOL COPPS (Palestinian Territories), EUBAM RAFAH (Palestinian Territories), EUMM (Georgia), EUCAP SAHEL (Mali), EUCAP SAHEL (Niger), EUSEC RD (Congo), EUCAP NESTOR (Somalia)





Member States also agreed to increase by 400% the EU's assistance to third countries earmarked for counter-terrorism in the next financial framework 2014-2020. This assistance continued its focus mainly on the following priority areas: South Asia region, in particular Pakistan, Afghanistan; Sahel, Nigeria and Maghreb; Horn of Africa/Yemen and the implementation of the UN standards on counter-terrorism.

The EU further remained a strong supporter of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), and the three GCTF-inspired institutions; Hedayah, international centre of excellence on countering violent extremism, GCERF, Engagement and Resilience Fund and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law.

## **ii. Non-proliferation, Counter-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

### **Actions taken in adherence to ARF Statements e.g.:**

#### **▪ Supporting National Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540**

- **Identify/discuss actions and measures each country has taken, is taking, and/or will be taking in fulfilment of commitment to UNSC Resolution 1540.**
- **Non-Proliferation**
- **Identify/discuss actions and measures each country has taken, is taking, and/or will be taking in fulfilment of commitment in this regard.**

Non-proliferation and disarmament continued to be an integral part of the EU's foreign policy in 2015. In summary, the EU in 2015 continued to support universal accession to relevant international treaties and instruments as well as their full and effective implementation, particularly with regard to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the newly adopted Arms Trade Treaty. The EU also continued to

promote the inclusion of clauses on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as on small arms and light weapons, into agreements between the EU and third states. The EU Non-Proliferation Consortium organised its fourth International EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference in Brussels on 13 and 14 July 2015.

The EEAS Principal Advisor and Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Jacek Bylica represented the EU in a number of key international meetings in 2015, notably the 2015 NPT Preparatory Conference (April-May), the Multilateral Negotiations on an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities in New York (July) initiated by the EU and the UNGA First Committee (November). In addition, the Special Envoy intensified or initiated non-proliferation dialogues with major partners outside the EU and pursued the mainstreaming of non-proliferation issues in the EU's bilateral relations with all relevant countries, in particular through Political Dialogue meetings and more informal contacts.

With regard to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), in 2015 the EU continued to actively pursue the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, including through its support to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The EU also continued to actively promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to further support the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, based on the Council Decision adopted in November 2012 providing additional financial support through the CFSP budget of around EUR 5.2 million to the CTBTO.<sup>3</sup> It conducted outreach efforts towards countries that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT, including in the framework of events such as the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament held in Kuala Lumpur on 15-16 June 2015.



### **iii. Transnational Crime Actions taken in adherence to ARF Statements, e.g.:**

#### **▪ Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange and Document Integrity and Security in Enhancing Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crimes**

**- Identify/discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation, regular or intermittent, institutionalized or ad hoc, with other ARF states in this regard.**

#### **▪ Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of Diversion of Precursors into Illicit Drug Manufacture**

**- Identify/discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation, regular or intermittent, institutionalized or ad hoc, with other ARF states in this regard.**

#### **▪ Strengthening Transport Security Against International Terrorism**

**- Identify/discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation, regular or intermittent, institutionalized or ad hoc, with other ARF states in this regard.**

Serious and organised crime represents an underestimated threat, both in the EU and in third countries. It remained on the agenda of EU political dialogues with many countries and regional and international organisations, in particular in relation to drug trafficking. This is all the more important as some regions are becoming consumption areas in addition to their “traditional” role as transit zones. West Africa is the most striking example of this new trend, just

as it is also becoming a production zone for New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) for the East Asian demand.

EU-funded assistance programmes and CSDP missions contributed to translating political orientations into practice. These actions also seek to complement the EU (internal) Policy Cycle for Organised and Serious International Crime 2014-2017.

The 'Cocaine' and 'Heroin Route' programmes, funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), continued to build law enforcement capacities and international linkages along their respective trafficking routes. A special focus will now be given to criminal justice along the cocaine route. The production of and trafficking in falsified medicines is another threat to public health, where developing countries are particularly exposed and vulnerable. An IcSP project raising state and public awareness in Ghana, Senegal, Jordan, Morocco and Cameroon was successful. It would now need to be opened to other benefiting countries.

The EU continued its consistent effort to address drug-related problems worldwide, inter alia through dedicated dialogues and institution & capacity building in key countries and regions (Latin America, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Central Asia and West Africa). A comprehensive and balanced approach was applied to target the overall degrading effect on the stability and security of the source and transit countries, with a focus on production, supply and demand of drugs, but also wider, i.e. anti-corruption, money-laundering and drug-related criminality. This was done while taking into consideration the respect of human rights, which represents a major added value of the EU policy in this field.

<sup>3</sup> See Council Decision 2012/699/CFSP of 13 November 2012 on the Union support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities and in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 314, 14.11.2012, p. 27).



Last but not least, in 2015 the EU continued, together with its international partners, the preparations for the UNGA Special Session on Drugs (2016). Taking place for the first time in 18 years, the Session is expected to open new prospects to managing the worldwide drug problem within the framework of the existing UN Drug Conventions.

As in many other global areas, improving the link between the internal and external dimension of EU policy was subject to brainstorming and institutional action and will continue to be so in 2016.

#### **iv. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

**Actions taken in adherence to ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Assistance, etc.**

- **Identify/discuss actions and measures each country has taken, is taking, and/or will be taking, at the national, bilateral and/or multilateral levels, in fulfilment of commitment in this regard.**

In 2015, the EU's commitment to supporting the development of regional capabilities in the ARF/ ASEAN framework in the specific field of disaster response continued unabated.

The EU remained a significant actor in the field of international disaster relief, where it has an interest in shaping the process of fostering cooperation.

The EU (EEAS-FPI) has launched a 2,7 million project (IfS/IcPS) to support the ASEAN emergency response architecture (AHA Centre, ASEAN Secretariat), as well as national crisis response structures in a number of ASEAN

countries. EU technical support covers the following areas: capacity-building and knowledge sharing activities, training programmes and workshops, visits and institutional building initiatives.

In Myanmar, the EU (EEAS-FPI) has initiated a project aimed at supporting the Myanmar crisis response architecture (infrastructure, capacity building, training). The EU-funded (IfS) Myanmar National Crisis Management Centre was inaugurated in June 2014 (Nay Pyi Taw) in the presence of EEAS. The EU has already organised several training programmes for the staff of the Myanmar Crisis Centre.

At the DiREx in 2015, EU could demonstrate its usual commitment by deploying substantial live assets as it did in previous Disaster Relief exercises. The EU also actively participated in the 14th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, which was held in Tokyo from 12 to 13 February. The EU presence was a tangible sign of the EU's commitment towards ARF and ASEAN. The EU coherence was epitomized by the presence of one representative from the EEAS and one from DG-ECHO, thus covering the strategic-coordination as well as the strategic-operational levels.

#### **v. Maritime Security**

**Actions taken in adherence to ARF Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security, e.g.**

- **Identify/discuss all actions and measures each country has taken, is taking, and/or will be taking in fulfilment of commitment.**

In 2015, maritime security became the object of greater attention. In March 2014, the Commission



and the HR had adopted the Joint Communication "For an Open and Secure Global Maritime Domain: Elements for a European Union Maritime Security Strategy" which paved the way for the adoption of the EU Maritime Security Strategy by the Council of the EU Member States. The Council considered that the Strategy reflecting the EU's cross-sectoral approach to maritime security should be implemented, and an Action Plan identifying five areas (external relations, information sharing, capability development, risk management and research and training), in which cooperation between various maritime players can be enhanced, was adopted. In 2015, the EU also further increased engagement in maritime security with key strategic partners, including international organizations and multilateral fora, such as NATO or ASEAN-ARF, and strategic partner countries.

The EU has chaired the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) in 2014 and 2015. During its chairmanship, the EU has delivered on its priorities: the rationalisation and regionalisation of the CGPCS, the documentation of the lessons learned from fighting piracy in the Horn of Africa, zero ships and zero seafarers in the hands of Somali pirates (abbreviated to 'zero/zero') and the revision of the High-Risk Area: the CGPCS has been reformed and regional states now take co-ownership of fight against piracy, a Lessons learned consortium has been established to document and analyse the fight against piracy, and the number of ships and seafarers in Somali

hands has been brought down to zero ships and 26 seafarers in March 2015, from a peak of 736 hostages held in 2011 and 47 vessels pirated in 2010.

Since 2009, the ICSG Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) programme has focused on the security and safety of essential maritime routes in areas affected by piracy to help to secure shipping and trading lines of communication. The long-term objective addressed by the programme is to improve maritime governance. The emphasis is on capacity building at regional and trans-regional level for exchange of information, cooperation and subsequent implementation at national level.

Progressively linking up the actions under CMR, the programme aims to create trans-regional synergies. Three geographical areas are concerned: Gulf of Guinea, South-East Asia and the Western Indian Ocean. The programme therefore contributes to the EU overall strategies in these regions: the EU Council Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, the EU joint paper on Security and Development in the Gulf of Guinea and the Nuremberg Declaration on EU-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership for South-East Asia. In 2015, the EU Strategy for the Gulf of Guinea and its accompanying Action Plan have been adopted.

Finally, the EU – together with Malaysia – co-organised the 2nd ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation "Developing Inter-Agency Cooperation and Regional Cooperation to Enhance Maritime Security" from 6-8 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.



#### **IV. Role of ARF**

##### **a. National contributions to enhancing the ARF and regional security**

- **Identify/discuss efforts aimed at strengthening ARF capabilities in regional security management.**

##### **b. Future of ARF**

- **Identify/discuss views about future challenges and prospects for the ARF, and your contributions to improving the ARF's ability to manage those and progress towards its express objectives in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution.**

In the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN and the EU, together with other partners, continued to address regional and international security issues. The HR/VP took part in the 22nd ARF Ministerial in Malaysia on 6 August 2015, setting out the EU's stance on the nature of the main security challenges affecting the region and on the need for comprehensive and rules-based solutions. She also reiterated the EU's ambition to take part in the East Asia Summit.

The ARF continues to be the most comprehensive multilateral security forum in the region. As a long-standing and active ARF member, the EU is contributing to regional peace and stability and supporting the development of a more robust, rules based regional security order. The ARF offers a valuable platform for the EU and its Asian partners to engage on a broad range of issues

such as maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, counter-terrorism and transnational crime. Drawing on its comprehensive approach, the EU has engaged actively with ARF partners at various levels, e.g. through Intersessional Meetings, the Inter-sessional Support Group (ISG) and the related Defence Officials' Dialogue, the Senior Officials' Meeting and the ARF Ministerial. The EU respects the central role of ASEAN in the emerging regional architecture and believes in the need to ensure transparency and synergy between ARF and other regional fora such as the ADDM+ meetings and the East Asia Summit.

The EU is keen to make the ARF, in line with ARF Ministerial Guidance, more 'action oriented'. In this regard, the EU underlines the importance of strengthening the organizational and institutional structures of the ARF, including the ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat.

The EU is also keen to strengthening the quantity and quality of EU engagement in ARF and ASEAN security-related activities. In this respect, the EU has been active in the areas Maritime Security (High Level Dialogues in Jakarta 2013 and Kuala Lumpur 2015), Preventive Diplomacy (ARF trainings in Brunei 2014 and Indonesia 2015), CBRN (EU-funded Centre of Excellence plus ARF workshop in Manila in 2015), Disaster Management and Crisis Response (dedicated EU support for AHA Centre), cyber security (Kuala Lumpur 2015) and trainings on the EU's crisis management policies (in 2013 and 2015), with more planned activities in the pipeline.





## INDONESIA



### **I. Overview of The Regional Security Environment**

ASEAN Regional Forum, which since two decades ago has become the main platform for discussion of political and security issues in the region, has to maintain its vital role in the effort to ensure peace and stability be preserved amidst growing traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the region.

Indonesia deems it important that the norms and principles of regionalism, especially the peaceful resolution of disputes, are constantly upheld. Nations must faithfully adhere to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), the Bali Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations as well as universal norms and provisions of international law. ARF Participants must act in accordance with these principles and norms so that peace and stability can be sustained. At the same time, ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms should be continuously refined to ensure that they remain effective in addressing regional and global challenges.

At present, rising tensions and recent security-related developments in some parts of Asia-Pacific region are becoming a major source of concern and are exacerbating the trust deficit in the region. It is vital to ASEAN's common interest that we safeguard peace, security and stability in the region.

In the region closer to home, peace and stability in the South China Sea is very important. Yet it

continues to be in the spotlight of the international community due to current developments in the region, including reclamation activities as well as the issue of militarization. There is a sense that these developments have led to a widening trust deficit among the regional countries. It has garnered the attention and involvement of external parties as well.

Disputes generated from overlapping claims in the area underscores the necessity for the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). If the situation remains unchecked, there is a strong possibility that these developments can lead to open conflict between states in and beyond the region—especially when one party miscalculates. Therefore, it is crucial for all parties to refrain themselves from activities that may escalate tensions, as well as respect to international law.

On the issue of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Indonesia believes that it threatens the existence of every nation in the world, humanity, as well as the stability of international peace and security. On the nuclear issue, Indonesia believes that the world will never be safe from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe until nuclear weapons are totally eliminated. The national moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions cannot dispel that threat.



While it is true that the world today has a large body of treaties, commitments and fora to advance non-proliferation, there are still thousands of nuclear warheads on stockpile. Nuclear weapon states must find the political will to get rid of their nuclear arsenals. For its part, the region needs to conclude a Nuclear Weapons Convention that would totally eliminate nuclear weapons within a definite time frame, forestall an arms race in outer space, and provide for negative security assurances and fissile materials cut-off. In this regard, Indonesia fully supports the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as an international instrument to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

On the issue of the treaty of South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ), Indonesia has committed to intensify the ongoing efforts of the State Parties of the SEANWFZ Treaty and the Nuclear Weapons States to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty, pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty at the earliest, as reflected in the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

Indonesia's view of the regional security outlook is consistent with its strategic geographical location and its nature as the largest archipelago in the world. It attaches the greatest importance to maritime security. Indonesia is committed to realizing its vision as the global maritime fulcrum.

Among many issues in the context of maritime security, Indonesia puts IUU fishing as one of the main priorities as it affects not only the economy and environment, but also political, security, and social aspects. In this regard, measures have been taken in order to prevent, deter, and

eliminate IUU fishing, including among others, initiatives for closer regional cooperation and strengthening national law enforcement to safeguard Indonesia's sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with the 1982 UNCLOS.

It is also Indonesia's priority to develop its maritime capacity in various fields, aiming not only for the interest of Indonesia, but also for the interest of the world. Indonesia intends to establish the maritime area in the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, freedom, neutrality and prosperity for all.

## **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

### **Overview of National Security and Defence Policy**

Indonesia believes that the impact of globalization has prompted more dynamic interstate relations in the geopolitical constellation. The consequences of this development have increased mutual and common challenges faced by many nations. Indonesia categorizes such threat perceptions into: (1) traditional threat, such as a certain country's aggression, and (2) non-traditional threats, such as terrorism and radicalism, natural disasters, sea robbery, separatism and insurgency, cyber-crimes and attacks, and the abuse of narcotics/drugs.

Several key concerns of Indonesia's security and defence policy are, among others: the threat of radicalism and foreign terrorist fighters, disaster management, pandemics, drug trafficking, cyber security, piracy and armed robbery at sea.



As many of those challenges are cross-cutting in nature, Indonesia will continue to cooperate with every nation based on the values of equality and mutual respect.

Indonesia is modernizing its defence posture to secure its land, sea and airspace; to contribute to world peace; to strengthen its defence industry; and to encourage participatory contribution of Indonesian citizens.

The current geopolitical constellation has created convergent interests among nations. Hence, Indonesia opens the opportunity for defence cooperation with other nations in accordance with its domestic law and international law.

Indonesia adheres to a doctrine of national defence that was crafted on the basis of the Pancasila, the national ideology; the 1945 Constitution; the country's history; and the idea of the Archipelagic State. The doctrine is expressed in a Total-National Defence System that involves all stakeholders, territories, and other national resources. The system is integrated, focused, sustainable, and designed to protect and defend the people, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

This doctrine also aims to contribute to regional peace and security. It relies on the teamwork and complementary ties between military and non-military elements.

In the context of ASEAN, Indonesia has actively contributed to the progress of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus in promoting regional peace and security through dialogue and cooperation. Some of Indonesia's

notable contributions include the hosting of Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institution (NADI) Workshop on Defence Diplomacy "Prosperity and Security through Defence Diplomacy" on 25-28 October 2015 in Bali, Indonesia, as well as the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network (APCN): Future Leaders Program on 2-4 December 2015 at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre (IPSC), Bogor, Indonesia.

The NADI workshop has served as an important forum to discuss the principles of defence diplomacy in addressing existing and future security challenges as well as crisis and potential conflicts in the region. Meanwhile, the APCN Future Leaders Program was convened to implement the APSC Blueprint 2009-2015 Action Line B.1.1.ii, namely promote the exchange of observers of military exercise, through sharing of experiences/knowledge and capacity building as well as visiting pre-deployment activity of Indonesian peacekeepers before being sent to the United Nations mission.

Within the framework of ADMM-Plus, Indonesia has participated in two regional exercises, namely the ADMM-Plus Joint Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Exercise on 23 February – 8 March 2016 in Pune, India and the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security (MS) and Counter Terrorism (CT) Exercise on 2-12 May 2016 in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. In both exercises, Indonesia contributed its defence personnel, equipment and ships. Indonesia will also participate in the ADMM-Plus Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Military Medicine (MM) Exercise in Chonburi Province, Thailand on 1-11 September 2016.



Beyond the region, Indonesia is also duty-bound to contribute to world peace in accordance with the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution. This is the rationale behind Indonesia's involvement in peacekeeping operations, as the country's contribution to the shaping of a better world of peace and social justice as well as equitable prosperity.

Indonesia has actively participated in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations since 1957 through its contribution in the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East. Indonesia's contingents have been among the peacekeeping forces sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cyprus, Sinai, Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, and Central African Republic. Indonesia sent its largest contingent to Cambodia in the early 1990s. It is currently the top contributing country in UNIFIL (Lebanon), where the Indonesian contingent stands at 1,296 personnel. Furthermore, three Indonesian officers have been assigned to hold leadership positions as Force Commanders/Chief Military Observer in three United Nations Peacekeeping missions, namely UNEF (Major General Rais Abin, 1976-1979), UNPROFOR (Brigadier General Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, 1995-1996), and MINURSO (Major General Edy Mulyono, August 2013-September 2015).

As of April 2016, there are 2,850 Indonesian military and police personnel participating in ten United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, namely MINURSO (Western Sahara), MINUSCA (Central African Republic), MINUSMA (Mali), MINUSTAH (Haiti), MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo), UNAMID (Darfur, Sudan), UNIFIL (Lebanon), UNISFA (Abyei, Sudan), UNMISS (South Sudan) and UNMIL (Liberia). The number places Indonesia in the 12th rank among Troop/Police Contributing Countries

(T/PCCs), and also the biggest T/PCC in South East Asia. Having deployed 2,850 personnel in these operations, Indonesia ranks twelfth among 124 countries Troops/Police contributing countries.

In recent years, Indonesia has made a sustained and substantial commitment to significantly step-up its presence in UN peacekeeping. In this regard, the Government has formulated a "Roadmap for Vision 4,000 Peacekeepers" as a strategic guidance that underpins Indonesia's effort to becoming a top ten T/PCCs through the deployment of 4,000 personnel by 2019.

It is in this spirit that Indonesia established in West Java Province the Indonesian Peace and Security Centre (IPSC) in December 2011. The Center, which also includes the Peacekeeping Training Center, serves as a venue for pre-deployment trainings, joint exercises, as well as regional and international peacekeeping workshops and seminars, to better prepare peacekeepers to cope with the increasingly complex demands and mandates of UN PKOs.

At the regional level, Indonesia has played an active role in strengthening ASEAN cooperation in the field of peacekeeping, including its initiative to establish an ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre Network within the framework of the ADMM. The initiative is aimed at promoting and enhancing cooperation among defence and armed forces of ASEAN Member States through sharing of experiences, expertise and related capacities in peacekeeping. In 2013, Indonesia hosted the second meeting of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre Network from 2 to 5 September 2013 at the IPSC, Bogor, West Java Province. Indonesia also hosted the Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on Peacekeeping



Operations in July 2015, aimed at strengthening support from countries in the region to UN Peacekeeping. Indonesia also will lead in the framework of ADMM Plus Country as co chair with Australia in the Expert Working Group (EWG) on Peacekeeping operation (PKO) for the implementation of three years working program started from 2017 to 2020.

Indonesia also co-chaired the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015, on the sideline of 70th Session of UN General Assembly. In the Summit, the Vice President of Indonesia has conveyed Indonesia's operational readiness to deploy a Military Composite Battalion, a Formed Police Unit, and 100 individual police officers, including 40 female officers, in 2016. Indonesia has also reiterated the commitment to deploy civilian experts to UN missions, in line with the Roadmap on the Vision of 4000 Peacekeepers 2015-2019.

Indonesia considers ASEAN as central to any regional security architecture in the Asia Pacific region. Its regional defence outlook stresses international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global levels.

As part of Indonesia's contribution to the creation of an environment that is favorable to a lasting peaceful order in the Asia-Pacific region, characterized by cooperation, transparency, and trust among governments and militaries alike, Indonesia has regularly held an annual Jakarta International Defence Dialogue (JIDD), since 2011 with the most recent being held in 2014. This forum provides a useful opportunity for officials and experts to discuss current and evolving trends in the region, to enhance government-to-government and military-to-military confidence building, and to

help facilitate ongoing and new multilateral initiatives. Building upon the successes of previous dialogues, Indonesia will host the Indo Defence by the end of 2016 and next JIDD conference in the first half of 2017. The exhibitions and the conference will focus on defence industry, defence dialogue, and maritime diplomacy to contribute to the creation of secure and stable environment, which would lead to prosperity in the region.

### **Total Defence Expenditure on Annual Basis**

Development of Indonesia's defence capacity prioritizes on the defence posture and advancing the professionalism of armed forces, supported by the availability of weapon system capable of preparedness and mobility. In that context, it is paramount to meet the requirement of the minimum essential force (MEF). To achieve this goal, the projected defence budget is expected to be above 1% of GDP and a gradual increase in the next decade.

The need for gradually increased defence budget is in line with the complicated threats, including the budget needed for maintenance and operation of the modern weapon systems. Budget allocation will always increase in line with national economy development. The proportional budget allocation for state defence will strengthen the national capacity in defence, national resilience and stability, as well as to support national development.

### **Defence Expenditure and Its Percentage of Domestic Product (GDP)**

In the year of 2016, the defence budget and expenditure is of 99,5 trillion Rupiah. While the percentage of defence expenditure increased



from 0,89% to 1,5% from Indonesia GDP for three years. This means from 2015 to 2017, Indonesia's defence expenditure will gradually increase from 0,89% to 1,5%.

### **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

#### **3.1. Counter-terrorism**

Indonesia's battle against terrorism take a slightly different turn early this year. After a dormant period, terrorist attack surfaced as evidenced in Thamrin bomb attacks on 18th January 2016. Police and Military swift response coupled with unwavering display of public supports have strengthened Indonesia commitment to fight against terrorism.

Indonesia views that terrorism remains a major threat to the national, regional and global security, which has undermined political and economic stability as well as social welfare of every state. The issue has become more complicated following the emergence of new forms of terrorist threat, including the increasing number of new terrorist recruits via convicted terrorists; more frequent terrorist attacks against public officers and infrastructures; and more extensive radicalization associated with religion or ethnic conflict. The terrorist group activities have also changed, especially in the methods of operation, communication and funding.

Therefore, Indonesia believes that intensifying national efforts and international cooperation to address the issue of terrorism should be done continuously by engaging all relevant stakeholders from both government and society. A comprehensive strategy of

counter-terrorism is required with respect to due process of law and human rights. The strategy should be people-centered and include inter-civilization dialogue, information sharing and exchange of intelligence, cooperation in document integrity and security, joint counter-terror action in the border areas, and measures against terrorist financing. To implement such a strategy, it is important to emphasize that terrorist groups cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nation, culture or social or ethnic group. Considering the complex and changing nature of terrorism methods, regular assessment of counter terrorism measures, however, should be undertaken to formulate new measures adjusting to any given situations.

At the national level, Indonesia has a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy combining hard and soft approaches. In terms of hard approach, Indonesia has issued Law No. 15 Year 2003 on Combating-Terrorism and Law No. 9 Year 2013 on the Prevention and the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In addition, to strengthen the fight against terrorist financing, Indonesia has issued a Joint Regulation on the Listing of Identity of Persons and Corporations in the List of Suspected Terrorists and Terrorist Organizations and Freezing, Without Delay, Funds Owned by Persons or Corporations Listed in the List of Suspected Terrorists and Terrorist Organizations. Indonesia is currently in the process of amending its Law on Combating Terrorism in order to prevent the departure and travel of as well as to prosecute, rehabilitate, and reintegrate the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) returnees into the community, in which respecting human rights.



In terms of soft approach, Indonesia has conducted de-radicalization and counter-radicalization programs as well as interfaith dialogue to promote culture of tolerance and value of moderation. The de-radicalization program consists of two main elements. First, the rehabilitation program aimed at the terrorists during police detention and imprisonment to transform them into law-abiding citizen. Under this program, Indonesia has applied religious and psychological approaches. The second element is the reintegration program aimed at helping the former-terrorist after serving their punishment in prison to break ties with their old terrorist cells and join the normal community. The program is also aimed at former-terrorist family and sympathizers to prevent them in joining the terrorist and violent extremist groups.

The counter-radicalization program is aimed at increasing the awareness of society regarding the danger of violent radicalism and extremism whilst at the same time empowering communities to be more resilient against radical and extremist propaganda. Indonesia's strategy in implementing the counter-radicalization program is to build close partnership with all stakeholders and all elements of society as well as to foster coordination among government ministries and agencies to maximize the use of government's resources and capabilities for countering terrorism and violent extremism efforts.

As a country with the largest Moslem population, Indonesia has actively played a significant role in promoting tolerance and mutual understanding among different religious and ethnic groups, both at national, regional, and international level.

Since the root causes of terrorism are varied and complex, the strategy to address the issues should be comprehensive. The approach to counter-terrorism should therefore be people-centered and should include inter-civilization dialogue, information sharing and exchange of intelligence, cooperation in document integrity and security, joint counter-terror action in the border areas, and measures against terrorist financing. In this regard, the efforts are: 1) initiating the establishment of the OIC Contact Group on Peace and Conflict Resolution; 2) hosting the 4th International Conference of Islamic Scholar; 3) actively contributing in the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) in which Indonesia and Australia co-chairs the issue of detention and reintegration; 4) actively contributing in the Leader's Summit on Countering ISIS and Violent Extremism; 5) holding interfaith dialogues with Serbia, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria.

### **Promoting a People-Centered Approach to Counter-Terrorism.**

Indonesia believes that promoting a people-centered approach is essential for the success of countering terrorism. Indonesia is a country with a huge population spread out in thousands of islands. Therefore it will not be effective and almost impossible if it is only the government that conducts counter terrorism. In this regard, Indonesia has maximized the involvement of members of the community in tackling violent extremism in their community through close partnership with the police at the precinct level under the community-policing program. The program is aimed at building trust and mutual understanding between the police on the ground and the members of the community in general so that intensive



communication can be developed to detect early signs of terrorism in the community. The government has also organized capacity building programs at the village level involving village supervisory by the Indonesian armed forces personnel stationed in the village as well as the heads of villages to raise awareness on the threats posed by terrorists.

Indonesia has managed to reduce the incidence of terrorism by involving the community in counter-radicalization projects and it vigorously supports counter-radicalization as one the ARF priority programs in the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Work Plan. Indonesia suggests extending coverage of the program to include de-radicalization and re-education of terrorist inmates.

### **Promotion of Inter-Civilization Dialogue.**

The promotion of inter-faith dialogue provides an avenue for fostering tolerance and mutual understanding within pluralistic communities. This effort should be carried out in tandem with empowering moderates in support of counter-radicalism actions. Thus, Indonesia is actively promoting dialogue or exchange of views among different religious and ethnic groups at the international level. In this regard, Indonesia hosted the UN Alliance of Civilization in Bali in August 2014 with the theme “Unity in Diversity”.

In close partnership with the two largest Muslim organizations in Indonesia, *Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)* and *Muhammadiyah*, the Government has organized seminars, workshops and training sessions to promote an understanding of Islam as a tolerant, peaceful and moderate religion. Together with other religious organizations, the

Government has also conducted a series of interfaith dialogues involving leaders and members of all religions in Indonesia to prevent religious and ethnic conflict that can lead to terrorism.

Indonesia has also recognized the significant role of civil society in countering terrorism through campaign for peaceful, tolerant and harmonious nation. In partnership with civil society organizations, the Government has organized a capacity building program for civil society organizations to develop a community empowerment program and other activities aimed at neutralizing terrorist propaganda.

Indonesia has been developing an effective media campaign to foil the continuous efforts of terrorists to feed society with extremist religious doctrines and discriminative sentiments through their media campaign. For this purpose, the Government has set up a special task force to maximize the utilization of the media and developed long term-media strategies to neutralize radical media campaigns, including through launching of special websites.

In promoting interfaith harmony based on the state ideology Pancasila, the Government has distributed books and printed materials to schools, university libraries, religious boarding schools and religious study groups across the nation. The Government has also developed programs and curriculums at schools that promote critical thinking, harmonious living and tolerance.

At the ASEAN level, Indonesia has been serving as the Senior Officials’ Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) voluntary lead shepherd for counter terrorism and the Chairman of SOMTC





Working Group on Counter Terrorism for several years. In contributing to the regional efforts to counter terrorism, Indonesia has completed five projects on counter terrorism, which were proposed under the ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue (AJCTD) Phase II (2012-2015) and funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The five projects include “Workshop on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism”, “Conflict Resolution and Anti-Terrorism in ASEAN Countries”, “Mapping and Evaluating De-radicalisation and Disengagement Programs in ASEAN”, “Publishing for Counter Radicalisation” as well as “Comparative Research on Youth and Terrorism in the Southeast Asia”.

At the international level, Indonesia sees the importance of multilateral cooperation and the initiative to develop a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to fortify current international law instruments within the UN framework. In this regard, Indonesia is party to eight international legal instruments of counter-terrorism.

Furthermore, Indonesia has conducted robust efforts to support the measures to counter terrorism under the United Nations framework. In this regard, Indonesia has engaged in various cooperation mechanisms with the United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Terrorism Prevention Branch-United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (TPB-UNODC), and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED). Furthermore, Indonesia also undertakes efforts to implement the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS). The important role of Indonesia in countering international terrorism

has also been acknowledged by the United Nations through the re-election of Indonesia as a member of the Advisory Board UN Counter-Terrorism Center (AB UNCCT) for 2015-2018.

In its efforts to continuously support the United Nations measures against terror, Indonesia also actively participates in the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) as one of co-chairs of Southeast Asia Capacity Building Working Group (SEAWG) with Australia in 2011-2013. Indonesia continues to engage the GCTF as co-chair of Detention and Reintegration Working Group (DRWG) for the period of 2014-2016. The establishment of this working group was proposed by Indonesia to strengthen capacity building for stakeholders who deal with the management of violent extremist offenders in the corrective services, as well as to address the need to share information and good practices on this issue. In this regard, Indonesia hosted the Inaugural Meeting of the GCTF DRWG in Bali from 12 to 13 August 2014, which adopted the DRWG Work Plan for the period 2014-2016.

In addition to that, within the framework of DRWG as well as the cooperation with Global Center on Cooperative Security (GCCS), Indonesia also convened the "Workshop on Capacity Building and Training for the Appropriate Management of Violent Extremist Offenders" in Medan on 8-9 April 2015. DRWG and GCCS have also organized Workshop on Education, Life Skill Courses and Vocational Training for Incarcerated Violent Extremist Offenders" in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7-8 October 2015. Furthermore, Indonesia and Australia have organized Second Plenary Meeting of the GCTF DRWG in Sydney on 2-3 November



2015. These meetings mainly discussed on the prison management and security, rehabilitation and reintegration programs, as well as capacity building programs for corrective services.

Moreover, Indonesia also contributes to capacity building for law enforcement officers on the issue of terrorism and transnational crime. In this light, Indonesia has established Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in cooperation with Australia. Since its establishment in 2004, JCLEC has become a major center of excellence in the region. Until April 2016, JCLEC has organized 797 training programs involving 19.000 participants and 4.496 trainers from 70 countries.

### **Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange and Document Integrity and Security in Enhancing Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crimes**

As terrorism is trans-boundary in nature and part of organized crime, information sharing and intelligence exchange among countries plays a key role in countering-terrorism, particularly in stopping the flux of Foreign Terrorist Fighters. In this regard, Indonesia has strengthened its cooperation with other countries, including with ASEAN countries. In 2015, there were 210 Indonesian citizens who had been deported as they had attempted to go to Syria. Some of them used ASEAN countries as transit point before traveling to Turkey and Syria.

Indonesia also maintains good cooperation with Middle East countries, including the Government of Syria and Iraq in monitoring Indonesian citizens in conflict zones, as well as collecting evidence for the prosecution of

Indonesian citizens who are suspected to be involved in terrorist groups as FTFs.

### **Measures Against Terrorist Financing**

Indonesia is committed to fully support in countering international terrorism, including its financing. In this conjunction, Indonesia actively participates as a member of Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG-ML). By the virtue of Indonesia active diplomatic and domestic efforts, Indonesia has been delisted from the International Cooperation Review Group-Financial Action Task Force (ICRG-FATF). Furthermore, Indonesia through the Indonesian Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (INTRAC) has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) from 50 countries to strengthen anti-money laundering and terrorism financing regime.

### **Measures against Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism.**

Indonesia is fully aware that CBRN challenges must be dealt through concerted efforts by enhancing international cooperation and the strengthening of a multilateral framework towards, among others, fair, transparent, and mutually beneficial arrangements. These undertakings will create a more effective surveillance and detection system, and will eventually promote better understanding. At the national level, Indonesia has established a CBRN National Team, which functions as an inter-agency coordination mechanism on CBRN issues. As for now, the National Team consists of around 18 (eighteen) agencies, with Ministry of Foreign Affairs as coordinator.



In 2013 Indonesia has launched a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on CBRN Terrorism which functions as a systematic operational guideline in managing incident/crisis/terrorist attack involving CBRN materials. The SOP is comprised of, among others, principles, roles and functions of components involved (including inter-agency mechanisms), and on-scene management/response phases aimed at increasing the readiness of emergency responders and policy makers to establish effective CBRN response and preparedness.

Moreover, in 2014 Indonesia has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). On this issue, Indonesia has enacted the Law Number 15 Year 2003 on Counter-Terrorism which provides legal framework for the criminalization of the misuse of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials for terrorist purposes. In addition, Indonesia has enacted legislations on CBRN such as Law No. 9/2008 on the use of chemical material and prohibition of use of chemical material as weapons, and Bill on Chemical Agents; Law No. 36/2009 on Health, and Bill on Biosecurity; and Law No. 10/1997 on Nuclear Energy and Bill on Nuclear Security.

### **3.2. Non-proliferation, Counter-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

#### **Supporting National Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540**

Indonesia has taken necessary measures to comply with Security Council Resolution 1540, including cooperation with neighboring

countries. Indonesia's national policy and basic principle state that Indonesia does not and will not produce, develop or use WMD. Indonesia has always been constructively participating in multilateral negotiations to strengthen non-proliferation and achieve disarmament of WMD in all its aspects.

On legislative actions, Indonesia has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1978; the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1998; the Biological Weapons Convention in 1991; the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials in 1986 and its amendment in 2009; the Convention of Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident in 1993; the Treaty of Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in 1997; the Convention of Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident of Radiological Emergency; the Convention on Nuclear Safety in 2001; the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2012; and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2014.

Since 2013, the Government has started the process of drawing up a draft law on nuclear security to be submitted to the parliament at the earliest opportunity. The Government of Indonesia sees the importance to strengthen its national legislation which in turn can reinforce and complement existing law such as the Law No. 10 Year 1997 on Nuclear Energy. The law is expected to cover, inter alia, total prohibition of the use, possession and transfer of nuclear weapons; strengthening transfer control and nuclear and radioactive materials, and enhancing national nuclear security architecture.

With a view to strengthen the effective implementation of domestic regulations, several



working groups – consisting of various inter-governmental agencies – have been established in the field of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

With regard to enforcement actions, the Indonesian Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency and relevant agencies conduct monitoring/control on the issuance of regulations and permits, carries out inspections, and implement procedure on the nuclear material inventory accounting system. The verification of inventory is managed by routine inspection, which involves the monitoring of the quantity, location and ownership; movement of materials from one installation to another; and export and import of nuclear materials, including waste management.

In addition, Indonesia has installed seven RPM (Radiation Portal Monitor) in main harbors (Batam, Balawan, Makassar, Bitung, Tanjung Priuk, Tanjung Perak, and Semarang) to strengthen the nuclear security detection capacity.

### **Non-Proliferation**

Indonesia's commitment on nuclear disarmament has never been wavered. Indonesia emphasizes the importance of multilateralism as "the core principle" in meetings on non-proliferation and disarmament and underlines that the objectives of non-proliferation and disarmament should be achieved by lawful methods pursuant to the prevailing international law and within the framework of the United Nations.

Indonesia expects that the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) be made a priority

and urges states which are not yet a party to immediately accede to the NPT as non-nuclear states. All pillars of the NPT, namely nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, must be implemented in a balanced, transparent and comprehensive manner.

Indonesia consistently calls on the nuclear states to fulfill their commitment to disarm their nuclear weapons as part of the implementation of Article VI of the NPT, with a clear time limit. In addition, Indonesia desires that the process of nuclear disarmament be carried out in a verifiable, irreversible and transparent manner. On the other hand, the inalienable right of non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty to pursue their national choices in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be acknowledged. It is our strong belief that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes will ensure the survival of humankind that comes as a result of sustainable development.

At the 2015 NPT Review Conference which was held in New York, Indonesia actively worked toward a forward-looking outcome to the Conference. However, Indonesia regrets that despite the assiduous efforts by all delegations, the Conference was not able to come to an agreement on such an outcome. The Review Conference was not able to seize the opportunity to make visible progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, a central objective of the NPT. The lack of political will to collectively move forward sends a negative global message and further calls into question the rationale and feasibility of the NPT regime, not to mention its credibility. Indonesia calls upon states to not only exercise the necessary political will in the next Review cycle, but to also ensure that future actions and positions do not continue to contradict the object and purpose of the NPT.



Indonesia is among the first countries who signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Treaty on the same day it was opened for signature, on 24 September 1996. Ever since, Indonesia has been consistently of the view that the CTBT is a key element in the international regime for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As an Annex II country, Indonesia has ratified the CTBT through Law No. 1 year 2012, a very timely initiative as it was taken soon after ASEAN Member States concluded negotiations with Nuclear Weapon States (NWSs) on the latter's accession to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali in November 2011.

Indonesia and Hungary have also assumed the Co-Presidency of Article XIV Conference in 2013-2015. Together, Indonesia and Hungary voiced out "CTBT-awareness" to push for universalization and the earliest entry into force of the CTBT, strengthened our engagement with interested countries and signatories to expedite the process of their inclusion to the CTBT, and ensured that the high-level remain focus on the urgent need for earliest entry into force of the CTBT.

On nuclear security issue, Indonesia sees the importance of a strong national legislation. Therefore during the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, Indonesia launched the National Legislation Implementation Kit on Nuclear Security, as a useful reference for countries striving to enhance safety and security in accordance with their respective national processes and legal systems. It is aimed at providing states with a national legislation implementation kit which can help states develop a more comprehensive national legislation on nuclear security and providing states with a reference in nuclear security

representing consolidated elements and provisions from different conventions/treaties, international legal instruments and frameworks in nuclear security.

With these developments, at the regional context, there is a need to create a systematic and strategic approach through cooperation among ASEAN-led mechanisms with CTBTO, IAEA or other relevant organizations. The synergy between global and regional mechanisms is needed to strengthen nuclear security, safety, and safeguards in Southeast Asia and in particular to ensure the realization of nuclear weapons-free zones.

Indonesia, in line with the ASEAN Political-Security Blueprint 2025, envisions a Southeast Asia that is not only a nuclear weapons-free zone but also a region that is free of all other weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, Indonesia stands ready to intensify the ongoing efforts between ASEAN and NWS to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the treaty with a view to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol of SEANWFZ at the earliest.

Indonesia is also of the view that the intention of China to sign the Protocol without reservations must be seized by ASEAN. The early signing of the Protocol of the Treaty of SEANWFZ by China will send a positive signal to the international community that ASEAN is actively contributing to global efforts in the disarmament and non-proliferation.

Within the ARF framework, Indonesia supports the deliberation of non-proliferation the deliberation of non-proliferation and disarmament of biological and chemical weapons through its active participation in



the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. While committed to support the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Indonesia also encourages all ARF participants to be part of global efforts in creating a world free of Weapons of Mass Destruction through the ratification of CTBT as well as Biological and Chemical Weapons Convention.

### **3.3. Transnational Crimes**

#### **Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of Diversion of Precursors into Illicit Drug Manufacture**

In 2015, Indonesia implemented robust demand reduction measures to promote alternative incarceration for drug users by expanding and advancing opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation.

Since March 2014, Indonesia has implemented regulation on drug abuse treatment which recommends treatment options for drug abusers through integrated assessment. The measure ensured the right of drug users to have access to treatment and rehabilitation and serves as an alternative to incarceration.

The growth of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) variety in Indonesia is quite alarming. As of June 2016, Indonesia has identified 43 types of NPS. Based on Health Minister's Regulation No. 13 of 2014 on Revision to the Classification of Narcotics Appendix, 18 types of NPS have been regulated while the rest have not. Those NPS are derivatives or derivation from chatinone, synthetic cannabinoid, phenethylamin, piperazine, tryptamine, ketamine, and the type of narcotic crops

formula (substances of plant formula).

Most of legal chemicals that are being used illegally for the purpose of production of methamphetamine and ecstasy in Indonesia. Indonesia has a very high annual demand of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine for legitimate purposes, therefore there is still a risk of diversion of these substances for illegal production of ATS. However, within the last 5 years, a case Clandestine Laboratory in Indonesia classified as a small or home industry with very small production capacity. That is, the deviation of narcotics and chemical precursors potential that occurred in Indonesia, including a little.

Cases of illicit drug trafficking offences and drug convictions are unfortunately increasing. Drug trafficking rings have spread to many places in the country, from major cities to remote villages, and penetrated all levels of society, including workers and students, men, women and children. In order to address this problem, Indonesia continues to develop its demand reduction strategies; inter-alia by conducting rehabilitation programs to serve drugs abusers and facilitate a range of services.

Indonesia has directed public and military hospitals to expand their facilities for treatment and rehabilitation. Drug treatment and rehabilitation centers in Indonesia continue to grow in number as well as in terms of their relevant resources. These centers run by government as well as community and NGO-based.

It is imperative for countries exposed to drug problems to engage and participate in initiatives taken by regional, interregional and international counter drug agencies. Indonesia strongly



support the outcome document of the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem in 2016 (UNGASS) that was held in New York, USA on 19-21 April 2016 as a global commitment to address the world drug problem. Indonesia is of the view that in addressing the world drug problem, it should take account of several factors such as zero-tolerance approach against drugs, comprehensive and balanced approach, sovereign right of each country. To this end, Indonesia supports the ASEAN Position Statement Endorsed and Adopted by the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters on 29 October 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia.

Indonesia supports the effective implementation of Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem 2009. Indonesia also looks forward to the review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action 2009 in 2019 with a view to strengthen the implementation of its three pillars, namely demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation.

### **Trafficking in Persons**

As a party of the UNTOC and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Indonesia is firmly committed to address the issue at all levels. At national level, the issue of trafficking in persons is addressed under the task force on combating trafficking in persons. As an inter-ministerial coordinating body it is tasked to coordinate efforts to prevent and address trafficking in persons. Its activities

include advocacy, awareness raising, training, monitoring for victim protection, rehabilitation, repatriation, and social reintegration.

At regional level, Indonesia is the Co-chair of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Organized Crime. Now with 48 members, the Bali Process has become the largest cooperation framework in the region. The Bali Process is a unique regional cooperation on migration: it is the largest regional consultative process that involves countries of origin, transit and destination. The Bali Process works with a comprehensive approach based on the principles of burden sharing and shared responsibility.

On 23 March 2016 Indonesia and Australia held the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (BRMC VI) in Bali, Indonesia. The conference produced two outcome documents, the Co-Chairs' Statement and the Bali Declaration. Bali Declaration authorizes the Co-Chairs to consult, and if necessary, convene future meetings to discuss urgent irregular migration issues with affected and interested countries in response to current regional issues or future emergency situations.

Further, under the Bali Process, Indonesia and Australia are also the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons beside member countries and international organizations, the Working Group meeting involved participants from civil society and private sector.



The meeting agreed on priority actions and forward Work Plan for 2016-2017, which includes, among others, cooperation to combat trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, organ removals, as well as follow the money.

On 2015, there were 535 Indonesian workers that became victims in trafficking in persons (TIP) cases, and from January 2016 until May 2016, about 160 Indonesian workers became the victims of TIP. Indonesia is of the view that at the regional level, the protection of its migrant workers as well as those of other ASEAN Member States will only be effective if ASEAN agrees on a legal instrument on the protection of migrant workers. That legal instrument is being discussed in ASEAN on the basis of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

Indonesia views the issue of irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia as a regional problem that requires regional solution through ASEAN. Such a solution must reflect the spirit of ASEAN solidarity based on the principles of burden-sharing and shared responsibility as well as a balanced approach between law enforcement and urgent humanitarian response.

Currently, Indonesia temporary hosts 13,848 asylum seekers and refugees from 47 countries. The top five countries of origin of the asylum seekers and refugees are Afghanistan, Somalia, Myanmar, Iraq and Iran. These asylum seekers and refugees are hosted in 16 shelters, immigration detention centers and community housings spread out all over Indonesia. To address this situation at national level, Indonesia is in the process of finalizing the draft of

Presidential Regulation on Refugees Management.

There are cases of asylum seekers/refugees become victims of people smugglers and trafficker syndicates. In response, Indonesia continues to put emphasis in regional mechanisms to address the issue, particularly within the framework the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). The signing of ACTIP was held in conjunction with the 27th ASEAN Summit on November 2015 in Malaysia. Indonesia is now undertaking the process of its ratification.

### **3.4. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

As a nation that lives in approximately 80% disaster-prone area with 127 active volcanoes stretched from Sumatra Island to Papua Island and located among three tectonic plates (Eurasia Plate, Indo-Australia plate, Pacific plate), Indonesia has learned to be vigilant and to continue strengthening its resilience to natural disasters, especially with 12 common natural hazards that usually occur. Disasters are a fact of life in the region and Indonesia understands that many regional countries have to live and cope with disasters. Because of that, the concept of disasters risk reduction (DRR) is very important part in sustainable development program. DRR will save more people than just take action on response when disaster occurred.

Indonesia sees these following points as of great importance to making sure that national and





regional resilience is effective in the face of disasters that may come upon the region annually.

First, having a clear and specific regulation on disaster management is crucial. In 2007, three years after the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, Indonesia enacted the law on disaster management. This law provides fundamental core to establish National Disaster Management Authority and Local Disaster Management Agency.

As a country, Indonesia has experience in both accepting and supporting humanitarian assistances. It is in line with the Government Regulation Number 23 Year 2008 concerning participation of international Institution and foreign non-government organizations (NGOs) in disaster management and Head of BNPB' Regulation Number 22 Year 2010 concerning guideline on the role of international organizations and international NGOs during emergency response for accepting humanitarian assistances.

Second, having all partners to involve and to contribute on DRR efforts is also very important. The principle of relations on disaster management is based on triangle concept of three partners: the government, communities, and private sectors. Strong coordination has to be built either by MoUs, letter of agreements, working group platforms, and other mechanisms. Managing resources effectively from multi-stakeholder partnership can help resources mobilization effectively.

Third, having disaster risk assessment documents and early warning systems are important for ensuring resilience in

disaster-prone countries. In this regard, Indonesia has mapped out areas based on disaster risk assessment, made disaster contingency plan documents, arranged preparedness profiles, etc. Many cities in 34 provinces already have their own disaster risk contingency documents. These documents pave the concept of disaster management planning based on local wisdom, community capacity and local policy.

Fourth, having 'disaster operation control centers' and 'preparedness and mitigation centers' will give more accurate assessment system. Some of regencies and provinces in Indonesia have with modern technology installed. Apart from that, Indonesia has also developed resources platform technologies that give effectiveness, convenience, and efficiency on distribution and information accessibility to all partners, for example The Indonesian Disaster Database (Data dan Informasi Bencana Indonesia-DIBI) use to informed capacities and impacted belonging on specific areas.

Fifth, having logistic warehouses on some strategic areas for effectively distribute aids, tools, and other resources. Indonesia has national logistic warehouse located at Sentul and having local warehouses for logistic buffer stoke.

Sixth, having a training center of excellence on disaster risk reduction is vital to build strong capacities of human resources in disaster management. Indonesia Disaster Relief Training Ground (INA-DRTG), in Sentul, West Java, was built as a training ground for disaster risk management. Disaster management certification agencies (LSP PB) and Indonesian disaster expertise association were also established.



Currently, there are about 501 local disaster agencies in Indonesia. Based on medium term development program (RPJMN), Indonesia has targeted to decrease 15 % of disasters risk index on 136 development priority regencies in 2019.

Based on the report from the National Agency for Disaster Management, although disasters impact has decreased in 2015 compared to the previous year, various types of disaster still affected more than 1.2 million citizens who were forced to evacuate. The Agency also predicted that there are at least 63.7 million people who are vulnerable to floods and 40.9 million who are vulnerable to landslides.

In the recent years, Indonesia has established a comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) governance system through Disaster Management Law and its subsidiary regulations and policies, Disaster Management Agencies at the national and local levels, risk analysis and Disaster Management plans, partnership and coordination with DRR stakeholders, and all relevant bureaucratic instruments required. Deemed to be important, commitment to DRR has increased significantly with the passing of the new National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2015-2019, in which disaster management and risk reduction have been put among priority development programs, particularly as investment to protect economic growth and human development.

In terms of global efforts, Indonesia has actively contributed to various frameworks concerning disaster management, including the Third United Nations World Conference on DRR held in Sendai, Japan on March 2015, where The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

(SFDRR) 2015-2030 was adopted to replace the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

The framework then serves as a guideline for Indonesia to develop its very own suitable national action plan in foreseeing the disaster management issue. In alignment with the existing global frameworks, Indonesia later initiated a set of policies, as well as programs, to address the problems of disasters within the country. Programs like “Kota Tangguh” (resilient city), “Sekolah Aman Bencana (safe school)”, and “community based early warning system” are few of the many initiatives made by the government as response to the growing needs of a disaster-aware policies.

At regional level, in ASEAN, Indonesia plays a very active role in sharing its best practices and experiences as well as building the capacity of other ASEAN Member states, since the resilience of the region is crucial to Indonesia. Indonesia’s contribution can be seen through its efforts in improving the preparedness of the stakeholders within ASEAN. To name a few, several contributions and initiatives have been put into implementation, such as the active involvement in the formulation of SASOP, the active participation within ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Meeting, as well as the enrollment in the ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Supporting Group.

Following the spirit of AADMER, AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 was adopted ad-referendum in February 2016 and launched during the 28th ASEAN Convention on Disaster Management (ACDM) Meeting in April 2016 in Semarang, Indonesia. The AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 contributes to the aims



of the AADMER, which are to reduce disaster losses and enhance regional cooperation to respond jointly to disasters. In the next five years, the goal of new work programme is to build resilient ASEAN Community. Indonesia hopes that what has been agreed upon within the ASEAN disaster management cooperation framework will be implemented earnestly with the main goal to deliver tangible benefits and significant impact for the peoples of ASEAN.

Furthermore, Indonesia has once again managed to take the leadership in ASEAN to enhance the role of the regional organization to comprehend the capacity of the member states, as well as to set ASEAN as a global nexus for knowledge sharing and innovation exchange.

As the Chair of ACDM for 2016, Indonesia has also set its priorities, as follows: i) adoption and signing of the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region; ii) formal establishment of the Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management; and iii) leveraging public, people, private partnerships (P4) to enhance resilience in ASEAN.

Under the chairmanship of Indonesia in ACDM, ASEAN agreed to support UN-led agenda that aims to prevent and reduce humanitarian crises and suffering through the recent Joint Statement of the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) in Istanbul on 22 May 2016 (siding the World Humanitarian Summit 2016). ASEAN agreed to signify its role and participation in contributing to the humanitarian global agenda of United Nations through the implementation of AADMER, ASEAN Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together, and especially the newly-adopted

ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

The ASEAN Joint Statement underlined the importance of AHA Center in leading the regional networking in the area of disaster management issue. Other than that, the Joint Statement also highlights three key elements in shaping the policies implemented regarding the issue of disaster management. Those are: (1) Improving the endurance towards disaster; (2) the multilayer approach of having local and national initiatives as the leading point, supported by the international organizations and international community whenever it is needed; (3) realizing that the change should be led by the national leadership.

### **3.5. Maritime Security**

Maritime issues are transboundary and transnational in nature. It also serves as a strategic element for regional and international trade, global security, as well as world's marine and mineral resources. As an archipelagic nation, maritime security is at the heart of Indonesia's domestic and foreign policy. Therefore, Indonesia has the obligation to secure the international shipping lanes by observing international laws and regimes such as regime of maritime domain, regime for the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Passages (ASLP), Innocents Passage, Sea Lane of Communications (SLOC) and Sea Lane of Trade (SLOT).

Therefore, Indonesia encourages the enhancement of maritime cooperation in the region as it is in line with our focus on maritime diplomacy, which is based on sovereignty, security, and prosperity approaches. In this regard, Indonesia identifies 5 pillars on such



cooperation: 1) Maritime Culture; 2) Maritime Resources (food sovereignty); 3) Maritime Infrastructure (maritime connectivity and infrastructure development); 4) Maritime Diplomacy (strengthening Indonesia's role on maritime issues such as illegal fishing, maritime delimitation, territorial violation, sea piracy, and sea pollution); and 5) Maritime Safety, Security, and Defence.

In this sense, the ASEAN Regional Forum has rightly decided on maritime security as one of its main concerns. The range of maritime security issues is not limited to the discussion of traditional security issues, but also extends to the discussion of non-traditional maritime security issues relevant to the region. Important issues that need to be addressed in this perspective, among others, are piracy, armed robbery against ships, terrorism, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, illicit drugs trafficking, illicit small arms trafficking, and trafficking-in persons.

At the same light, Indonesia welcomes the adoption of the East Asia Summit Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation which consists of five main priorities: sustainable marine economic development; promoting peace, stability, and security in the region; addressing transboundary challenges; developing maritime connectivity; and promoting cooperation between research institutions. The Statement was a significant achievement as all of the 18 members of the EAS are also ARF Participants.

Indonesia acknowledges with concern the increasing case of maritime incidents in the region. In anticipating that fact, Indonesia is committed to further strengthening its maritime

security, among others, by revitalizing the Indonesia Maritime Security Coordinating Board and making it the new Indonesian Maritime Security Agency / Badan Keamanan Laut (IMSA / Bakamla). As such it will serve as the agency that represents Coast Guard function in Indonesia with the sole authority to command and control maritime security operations in Indonesia's jurisdiction.

Indonesia believes that it is our responsibility as a fulcrum between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, not only to protect Indonesia's sovereignty and its maritime resources, but also to ensure the safety of shipping and navigation as well as the security of the seas.

As a way of complementing its national efforts, Indonesia has been and will continue to actively engage in various bilateral, regional and multilateral forums. Indonesia stresses the importance of sharing best practices, developing confidence building measures and capacity building programs in order to enhance our respective capabilities in dealing with maritime security issues. As safety and security at sea is a common regional interest it is also imperative that regional countries address regional maritime issues in a holistic, integrated and comprehensive manner.

For that purpose, to date, Indonesia has concluded a number of bilateral agreements and has been part of regional or international arrangements to managing issues of common concern, such as combating illegal activities at sea, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, illicit drugs trafficking, and illegal fishing. Indonesia has arranged for separate coordinated patrols with almost all countries sharing maritime boundaries with Indonesia.



Along with Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, Indonesia continues to secure the busiest sea passage in the region through the conduct of the Malacca Straits Patrol (MSP), comprising of coordinated sea patrols, combined maritime-air patrols as well as intelligence and information sharing activities. Trilateral Patrol Similar will also be conducted in the Maritime Areas of Common Concern among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to address growing maritime security challenges in the region, such as those arising from armed robbery against ships, kidnapping, transnational crimes, and terrorism.

Indonesia puts great emphasis in preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU Fishing. Indonesia observes that IUU fishing is a cross-cutting issue, closely related with other crimes, such as people smuggling, human trafficking, forced labor, drugs trafficking, and violation against sanitary and environmental protection regulation. In this regard, Indonesia is of the view that IUU fishing should be dealt with comprehensive and holistic approach with emphasis on the law enforcement and security aspects. Thus, Indonesia welcomes closer cooperation in the region in years ahead to deal with this issue.

In this regard, Indonesia suggests that ASEAN cooperation be enhanced in combating IUU Fishing. In 2016, Indonesia has convened two ARF workshops: ARF Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management, Honolulu, held on 22-23 March 2016, and ARF Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 20-21 April 2016. The Workshops underlined, among others, that various regional and global instruments to address the issue of IUU fishing have existed,

but challenges remain and have become even more complex. The Workshop acknowledged that there is significant link between IUU Fishing and other forms of transnational organized crime, such as money laundering, drug trafficking, forced labor and trafficking in persons.

Indonesia also held the Regional Conference on the Establishment of Regional Convention against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) and its Related Crime on 19 May 2016. The Purpose of the Conference is to discuss the inputs from participating countries on the initiative to establish a regional convention. Participants welcomed the initiative and support the continuation of the establishment of regional convention. Indonesia is planning to held the second regional conference on September or October 2016.

Maritime security cooperation can be greatly enhanced through capacity building. To ensure that maritime security issues are dealt with effectively in the region, the countries of the region should engage in sharing best practices and resources.

For its part, Indonesia has conducted capacity building cooperation with countries and mechanisms such as the Heads of Asian Coast Guards Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), the Maritime Law Enforcement Training sponsored by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Indonesia-US Coastguard Joint Training, and the Indonesian-Korean Water Police Bilateral Annual Meeting.



### **3.6. Mediation and Conflict Prevention**

Mediation is Indonesia's preferred choice for conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes. Having reaped the benefits of successful mediation in resolving conflict situations within its borders, Indonesia is a passionate advocate and a pioneering champion of dialogue and mediation.

As a strong advocate of dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts, Indonesia has a long history of involvement in conflict mediation in the Southeast Asian region. Its role in the mediation of conflicts in the region can be traced back to the late 1980's when Indonesia, within the framework of ASEAN, played a key role in mediating the conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam. This was notably through the initiative of Jakarta Informal Meetings (JIM) which became the blueprint upon which the solution to the Cambodian conflict was built. ASEAN's diplomatic initiatives, particularly that of Indonesia, was noteworthy in evolving the JIM process. The achievements of these two meetings paved the way for the Paris Peace Accord on 1991 and the mission of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

In the early 1990's, Indonesia facilitated the peace process between the Philippines Government and the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The process succeeded in concluding the 1996 Peace Agreement Between Government of Philippines and MNLF. In relation to this process and the Peace Agreement between the Philippines Government and the MNLF signed in 1996, Indonesia sent a Garuda Contingent (Konga XVII) to Southern Philippines in the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Indonesia warmly welcomes the peace agreement reached between the Philippines Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in October 2012. Responding to the request to participate in the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Southern Philippines, Indonesia has deployed both civilian and military observers as part of the Team since 2012.

In 2011, as Chair of ASEAN, Indonesia played a key role in facilitating dialogue between the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand in their dispute over the region of the Temple of Preah Vihear. These ASEAN efforts succeeded in reducing tensions and encouraged the two parties to seek arbitration by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The role of ASEAN in reducing tensions between the two neighboring countries was commended by the UN Security Council and the ICJ.

The importance of conflict management was also the main objective of Indonesia to propose the establishment of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), which was established in 2011. AIPR aims as a centre of excellence that could support and complement ASEAN's cooperation by conducting studies concerning peace, conflict management, and reconciliation both regionally and globally. Indonesia has also taken a leading role by hosting the AIPR Secretariat and by finalizing the operationalization of AIPR Secretariat.

Indonesia also has been playing instrumental role to diffuse tension over the South China Sea, including by turning the potential dispute into cooperation for mutual benefit through series of workshop since 1990 and by actively contributing to the negotiations on the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).



In this light, Indonesia would like to urge the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the early adoption of the COC.

Indonesia supports the promotion of the culture of peace in the region, including through the adoption of ASEAN Charter that stresses the significance of mediation for ASEAN, as one of the preferable modes of peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as the establishment of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation to provide advice and counsel on conflict resolution both to prevent and resolve conflict, and to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation in the region. Indonesia also contributes to the creation of regional architecture in Southeast Asia that observes the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes, as evidenced with the adoption of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations.

#### **IV. Role of the ARF**

ASEAN Regional Forum has always been the most potential avenue in the region to discuss any political and security concerns, as it is participated by countries which have different ideologies, culture, level of development, as well as countries which have different perspectives, or disputes, on certain issues.

It has also served as an indispensable part of the regions' security architecture, contributing positively to the maintenance of the region's peace, stability and security. It is a unique forum where there is regular communication and dialogue between its Participants, military and civil, that is critically and fundamentally needed

to build mutual trust and confidence. This forum addresses differences through dialog and diplomacy, which have been placed at the center of ARF's work.

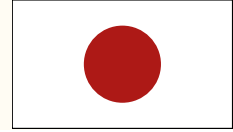
In its early years, ARF was the only forum that served as an avenue to discuss political and security issues in the region. However, since then, ASEAN has expanded its cooperation and established six other sectoral bodies and various mechanisms on political and security issues. More often than not, many of those issues overlap with ARF priority areas of cooperation. Therefore, there is high expectation that ARF could demonstrate its uniqueness compared to other regional mechanisms and answer the growing and multi-faceted security challenges in the region. It is high time that ARF should put more emphasis on moving towards Preventive Diplomacy phase.

The ARF 2015-2016 Inter-Sessional Year has become a productive year for Indonesia, marked by co-chairing Workshop and Training on Preventive Diplomacy in Jogjakarta, Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management in Honolulu, and Workshop on IUU Fishing in Bali. In 2016-2017, Indonesia is planning to keep its active role in the ARF by co-chairing Workshop on Trafficking in Persons and the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC).

On the whole, Indonesia envisions a more robust, substantive, proactive and action-oriented ARF. In this spirit, Indonesia will continue to contribute to the realization of the ARF's potential through active participation and through initiatives and the initiation and development of innovative ideas.



## JAPAN



### **I. Japan's Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

Rapid shifts in the global power balance after the end of the Cold War have enhanced the significance of the Asia-Pacific region, while deepening the relationships of security interdependence and providing opportunities for cooperation across the region. At the same time, these changes have caused problems and tensions in the region and made its security environment even more severe. Large-scale military forces remain concentrated in the areas surrounding Japan. Some actors possess nuclear weapons or continue their development. Meanwhile, the region sees the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles, etc.. Risks that could hinder open access and free use of global commons, such as the sea, outer space, and cyberspace are increasing than ever before. In addition, there are growths of international threats, large-scale natural disasters and transnational crime in the regions. Under these circumstances, no single country can any longer secure its peace and security by its own power. It is essential for countries to work together to ensure the peace and security of the international community.

Against these backgrounds, the Asia-Pacific region is making progress cooperating in the field of non-traditional security issues through confidence-building measures, not only in bilateral and trilateral frameworks but also in multilateral security frameworks, such as the

East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus). Japan welcomes these developments, as these efforts contribute to create a better regional security environment. Japan is eager to further promote and develop these multi-layered initiatives through the above-mentioned regional frameworks securing peace and stability of the region. On the other hand, situation surrounding Korean Peninsula and South China Sea are major issues that can destabilize the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region. It is essential to continue discussing these issues at ARF.

Maritime issues including those surrounding the South China Sea are directly linked to the peace and stability of the region and the international community as a whole. The international community pay attention to these issues in the context of thorough respect for the rule of law and securing the freedom of navigation and overflight on the high seas. In the keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe advocated the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea": (i) states shall make and clarify their claims based on international law; (ii) states shall not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims; and (iii) states shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means. These three principles gained supports from many countries, and Japan will consistently support actions based on these principles. In this context, Japan strongly hopes for full implementation of the Declaration on the





Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in 2002, and the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). In this regard, Japan hopes to see acceleration of official talks on a COC that have been held between China and ASEAN since 2013 toward the early conclusion.

On the other hand, Japan has serious concerns that unilateral actions, including large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes, are continuing in the South China Sea, which could change the status quo and raise tensions in the region. Each state needs to refrain from unilateral actions and acts based on the universally-recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In particular, coastal states need to recognize that in maritime areas pending final delimitation, they are obliged by international law to refrain from unilateral actions that would cause permanent physical change to the marine environment, be it for military or civilian purposes. Japan supports the Philippines' use of arbitration procedures under UNCLOS as we believe such action, which aims at peaceful settlement of disputes on the basis of international law, contributes to the maintenance and enhancement of the international order based on the rule of law in the region. Any decision rendered by the arbitral tribunal is legally binding on the parties to the dispute regardless of whether they participate in the arbitration procedures or not.

In this regard, ARF can play an important role in ensuring the rule of law at sea, the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight on the high seas, and peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law. In this context,

Japan welcomes many initiatives have been made at ARF for official events aimed to discuss maritime security issues in the region. Japan, for its part, organized the ARF Seminar on Regional Confidence Building and the Law of the Sea in December 2015 in Tokyo. With the participation of renowned experts in the law of the sea, this seminar, which was co-chaired by Japan, Viet Nam, and India, successfully offered an opportunity for participants from ARF member states to better understand the international legal regime of maritime areas pending delimitation and share their views on the importance of the rule of law. Japan will continue to proactively contribute to these efforts.

North Korea's continued development of nuclear and missiles program poses a serious threat to international peace and security and is totally unacceptable North Korea conducted a nuclear test in January 2016. This was followed in February by the launch of a ballistic missile, which North Korea purports to be "a satellite". Even after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2270, North Korea repeatedly launched ballistic missiles. These acts constitute one of the serious destabilizing factors for security in the region.

North Korea's nuclear and missile development, including its uranium enrichment activities, violates the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and the Joint Statement of Six-Party Talks. The international community must continue to strongly urge North Korea in a concerted manner to fully comply with the relevant UNSCRs and refrain from any further provocation. To this end, it is imperative for each country to steadily implement measures against North Korea pursuant to the relevant UNSCRs. On top of these measures, Japan will also



continue to steadily implement measures of its own. It will continue to closely coordinate with countries concerned, including the US, the Republic of Korea (ROK), China, and Russia, strongly urging North Korea to take concrete actions toward denuclearization and other goals.

With regard to Japan-North Korea relations, Japan will continue to make its utmost efforts toward comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration under the policy of "dialogue and pressure," and "action for action." In its Government-level Consultations with Japan in May 2014, North Korea promised to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigations on all Japanese nationals, including abductees. Nevertheless, no abductee has yet returned home. The abduction issue is a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and the safety of Japanese citizens. Japan will continue to urge North Korea to take concrete actions in order to achieve the return of all the abductees at the earliest possible time, based on the agreement made in Stockholm.

## **II. National Security and Defense Policy**

### 1. Japan's Security Policy

#### (1) Proactive Contribution to Peace

The security environment surrounding Japan has become even severer due to the dramatic change in the global power balance and the emerging threats that extend beyond national boundaries. No nation can maintain its own peace and security by itself. Being well aware of this, and under its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, Japan will contribute even more actively to ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community.

With the National Security Council (NSC) serving as a control tower, and in accordance with the National Security Strategy (NSS), Japan will continue its path as a peace-loving nation, work in close cooperation with the U.S. and other partners as a major global player in the international community, and implement its national security policies in a steadfast manner, thereby making a more proactive contribution to peace and stability of the region and the world more than ever.

#### (2) Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security

Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security was approved by the diet in September 2015 and took effect in March 2016. The legislation is designed for Japan both (a) to make a seamless response to any situation amid an increasingly severe security environment surrounding the country, and (b) to put into concrete practice its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and thereby administer more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community.

Now that the Legislation for Peace and Security has taken effect, Japan's "use of force" will be permitted, under the Constitution, to exercise the right of collective defense in a limited manner in addition to the right of individual self-defense if the "Three New Conditions," which are unmatched worldwide in terms of stringency, are met.

The legislation has expanded the range of activities in which Japan can engage in during U.N. PKOs. It also allows Japan to participate in internationally coordinated operations for peace and security that are outside the U.N. PKO framework. Furthermore, the legislation allows Japan to engage in cooperation and support activities, such as supply and transportation under certain conditions, when the peace and security of the international community is



threatened including those concerning U.N. resolutions. By allowing these activities, the legislation enables Japan to better contribute to the peace and stability of the international community.

However, the basic features of Japan's postwar pacifism have not been changed for more than 70 years. Japan has taken various opportunities to explain both its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and the Legislation for Peace and Security to the countries concerned in a transparent and sincere manner, winning support and understanding from countries around the world.

\* "Three New Conditions" for use of force as measures for collective self-defense

1. When an armed attack against Japan occurs, or when an armed attack against a foreign country that is in a close relationship with occurs, and as a result threatens Japan's survival and poses a clear danger to fundamentally overturn people's right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

2. When there is no other appropriate means available to repel the attack and ensure Japan's survival and protect its people.

3. Use of force should be limited to the minimum extent necessary.

## 2. Japan's Defense Policy

### (1) National Defense Program Guidelines and the Medium-Term Defense Program

The National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) for FY2014 and beyond sets forth the

basic principles for Japan's national defense, explains the significance and role of its defense capabilities, and on the basis of these provides fundamental guidelines for future capability development, including the specific architecture of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the target level for main equipment improvement. In light of the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan since 2010 when the previous guidelines were drawn up, the Government made a Cabinet decision on the new NDPG in December 2013, taking the NSS into account.

The new NDPG sets out the following three points: (i) Japan's own efforts, (ii) strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and (iii) active promotion of security cooperation, as the pillars for the essential defense of the lives and property of Japanese people as well as the sovereignty of Japan's territorial land, waters, and airspace. The NDPG calls for the building of a "Dynamic Joint Defense Force" that will enable the JSDF to conduct a diverse range of JSDF activities seamlessly and dynamically, adapting to situations as demanded, under the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan. It also calls for promoting a variety of further cooperative initiatives in a multi-layered manner with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Medium Term Defense Program (MTDP) is, on the other hand, the first five-year defense buildup program laid out to achieve the target level for defense capabilities set forth in the NDPGs. The expenditures required to implement the defense force developments described in this program amount to approximately 24,670 billion yen in FY2013 prices. For the duration of this



program, in harmony with other measures taken by the Government, approximately 700 billion yen will be secured by means of further streamlining and rationalization through efforts such as equipment procurement reform.

## (2) Defense-Related Expenditures

In addition to the cost of maintaining and operating the JSDF, defense-related expenditures in Japan include the cost of improving the living environment in the vicinity of defense facilities and support for US forces stationed in Japan.

As the budget based on the new NDPGs and MTDP mentioned above, the FY2016 defense-related expenditures budget includes an array of projects aimed at the establishment of a Dynamic Joint Defense Force.

Excluding the costs related to the Special Action Committee on Okinawa or SACO (the cost of implementing the SACO Final Report to mitigate the impacts on people in Okinawa), the U.S. forces realignment-related expenses (the portion allocated for mitigating the impact on local communities), and the expenses associated with the acquisition of new government aircraft, the expenditure budget for FY2016 has been increased by 38.6 billion yen (or 0.8% growth rate) from the previous fiscal year to 4,860.7 billion yen, marking the fourth consecutive year of growth. Major factors behind the growth include additional JSDF activity expenses needed to respond to the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, as well as personnel expenses resulting from requests relating to organizations/personnel and compensation system review, and obligatory outlay expenses relating to equipment, etc. on past contracts.

Including 2.8 billion yen in SACO-related expenses, 176.6 billion yen in the U.S. forces realignment related expenses (the portion allocated for mitigating the impact on local communities), and 14.0 billion yen in expenses associated with the acquisition of new government aircraft, Japan's total defense-related expenditure budget for FY2016 amounts to 5,054.1 billion yen, an increase of 74 billion yen, or growth rate of 1.5% from the preceding fiscal year.

## 3. Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

Given an increasingly severer security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, securing the forward deployment of U.S. forces based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and strengthening the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance are essential not only for the security of Japan, but also for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In April 2015, Japan and the United States released the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation for the first time in 18 years. In order to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-US Alliance, the two countries are expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including ballistic missile defense, cyberspace, outer space, and maritime security, as well as activities under the new Guidelines and the Legislation for Peace and Security.

In light of the recent security environment, the United States is working to realize a U.S. force posture in the Asia-Pacific region posture in the Asia-Pacific region that is more geographically distributed, operationally resilient, and politically



sustainable. The United States is actively implementing its rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. Japan welcomes this initiative and will work closely with the United States.

### **III. Japan's Contributions to Regional Security**

#### 1. Maritime Security

Securing the safety of navigation is indispensable for the international community as a whole, and international coordination and cooperation are crucial to maintain it. "Open and Stable Seas" underpinned by a maritime order that is governed not by force or coercion but by laws and rules that constitute global commons essential for peace and prosperity of the entire world. It is necessary to maintain and develop them. From this perspective, Japan has been striving to ensure the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight through various initiatives such as counter-piracy measures in Asia and Africa as well as close coordination and cooperation with other countries.

As part of its efforts to secure the safety of navigation in Asia, Japan has advocated the establishment of a forum to provide EAS member countries with the opportunity to discuss maritime cooperation and maritime issues in the region, which has borne fruit in the form of the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). At the third EAMF held in Viet Nam in 2014 and the fourth EAMF in Indonesia in September 2015, Japan underscored the importance of the rule of law at sea, while referring to the "three principles of the rule of law at sea" mentioned above. At the same time, Japan proposed to establish mechanism to reflect the outcome of EAMF upon EAS.

In addition, Japan took the initiative in establishing the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). Japan has been actively contributing to the implementation of the ReCAAP by sending successive Executive Directors and making financial contributions to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC).

In ARF, Japan has been co-chairing the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ARF ISM on MS) with the Philippines and the United States since August 2014. Together with the co-chairs, Japan has worked on revising the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. Japan will host the ARF ISM on MS in 2017. Furthermore, Japan serves with Malaysia as the lead countries for "confidence-building measures based on international and regional legal frameworks, arrangements, and cooperation," which is one of the priority areas for the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. In this context, Japan hosted the ARF Seminar on Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia, in Tokyo in March 2015 and co-chaired it with the US, Malaysia, and India.

#### 2. Disaster Relief

Japan has provided active support in responding to large-scale natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region. In April 2015, Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Teams (Rescue Team, Medical Teams, and the JSDF Units) to the earthquake-stricken Nepal for emergency relief operations. It also dispatched an expert to Indonesia to help the country deal with smoke pollution (haze) in October. During FY2015, Japan provided emergency relief goods in three cases and



emergency grant aid in two cases to assist the people affected by major natural disasters, such as smoke pollution and floods, in two ARF participants: Indonesia and Myanmar.

Japan also co-chairs the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) together with Myanmar and China (from July 2013 to July 2016). In February 2016, it co-chaired the 15th ARF-ISM on DR in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defense Authorities, and Disaster Relief Agencies from ARF member states as relevant international organizations. The meeting discussed regional frameworks, activities, and cooperation for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, from both civil and military perspectives in light of the latest initiatives taken by these countries. As Myanmar has often been hit by floods and cyclones in recent years, the participants generally seemed to have much interest in disaster risk reduction (DRR). In fact, many questions were asked in relation to the capacity-building assistance that Japan has been providing to ASEAN, as JICA has already extended assistance in Myanmar of various kinds in this sector. Japan will work with other ARF participants and contribute to ARF activities in order to make regional disaster relief cooperation more practical and effective.

In addition, Japan is an active player in other regional frameworks as well. For example, Japan proactively participates in EAS initiatives that address disaster risk reduction as a priority area. In the framework of Japan-China-ROK trilateral cooperation, the three countries hold a regular table top exercise on disaster management, whereby they discuss the humanitarian assistance and disaster management mechanisms of each country in

order to enhance mutual understanding. Within the framework of Japan-ASEAN cooperation, Japan provides three types of assistance through the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). The first type of assistance concerns the development and operation of an ICT-based disaster management system. This has helped facilitate timely information-gathering and responses, and international rescue and relief operations. The second type concerns the development and operation of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA). DELSA has been developing a framework for stockpiling emergency relief supplies at specific locations and transporting these items to disaster-hit areas. The third type of Japan's assistance through the AHA Centre concerns a human resources development project in DRR. This project involves a six-month training program for officials at the DRR organization in ASEAN Member States. In June 2016, Japan offered its knowledge and experience in DRR to the program participants when they visited the country.

### 3. Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

In the field of counter-terrorism, Japan has been stepping up efforts against international terrorism in cooperation with the countries and the regional and international organizations concerned following the terrorist incident in January 2013 in which 40 people including 10 Japanese citizens were killed at a natural gas plant in Algeria. In response to the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese citizens by ISIL in Syria in January 2015, Japan has decided to make comprehensive diplomatic efforts by basing its foreign diplomacy on three



pillars: (i) strengthening counter-terrorism measures; (ii) enhancing diplomacy toward stability and prosperity in the Middle East; and (iii) providing assistance to create societies resilient to radicalization.

Specifically, Japan has continuously held multilateral and bilateral counter-terrorism consultations with nations in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere, primarily with Southeast Asian countries, to enhance international counter-terrorism cooperation. In March 2015, Japan and Malaysia co-chaired the ARF Workshop on Counter Radicalization that Malaysia hosted in Kuala Lumpur. To help build anti-terrorism capacity, Japan supports projects in such areas as immigration control, aviation security, maritime and port security, and law enforcement under a number of frameworks, which include the ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue (AJCTD), the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime plus Japan (AMMTC+Japan), and the Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime plus Japan (SOMTC+Japan). The 17th Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in Myanmar in November 2014 adopted the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The participants agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism between Japan and ASEAN, and to expand its scope to include international organized crime. AMMTC + Japan in October 2015 took note of the SOMTC + Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017), which is designed to promote the implementation of the Joint-Declaration. In February 2016, Japan hosted a panel discussion on the role of civil society in countering violent extremism, attended by representatives from some Southeast Asian nations.

Japan has also been stepping up its efforts to combat transnational crimes in the Asia-Pacific region in three major aspects. The first aspect is strengthening transnational legal frameworks. For example, Japan has been tackling drug problems in alliance with ARF member countries through measures such as the exchange of information on synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), and investigative cooperation in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and other drug-related treaties. The second aspect is supporting local initiatives designed to combat illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, and corruption in the Southeast Asia through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). For example, Japan has dispatched an expert to Myanmar to help improve the management of prisons in cooperation with UNODC. As part of its efforts to combat corruption, Japan followed up on the seminars to combat bribery of foreign public officials, which were held in Cambodia in October 2014. Specific follow-ups include the compilation of a handbook on international cooperation regarding cases of bribery of foreign public officials, which is designed to address the challenges in Southeast Asia. The third aspect is promoting policy coordination with various countries and international organizations. Japan actively participates in regional frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), and the Bali Process, which involves consultations on irregular immigrants and trafficking in persons.



#### 4. Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan is committed to maintaining and enhancing the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has been engaging in various diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons. These efforts are best represented by Japan's contribution to each of the three pillars of the NPT: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, at the NPT Review process, as well as the submission of resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly, the efforts through the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPD) and the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD). Since September 2015, Japan has been engaged in efforts for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as the co-chair of the Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the CTBT for a two-year term. The 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to adopt the a final document, highlighting a deepening rift between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. In addition, the international community is facing a serious challenge to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as highlighted by North Korea's nuclear test. In spite of the severe situation which the international community finds itself in with regard to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan will steadily continue to take concrete and practical steps toward a world free of nuclear weapons, while trying to win support from both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States.

Japan is engaged in outreach activities in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of achieving three key objectives: (i) promoting the conclusion of disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and reinforcing their implementation at the national level; (ii) establishing and strengthening export control systems; and (iii) raising awareness of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and enhancing related efforts. As part of these activities, Japan has been hosting a range of meetings each year, including the Asian Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) and Asian Export Control Seminars.

#### 5. Cyberspace and Outer Space

Cyber attacks are becoming increasingly diversified and sophisticated, as seen in attacks against French TV5Monde in April 2015, as well as attacks that resulted in the leakage of personal information of some 1.2 million people from the Japan Pension Service in May 2015. How to develop systems and capabilities to protect states, and the lives and property of the citizens from such cyber attacks constitutes a major challenge from both national security and an economic perspective. To this end, Japan is working with other countries concerned to share a common understanding on these issues in a number of areas. One such area is deliberating international rules, including those on how to apply existing international law to acts in cyberspace as well as developing international norms. Other in cyberspace as well as developing international norms. Other areas include supporting capacity building and developing confidence-building measures.

Countries in Asia-Pacific Region are discussing cyberspace issues under frameworks such as





ARF and ASEAN+3 meetings. The ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), which was endorsed at the 22nd ARF, calls for confidence-building measures, awareness-raising, capacity building support, and crime control regarding cybersecurity. Japan is proactively participating in international meetings on these issues to boost cyber security in the region. From the viewpoint of the increasing importance of the situation surrounding cyberspace, ARF recognizes the value of continuing to exchange views from a comprehensive standpoint with the aim of promoting a peaceful, safe, open, and coordinated ICT environment, and preventing conflicts and crises through capacity-building assistance while building confidence among nations. In July 2015, Japan sent a study mission on cybersecurity to Viet Nam to promote cooperation in this sector. Going forward, Japan will increase its support for capacity building in cyber security with a focus on ASEAN countries.

Japan's bilateral initiatives include discussions and dialogue on cyberspace with the U.S., Australia, the U.K., France, India, Russia, Israel, and Estonia. Japan has also been holding trilateral talks involving China and ROK, and exchanging views with such international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Council of Europe (CoE).

In addition to these initiatives, Japan will accelerate ties with ASEAN countries and public/private-sector collaboration to reinforce its efforts to address cyber security issues.

In order to deal with issues pertaining to the increase of congestion in outer space and threatening space activities of other countries to secure the safe and stable use of outer space, Japan has been proactively engaged in to

building a safe space environment and promptly developing international rules. Within the framework of the ARF, Japan has been playing a leading role, as it hosted the second ARF Workshop on Space Security, which was held in Tokyo in 2014, promoting the common understanding of the member states with regard to the current situation of space environment and the importance of prompt development of international rules. Also, Japan has been proactively participating in discussions toward the prompt establishment of the "International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities" proposed by the EU in 2008 to reduce the risks of satellite collision and space debris and to restrict Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests and activities. At the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April 2016, Japan, as the chair, incorporated the importance of space activities and the necessity to strengthen related norms in the relevant outcome documents.

## 6. Preventive Diplomacy

Japan believes it is important for ARF to make steady progress from the first stage of the "promotion of confidence-building measure" to the second stage of "development of preventive diplomacy" and further to the third stage of "approaches to dispute settlement." However, despite the cumulative efforts of the ARF countries have so far succeeded in countries have so far succeeded in facilitating ≠ confidence-building measures to a certain extent, progress toward the development of preventive diplomacy has only just begun. In this context, Japan welcomes the approach taken in the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Training, held in Yogyakarta in November 2015, and the ARF Training Course



on Preventive Diplomacy, held in Hanoi in March 2016; that is, the approach of analyzing case studies in the region while sharing the understanding of the concept and modus operandi of preventive diplomacy among the ARF participants in order to promote preventive diplomacy. Japan has long been committed to conflict prevention and peace building through human resources development and other modalities means. Japan will take advantage of its expertise in these areas to further contribute to the ARF's efforts to promote preventive diplomacy.

#### 7. ADMM-Plus Initiatives

The ADMM-Plus provides a framework for addressing a wide range of security issues common to the region. Japan is committed to this framework with the aim of developing the forum into a key pillar of regional security cooperation. Within the ADMM-Plus, six Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) have been established to increase concrete military-to-military cooperation in handling security issues common to the region: humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), maritime security, counter terrorism, military medicine, peacekeeping operations, and humanitarian mine action. Japan is taking part in each EWG to further enhance regional security cooperation by actively exchanging views with other countries and making proposals.

Japan had helped to intensify cooperation among member countries in military medicine areas by acting as co-chair of the EWG on military medicine along with Singapore, conducting field training exercises on HA/DR and military medicine in Brunei in June 2013.

Since 2014, Japan has co-chaired the EWG on HA/DR together with Lao PDR. Efforts have been made to formulate a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the establishment and management of a Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC) so as to amplify the activities of assisting foreign forces that are accepted by disaster-affected countries in the event of natural or other disasters. In August 2015, for example, a table top exercise (TTX) was conducted in Lao PDR. In September 2016, exercises on HA/DR and military medicine, AM-Hex 2016, will be conducted in Thailand in order to test the final draft of the SOP.

The ADMM-Plus is a vital framework providing the member countries with opportunities to conduct multilateral talks on a wide range of regional security issues in an open manner. Japan believes it is important to keep this framework open without putting any restriction on the issues to be addressed in the forum, while allowing the participating countries to discuss a wide range of issues in a candid manner.

#### **IV. Japan's Future Contribution to Enhance Capability of ARF**

As a framework for candid discussion on the political and security issues of the entire Asia-Pacific region, ARF has steadily contributed to confidence-building in the region. In recent years, various initiatives have been put forward in a wide range of areas, including maritime security, disaster relief, counter terrorism and transnational crime, non-proliferation and disarmament, preventive diplomacy, cyberspace, and outer space. Some of these initiatives have been translated into exercise-type activities, such as the ARF-Disaster Relief



Exercise (ARF DiREx). During the inter-sessional year of 2015-2016, Japan played a leading role in animated discussions within the ARF by exercising initiatives in such areas as maritime security, disaster relief, outer space, and counter terrorism.

To further develop ARF as an action-oriented framework instead of making it serve merely as a forum for dialogue, ARF countries that co-organize each initiative need to establish practical agenda items and programs with the cooperation with stakeholders, including relevant international organizations and experts. Also, member states need to work more closely with one another to avoid duplications among initiatives and produce favorable outputs. In addition to these efforts to improve ARF functions, it is also important to strengthen cooperation with other regional security frameworks in pursuing effective synergy.

The edge of the wedge is the area of disaster relief. In this particular area, similar exercises are increasingly conducted under different regional frameworks. Member states need to streamline such exercises from the viewpoint of reducing personnel and financial costs for participating countries and pursuing practical initiatives. The ARF Multi-Year Strategic Exercise Plan Workshop, held in April 2015, discussed how to optimize disaster relief exercises. Such discussions are in line with this awareness. They give a hint as to how the effectiveness of the ARF can be ensured in the future.

Japan will proactively contribute to improve ARF functions and coordinate among different regional frameworks while continue to exercise initiatives in various areas



## LAO PDR



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

The regional and international environment continues to undergo rapid changes in a complex and unpredictable manner as there remain both traditional and non-traditional security challenges facing various parts of the world such as terrorism, natural disasters, climate change, epidemics, irregular migration, trafficking in persons, trafficking of illicit drug, armed conflict and unresolved disputes, among others. It requires joint efforts to effectively address those challenges, which is the current prevailing trend of the world.

The Asia-Pacific region has enjoyed a relatively peaceful and stable environment, which is a vital precondition to mutually beneficial cooperation for socio-economic development in the region. The strategic shift to and competition in the region are also prominent.

The peaceful and stable environment in Southeast Asia has not only enabled ASEAN Member States to enjoy their respective socio-economic development, but also led to the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015.

The establishment of the ASEAN Community is a result of common and continued efforts of ASEAN Member States as well as cooperation and support from ASEAN's external partners through the ASEAN-initiated frameworks namely the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus

Three (APT), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and East Asia Summit (EAS). These frameworks provide venues not only for ASEAN to engage with its external partners, but also for the external partners to engage with each other.

ASEAN continues its efforts in consolidating and strengthening the ASEAN Community and its relations with external partners through timely and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its integral documents with the objective of the maintenance and promotion of peace, security, stability and development in the region and the world at large.

### **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

Since its proclamation in 1975, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) has been implementing the two strategic tasks of national safeguarding and development by pursuing its consistent People's Comprehensive National Defence and Security Policy of self-defence with the participation of the entire Lao multi-ethnic people in conjunction with socio-economic development and international cooperation in accordance with its foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation.

The objective in the pursuit of the People's Comprehensive National Defence and Security Policy is to safeguard the national independence, sovereignty and territorial



integrity, to protect national interests and the entire Lao multi-ethnic people, and to ensure security and social order that provide a favourable environment for socio-economic development of the Nation as well as to contribute to the cause of peace, security, stability and development in the region and the world. The Lao PDR's consistent policy is to neither participate in any military bloc or alliance as its armed forces are for self-defence only, nor allow foreign military bases in the territory of the Lao PDR.

The national defence and security task is the task of the entire Lao multi-ethnic people where everyone has a role to play as stipulated in the Constitution of the Lao PDR.

### **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

Based on its foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation and the People's Comprehensive National Defence and Security Policy of self-defence, the Lao PDR has deepened and widened its cooperative relations with all friendly countries and regional and international organisations around the world both bilaterally and multilaterally to enhance mutual understanding, trust and confidence in the region and the world, thereby ensuring favourable environment to promoting development cooperation.

To date, the Lao PDR has established diplomatic relations with 138 countries and actively participates in sub-regional, regional and international frameworks such as ASEAN, ASEAN-initiated frameworks (ASEAN Plus One, APT, ARF, ADMM Plus, EAS), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEANAPOL, INTERPOL,

Shangri-La Dialogue and UN, among others.

The Lao PDR has been entrusted and given the honour to chair many sub-regional, regional and international meetings. To name a few, the Lao PDR chaired ASEAN in 2004-2005, the First Meeting of State Parties to the Convention of Cluster Munitions in 2010 and the 9th ASEM Summit in 2012. The Lao PDR is the chair of ASEAN for the second time in 2016. In addition, the Lao People's Army is the chair of the ADMM and other defence-related meetings in 2016.

The Lao PDR has been working with regional and international communities to address various challenges of common concern and interest based on its ability and in accordance with the established international principles and norms.

#### **a. Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

At the national level, even though the Lao PDR has not yet criminalized terrorism in a comprehensive manner and does not have any specific law on counter-terrorism, the Government however has paid great attention to address this issue by enacting and using other legal measures as stipulated in the Penal Code to suppress and punish illegal activities related to the crime of terrorism which can cause damages to life and property of its citizens, public security and order and national integrity. A National Anti-Terrorism Ad-Hoc Committee was created within the Ministry of Public Security with the mandate, inter alia, to act as an advisory body to the Government on counter-terrorism related issues and to submit the National Report to the 1373 Committee established under the United Nations Security



Council Resolution 1373. Also, the Lao PDR attaches great importance to the issue of anti-money laundering and counter-funding of terrorism. The Anti-Money Laundering Intelligence Office was established in 2007 under the direct supervision of the Bank of the Lao PDR. In addition, the National Assembly of the Lao PDR enacted the Law on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) on 21 July 2014 upon the request of the National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism, a governmental body with the mandate to supervise such issues. Following that, the President of the Lao PDR promulgated the Decree No. 012/PO, dated 4 February 2015 to implement the new Law on AML/CFT. The latter lays the fundamental and legal framework for the Lao PDR to undertake the work of AML/CFT rigorously.

At the bilateral level, to ensure safety and security in the border areas, and to jointly address border-related issues, the Lao PDR has bilateral cooperative mechanism on border issues with each of its immediate neighbouring countries, namely Lao-Cambodia General Border Committee (GBC), Lao-China Joint Border Inspection Committee, Lao-Myanmar Provincial/Regional Border Committee (P/RBC), Lao-Thai General Border Committee (GBC), and Lao-Viet Nam Border Committee (BC).

At the regional level, the Lao PDR joined the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) in 2007 to further advance the work on anti-money laundering and counter-funding of terrorism in the country as well as to enhance cooperation with other countries in the region. The Lao PDR ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism on 12 November 2012. In addition, the Lao PDR has successfully hosted

and chaired the 9th AMMTC, 3rd AMMTC+China Consultation, 7th AMMTC+3 Consultation and 1st AMMTC+Japan Consultation which were convened in Vientiane in 2013.

At the international level, the Lao PDR is now a state party and signatory to the following 13 UN conventions on counter-terrorism:

- 1) Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963);
- 2) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970);
- 3) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971);
- 4) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents (1973);
- 5) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1979);
- 6) International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages (1979);
- 7) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation (1988);
- 8) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988);
- 9) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988);



- 10) Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991);
- 11) Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (1994);
- 12) International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997); and
- 13) International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999).

#### **b. Non-Proliferation, Counter-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

Underscoring the great importance of disarmament and non-proliferation in ensuring durable international peace and security, the Lao PDR supports equal implementation of the three pillars of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Lao PDR has neither the capacity nor the intention to produce, use or possess, transport, transfer or deliver nuclear, chemical or biological weapons to any states or non-state actors. The Lao Government supports the effort of the international community to address the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation in the world and this should be carried out under the principle of multilateral diplomacy. Today, nuclear proliferation continues to be a major threat to global peace and security. Amid regional conflicts and disputes as well as civil unrests occurring across various regions, the international community should redouble its efforts to address the issue of armament. In this context, the Lao PDR will continue to work closely with regional and international

communities to address those issues.

In addition, the Lao PDR is a state party to a number of regional and international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation such as the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC), and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCW), among others.

The Lao PDR views that the creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones has significantly contributed to strengthening the global regime of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The Lao PDR reiterates that the recognizance of these zones by the Nuclear Weapons States (NWSs) is of great importance. In this regard, the Lao PDR encourages the NWSs to accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty as early as possible.

The Lao PDR stresses the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT as soon as possible and encourages those countries which have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT at an early date.

The Lao PDR recognizes the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. The Lao PDR became a member of the IAEA in 2011 and signed the IAEA Additional Protocol in November 2014.



To address the serious impact arising from the unexploded ordnances (UXOs), the Lao PDR, as a state party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions or OSLO Convention, has been actively promoting this universal Convention in order to prevent further victimization of humankind. In this connection, the Lao PDR calls upon those countries which are not yet party to the OSLO Convention to accede to it. The Lao PDR also encourages friendly countries and international organisations to continue to provide funding and technical assistance to support Lao PDR's efforts to clear the UXOs in the contaminated areas in many provinces of the country. In order to further strengthen regional cooperation in this area, the Lao People's Army will co-chair the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) with Russia from 2017 to 2020.

#### **c. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

The Lao PDR places high importance to and supports regional and international cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) based on its limited resources and in accordance with the principle of request or consent of the affected countries.

The Lao People's Army has been also actively contributing to the HADR. To name a few, the Lao People's Army co-chairs the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) with Japan from 2014 to 2017 and has hosted and chaired a number of meetings as follows:

- 5<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR on 10-12 December 2014 in Vientiane, Laos;

- 6<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (TTX) on 5-7 August 2015 in Vientiane, Laos;
- 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus EWG on 9-10 December 2015 in Tokyo, Japan; and
- 8<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus EWG on 10 May 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.

#### **d. People Smuggling**

The Lao PDR acknowledges that people smuggling and human trafficking violate fundamental rights, freedom and dignity of its citizens as stipulated in the national Constitution and laws as well as in international conventions. Therefore, the Government has attached great importance to addressing those issues by establishing a National Steering Committee on Human Trafficking in 2004 as a dedicated anti-trafficking governmental body, which is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and comprised of high ranking government officials from ministries concerned. Amongst other, the Committee cooperates with neighbouring countries, international agencies as well as with non-governmental and civil society organizations to actively run projects and activities responding to human trafficking that take place domestically and across the border. It also develops policies and legislation as well as National Plans of Action (NPA) on countering human trafficking to be in line with sub-regional and regional action plans. To support this ambitious work of the Committee, ambitious work of the Committee, the Ministry of Public Security set up the Department of Anti-Human Trafficking to act as the Secretariat and the National Focal Point for cooperation with foreign governments.





In order to institutionalize the fight against human trafficking as well as to bring justice to the victims and punish the offenders, the Law on Anti-Human Trafficking has been approved by the National Assembly in 2015 after a broad consultation process. The law calls for strong punitive measures, including maximum penalty of life imprisonment and covering all forms of human trafficking while also foreseeing protection and assistance for the victims. In fact, the law echoes our obligations under relevant international instruments to which the Lao PDR is party.

In order to fight against human trafficking in a comprehensive manner, the Lao Government also maintains strong bilateral collaboration with countries in the region such as Thailand, Viet Nam and China as well as multilateral collaboration with ASEAN and Mekong sub-region countries, including through ASEAN-Australia cooperation on counter trafficking, Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking Process (COMMIT) and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes.

The Lao PDR together with other ASEAN Member States signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in 2015 and it is in the process of ratifying the ACTIP.

international level, the Lao PDR has concluded bilateral agreements and is party to the following conventions on and relating to the fight against human trafficking:

1. Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others in 1978;
2. Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress

and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

3. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
4. Convention on the Rights of the Child;
5. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
6. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Viet Nam on cooperation in Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims of Trafficking; and
7. Agreement between the Governments of the Lao PDR and People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Preventing and Trafficking in Persons.

#### **IV. Role of the ARF**

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was incepted in 1994 as the primary forum for dialogue on political and security related issues of common interest and concern in the Asia Pacific region. Over the past 23 years, the ARF has made gradual achievements. Most importantly, the ARF has been successful in bringing together diverse parties in the Asia Pacific to promote mutual understanding, confidence and trust, thereby contributing to maintaining and



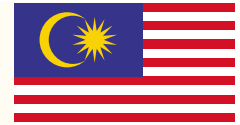
and promoting peace, stability and development cooperation in the region and the world as a whole.

The ARF achievements over the past 23 years have been possible thanks to the common efforts of all ARF participants in working together on the basis of consultation and consensus and to move the ARF process forward together at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants, taking into account the diversity of this Asia-Pacific region.

The Lao PDR was the ARF Chair in 2004-2005 and is the Chair of the ARF in 2016. As ARF Chair, the Lao PDR stands ready to work closely with all ARF participants to build upon the ARF achievements and further strengthen and move the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants with a view to further enhancing mutual understanding, trust and confidence, thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and cooperation for development in the region and the world at large.



## MALAYSIA



### I. Overview of Regional Security Environment

With the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015, there are growing expectations from the international community on ASEAN's role as a global player in this fast-changing and rapidly evolving global security landscape. It is undeniably true that recent developments in the region have pointed to a number of new challenges and uncertainties which impact ASEAN. While ASEAN in general is experiencing political stability and economic growth, current security issues are beginning to shape and influence the nature of threats in the region.

Malaysia in this regard, remains committed in giving high priority to the effort in ensuring peace, security and stability in the region. Malaysia maintains strong defence cooperation with other ASEAN Member States as well as dialogue partners, by playing an active part in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus, ASEAN Plus Three (APT) and East Asia Summit (EAS). These fora are important elements of the strategic regional architecture, vital for the security of the region.

Terrorism remains a critical global security issue. The emergence of radical and violent extremist elements in many countries has become a cause for grave security concern for governments, including Malaysia. The narratives employed by the terrorists, their acts and *modus operandi* have evolved into a dangerous

threat to the security and safety of this region. Daesh and its affiliates have established their presence around the world, including in the Southeast Asia (SEA) region. Daesh appears to have increasingly garnered the support and sympathy among many individuals and religious organisations such as the Abu Sayyaf Group and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, which had declared allegiance to Daesh. Malaysia strongly opposes and strongly condemns Daesh's acts of terrorism and violent extremism and remains committed to tackling the threat of terrorism. Malaysia believes that the practice of moderation should be embraced globally and calls for countries to censure and reject extremism and support moderation.

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is increasingly becoming a global scourge affecting all countries around the world and requires concerted national, regional and international efforts. Malaysia strongly opposes trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and remains seriously committed in addressing these crimes. During the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015, Malaysia and all other ASEAN member states signed the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) which makes it legally binding for all ASEAN Member States to prevent and combat TIP; ensuring just and effective punishment of traffickers; protect and assist the victims of TIP as well as promote cooperation among the member states. Malaysia has also undertaken significant efforts to improve existing legislation and mechanisms to effectively combat these crimes.



Natural disaster which was not rife in Malaysia in the past, has increasingly become an issue of concern to Malaysians. Although Malaysia is geographically located just outside the “Pacific Rim of Fire”, the perception that Malaysia is completely safe from severe natural disasters (particularly earthquake related) is no longer accurate. In recent years, our exposure to climate-related disasters has intensified which as indicated by the scientific community, becomes evidence of the impact of climate change. In December 2014, Malaysia faced its worst monsoon flood in the country’s history affecting several states in Malaysia. Malaysia was also compelled to review its vulnerability to earthquake disasters following the 5.9 magnitude tremor in Ranau, Sabah on 5 June 2015. In light of these two unfortunate events, Malaysia has taken effort to strengthen its national disaster management structure and mechanisms by establishing the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) that would oversee disaster management issues in the country.

Given its strategic location in the important sea lanes of the South China Sea and Straits of Malacca, Malaysia is fully aware of its responsibilities to ensure that its maritime zones are safe and secure for navigation. Malaysia is particularly responsive to the threat of various unlawful acts at sea that continue to endanger shipping and threaten the safe use of maritime space. All efforts by Malaysia, either unilaterally or in cooperation with other States, contribute to the overall improvement of maritime security in the region.

## **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

The primary objective of the National Defence Policy is to protect and defend national interests which form the foundations of Malaysia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and sustainable economy. Through self-reliance, Malaysia is committed to develop the Malaysian Armed Forces’ (MAF) capability and the dependency on its own resources through the defence industries to support and sustain MAF operations. This is coupled with a total and integrated approach of total defence which involves all levels of community, from individual citizens to private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government agencies in sharing of responsibility to defend the country.

As ASEAN is the cornerstone of Malaysia’s foreign policy, defence relations with other ASEAN Member States are of primal importance to Malaysia. A key framework of the regional security architecture is the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus (with eight Dialogue Partners). The establishment of the ADMM in May 2006 was mandated by the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action of 2004. As the highest defence mechanism within ASEAN, the annual ADMM facilitates the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ discussions and exchange of views on current defence issues and security challenges.

As a member of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) since 1971, Malaysia is committed to it as an effective management tool which has contributed towards the military’s development and enhancement of its professionalism. With this in mind, Malaysia recognises defence diplomacy as an important



effort towards conflict prevention and escalation which could undermine peace and stability. Malaysia believes that the appropriate if not the best tool to resolve traditional security issues are through confidence building measures, transparency and construction of positive norms, and the establishment of the channel of communication.

Malaysia believes that comprehensive actions developed from its national security, defence policy are important to address traditional, new and emerging threats. This encapsulate Malaysia's full support of the United Nations and the international community's efforts to preserve universal peace and security, and part of Malaysia's proactive approach in addressing global issues in line with its foreign policy.

Total defence expenditure on an annual basis

Malaysia's total defence expenditure for 2015 was about RM17.76 billion (USD4.42 billion) or 1.67% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Defence expenditure for 2016 is capped slightly lower at RM17.30 billion (USD4.31 billion).

Total number of personnel in national armed forces

Total number of active forces is around 112,000, whereas reserve forces amounts to 71,000 personnel.

**III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

**i. Counterterrorism**

Promoting a People-centred Approach to Counter-Terrorism

Malaysia believes that terrorism needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner, thus adopting a multifaceted approach in addressing terrorism, focusing on the underlying contributing factors, principally the social and economic problems of the society. Apart from strict legislative and enforcement measures, Malaysia places greater emphasis on education as a means to provide opportunity to escape poverty and develop greater understanding between different cultures to ensure peace and stability. In this regard, Malaysia has implemented specific programmes such as the Pupil's Programme for Unity (RIMUP), Vision Schools and Transformation in Curriculum to encourage acceptance of diverse cultures of the society.

A new initiative in 2016 is the deradicalisation and rehabilitation programme conducted in collaboration with various relevant government agencies and NGOs. In ensuring the effectiveness of the programmes, members of the community are engaged, for example, clerics or ulama' who have better influence over local communities and are considered to be more authoritative in giving the correct explanation of jihad or struggle from the religious perspective; former terrorists or rehabilitated persons who could be good role models and able to persuade former comrades to leave their misconceived struggle, as they would be able to point out with more credibility, any crucial factual misrepresentation and misconceptions which are linked to radicalism; family members, who could assist to persuade terrorist to leave their misguided struggle both psychologically and spiritually; and non-governmental organisations who could assist in creating awareness to society of the negative consequences of terrorism and violent extremism.



At the international front, Malaysia hosted the International Conference on Deradicalisation and Countering Violent Extremism in Kuala Lumpur from 25 to 26 January 2015, with the objective to promote Malaysia's deradicalisation module to the participating countries. The Conference, officiated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, saw the participation of ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) and Strategic Partners, namely the Australia, China, France, Italy, Japan, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. During the Conference, Malaysia announced positive developments and efforts in the field of countering terrorism and stated that Malaysia is developing a counter messaging centre in line with its efforts to counter extremism in cyberspace as well as being a proponent of the Global Movement of the Moderates (GMM).

Malaysia also hosted the Putrajaya Forum 2016 "Building Regional Security Integration in Southeast Asia" in Kuala Lumpur on 19 April 2016, which was held in conjunction with the Defence Services Asia Exhibition and Conference. The Forum was participated by Senior Officials, practitioners and academicians from ASEAN Member States as well as the Asia Pacific countries. Earlier on 25-26 March 2015, Malaysia and Japan co-chaired the ARF Workshop on Counter Radicalisation in Kuala Lumpur.

#### Promoting Inter-Civilization Dialogue

The Global Movement of the Moderates (GMM), a brainchild of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, calls for countries to censure and reject extremism and support moderation. Malaysia believes that the acceptance of the concept of moderation in international politics would

impose to all parties, state and non-state actors, a responsibility to conduct relations and interactions in the manner that helps to diffuse possible tension and conflict. In line with this, Malaysia has always encouraged and welcomed initiatives on interfaith dialogue by participating in the Alliance of Civilisations, the Official Platform of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Inter-faith Dialogue, and Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue on an annual basis. Those initiatives are important dimensions towards the promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation through inter-cultural, inter-civilizational and inter-religious programmes to achieve global peace.

#### Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange and Document Integrity and Security Exchanging Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crimes

The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, has conducted various capacity-building courses for local and foreign participants, published articles and monographs and is involved in delivering papers and lectures at the local, regional and international level. SEARCCT also works closely with various countries and organisations in conducting its capacity-building programmes and research activities.

Malaysia is currently working closely with the United States of America on the establishment of the Digital Strategic Counter-Messaging Division (DSCD) - a division under SEARCCT, which would focus on the soft approach in countering online narratives put forth by Daesh. The objective of which is to contest the terrorist rhetoric and agenda in this region at the digital space by exposing their misinformation and disinformation.



### Multilateral and Regional Cooperation

As a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Malaysia is committed in addressing terrorism and Daesh by fully supporting the UNSC resolutions, namely, 2253 (2015), 2249 (2015), 2199 (2015), 2195 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2170 (2014).

At the regional level, Malaysia together with ASEAN Member States have implemented practical measures to enhance counter terrorism cooperation, which include working with external partners. ASEAN cooperation in combating terrorism primarily takes place within the framework of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

Malaysia is also the member of APEC Counter Terrorism Working Group. The Working Group meets annually to discuss on counter terrorism strategies and capacity building programmes, to help secure the region's people and its economic, trade, investment and financial systems from terrorist attack or abuse and trade-based money laundering.

### Cooperative Counter Terror Action on Border Security

Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines signed an Agreement on Information Exchange and Establishment of Communication Procedures on 7 May 2002 in Putrajaya, while Cambodia (30 July 2002), Thailand (5 November 2002) and Brunei (5 October 2003) have also acceded to the Agreement. This Agreement provides a framework for cooperation among participating countries in addressing border and security issues including terrorism, transnational crime

and other illegal activities occurring within their respective territories.

### Measures against Terrorist Financing

In recognising the need for consolidated and concerted efforts in anti-money laundering and the counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), Malaysia has taken various AML/CFT measures, through implementing relevant laws under the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) in 2001 and extended the scope of its reporting requirements, as well as the development of counter-measures.

For instance, Malaysia promotes the sharing of financial intelligence as well as enhancing knowledge and upgrading skills required in financial investigations at the regional and international level. This is further enhanced with the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the Central Bank of Malaysia. Over the years, the Central Bank of Malaysia has conducted extensive AML/CFT briefings, training and awareness programme throughout the country for the law enforcement personnel and respective regulatory authorities in the public sector as well as various categories of new reporting institutions in the private sector.

In May 2000, Malaysia became a member of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering, a Financial Action Task Force (FATF) regional-style organisation and had undergone the Mutual Evaluation Exercise conducted by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering and Technical Assistance (APG-MLTA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 13-25 November 2014. This APG Mutual Evaluation Report strongly affirmed Malaysia's sound and comprehensive AML/CFT programme and considered as exemplary in comparison with other countries in the Asia Pacific region. Malaysia is currently taking a lead role in the region in the AML/CFT by providing training, technical assistance and mentoring to other APG members, in particular the ASEAN countries. Following that, on 19 February 2016, Malaysia has been accepted to become a member of FATF.



Malaysia is also a member of the Egmont Group of FIU since 23 July 2003. This has paved the way for further international cooperation in the sharing of financial intelligence among FIUs/132 members of the Egmont Group.

## **ii. Non-proliferation, Counter-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

Malaysia remains committed to pursue a nuclear weapon-free world. Achieving this goal rests on the fulfilment of the basic bargain embodied in the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), namely disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Malaysia remains concerned on the slow progress in the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons by the Nuclear Weapons States, the lack of transparency, the high alert status of nuclear weapons, the continuing pursuit of nuclear programmes by a few countries and the insistence of some others to remain outside of the NPT.

This notwithstanding, Malaysia will continue to play a constructive role in promoting international peace and security. Malaysia is of the view that the continued existence of nuclear weapons represents a significant threat to humanity and the full and effective implementation of the NPT obligations, in particular by Nuclear Weapons States, plays a crucial role in achieving a nuclear weapon-free world. Malaysia regretted that no consensus was achieved during the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Malaysia, however, hopes that all State Parties will work towards the goal of disarmament of nuclear weapons.

The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory

Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, a UN resolution that is annually tabled by Malaysia at the UN General Assembly. The Advisory Opinion clearly stipulates that the UN Member States have a legal obligation not only to pursue in good faith, but also to bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. It is unfortunate that while this resolution continues to enjoy the support of the vast majority of the UN Member States, some remain opposed to this resolution and the Advisory Opinion.

Malaysia considers the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a primary disarmament instrument. Malaysia joins the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in calling upon the remaining Member States, to immediately sign the CTBT. Malaysia looks forward to the early entry into force of the Treaty. Malaysia had ratified the CTBT on 17 January 2008.

Following the conclusion of the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in Washington, D.C., Malaysia continues to work with all participating countries to ensure the safety and security of nuclear materials, that it does not fall into the hands of terrorists or non-state actors. It is also crucial that all participating countries continue to support the endorsed action plans, to ensure that there will be continuity, even after the conclusion of the NSS.

### Malaysia's involvement in activities related to NPD

Malaysia joined the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and endorsed the Statement of Interdiction Principles on 23 April 2014. Malaysia is committed to upholding the PSI Statement of





Interdiction Principles, and believes that it adds value to a country's existing arrangements and efforts to curb illicit trafficking of weapon of mass destruction (WMD). Malaysia participated in several PSI workshops in 2015 and 2016, held in Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the United States. Malaysia also hosted a PSI Workshop and Table Top Exercise in August 2015.

The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention of Malaysia (NACWC), which was officially established in September 2006 in conjunction with the promulgation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Act 2005, has served as the national focal point for effective liaison with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and to assist Malaysia in fulfilling its obligation under the CWC. In 2015, Malaysia had hosted an OPCW programme on the "Assistance and Protection Course for Police Officer – First Responders" in Kuala Lumpur from 28 September to 2 October 2015. The programme was conducted by NACWC in collaboration with the OPCW to enhance Malaysia's national capacity to meet its obligations under the Convention.

The second meeting of the Study Group on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD) of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) was held in Kuala Lumpur on 17 and 18 April 2016. The Meeting was attended by representatives from CSCAP member committees and included Young Leaders from the Pacific Forum Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The group examined recent developments in non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as

peaceful use of nuclear technology, the impact of proliferation financing, biological threats, and the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula. It examined the ARF Work Plan on NPD and discussed future study group priorities, and focusing on capacity building to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

Malaysia continues to support activities under the ambit of the ARF relating to non-proliferation and disarmament issues. Malaysia hosted the 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ARF ISM on NPD) on 19-20 April 2016 in Putrajaya, co-chairing the meeting with Canada and New Zealand and was held, pursuant to the decision of the 22nd Ministerial Meeting of the ARF held on 6 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. The deliberations of the ISM revolved around the three pillars of the NPT, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Malaysia hosted the "Regional Training Course (RTC) on Developing a National Framework for Managing the Response to Nuclear Security" from 9 to 13 May 2016. The RTC assisted participants in preparing a response relating to nuclear security during Major Public Events. The programme is co-organised with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and drew participation from all ASEAN members.

The Panel of Experts (PoE) established pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1874 were in Malaysia in March and April 2016 in the context of counter-proliferation. Malaysia had the opportunity to engage with them and assisted them in their activities.



### Bioscience Technology

Given that the tremendous progress in the biosciences is increasingly more reachable through the medium of modern information technology, Malaysia strongly believes that there is a need to enhance scientific and technological cooperation between State Parties both for the social-economic progress of developing countries that are people-centred and socially responsible, and for the fight against infectious diseases and the threats of bio-terrorism.

Malaysia, through its Science and Technology Research Institute for Defence (STRIDE), an Agency under the Ministry of Defence of Malaysia, has formed a technical cooperation programme in 2012 with the Cooperative Biological Engagement Programme (CBEP), Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the United States of America in the field of biosecurity. This initiative would enhance Malaysia's capacity to protect the country against biological threats and aims to prevent bio-crime through cooperation on safety working practices, accurate techniques and procedures for assessing risks of biological misuse.

After successfully hosting the First SEA Dragon Table top Exercise in October 2014, Malaysia in collaboration with CBEP once again, hosted the "SEA Dragons II: ASEAN Discussion on Preparedness against Chemical-Biological Threats" in Kuala Lumpur from 9-11 December 2015. The programme which was participated by government and non-government representatives from all ASEAN Member States, highlighted the importance of balancing the advantages and risks related to the expansion of technological and scientific innovation.

As a party to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Malaysia continues to fully adhere to its obligations to the Convention. Malaysia recognizes the importance for States Parties to undertake necessary measures, including constitutional process to implement the provisions of the Convention as stipulated under Article IV of the BWC. In demonstrating Malaysia's commitment to the BWC, Malaysia is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive BWC Bill, which would reinforce the existing STA 2010 as well as other relevant legislatives such as Arms Act 1960 and Customs Act 1967.

### Arms Control

With regard to arms control, Malaysia had been supportive and constructive throughout the process of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Malaysia had voted in favour of all the resolutions related to the ATT and was seen by other Member States, as well as the Presidents of the July 2012 ATT Conference and March 2013 ATT Final Conference, as being a country that can bridge divides. Malaysia had signed the treaty on 26 September 2013 and is currently working towards the accession to the treaty.

Malaysia was also the facilitator on the issue of transit or transshipment as well as a member of the Drafting Committee during the Final ATT Conference. In showing Malaysia's continuous support and commitment to the Treaty, Malaysia had attended the preparatory meetings as well as the First Conference of States Parties of the ATT in Cancun, Mexico from 24-27 August 2015. Malaysia had shared its views on the implementation of the Treaty and hoped that the Treaty would receive support from all states in order to achieve the Treaty's main objective to stem illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the region.



### iii. Transnational Crime

Malaysia believes that transnational crime needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner, including undertaking stricter enforcement measures, adopting and implementing legislative measures and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies and inter-agency cooperation.

In its continuous efforts to combat organised crime in the country, Malaysia amended its Prevention of Crime Act (Amendment and Extension) 2015, which came into effect on 1 September 2015, to extend its applicability towards the States of Sabah and Sarawak.

Malaysia also amended the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act (ATIPSOM) 2007 which came into force on 18 November 2015 as a continued commitment to combating criminal activities and organised crime in the country.

#### Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange in Enhancing Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crimes

During the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015, Malaysia organised an Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) on 2 July 2015 in Kuala Lumpur in response to the crisis of irregular migration in Southeast Asia. The meeting demonstrated Malaysia's stewardship in finding a regional solution to combating trafficking in persons.

The adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia during the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (10th AMMTC) from 28

September-1 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur reflects Malaysia's concerns on the increase of irregular movement of persons in the Southeast Asian region and its serious impact on the national security of the affected countries.

On the ARF platform, Malaysia held the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF on 6 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. Out of the five (5) priority areas, Malaysia has been tasked to lead two (2) Priority Areas, namely Priority 3: Use of Information and Communication Technologies with Russia and Australia, and Priority 4: Counter Radicalization with Australia.

Malaysia has been working collectively and in solidarity with ASEAN Member States to combat transnational crime. At the same time, Malaysia will continue to conclude security arrangement in the forms of Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with like-minded countries to forge strategic cooperation in eliminating and disrupt the commission of these crimes by criminal syndicates.

With regard to the UN programmes, Malaysia had participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UNCCPCJ) that was held in Doha, Qatar, from 12 – 19 April 2015. Malaysia, in its statement at the Congress, mentioned that crime prevention is a mammoth task in which no single country would be able to deal with unilaterally. In this regard, Malaysia acknowledged the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation, and viewed that countries need to expand the existing international cooperation in order to share best practices, experience, conduct regular exchange of information and intelligence including capacity building.



### Promoting Collaboration in addressing the issue of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

Malaysia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime (UNTOC) on 24 September 2004 at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly. Subsequently, Malaysia acceded to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children on 26 February 2009. UNTOC is the main international instrument to counter transnational organised crime, including Trafficking in Persons.

Malaysia also took part in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Bali Process on People Smuggling, TIP and Related Transnational Crime and Senior Officials' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 22 and 23 March 2016.

### Amendments of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act (ATIPSOM) 2007

On the domestic front, Malaysia enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 (ATIPSOM) with the latest amendments in 2015. This is a manifestation of Malaysia's commitment to combat trafficking in persons. The most critical components of the amendments includes the ability for victims to move freely, to reside outside the shelter homes and the ability to take up employment. This new transformational approach by Malaysia demonstrated Malaysia's political will and tireless efforts to address trafficking in persons.

### Promoting Collaboration in Addressing the Issue of Drug Trafficking

Malaysia has consistently called for stringent measures to be adopted in curbing illicit

drug-trafficking. Priority should also be given to preventive programmes to curb drug abuse. Malaysia, through the National Anti-Drugs Agency, has taken the initiative on drug treatment measures by opening its 1Malaysia Cure and Care clinic to provide treatment and rehabilitation for drug abusers, drug users, co-dependent, employers and individuals without having to face the possibility of being charged with prevailing laws.

In addition, the Royal Malaysian Police, through its Special Tactics and Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING), has been tasked to investigate and arrest the drug kingpins and drug smuggling syndicates. The squad is part of the measures in curbing drug related activities and crimes in the country. To date, Malaysia is offering treatment and rehabilitation services to voluntary drug addicts, through the 57 clinics and centres nationwide.

Malaysia has participated in the UN Special Session on World Drug Problems, which was held in New York from 19 to 21 April 2016. It was the 30<sup>th</sup> Special Session convened to discuss pertinent issues of common concern and interest of UN Member States. During the meeting, Malaysia, in the capacity as the Chair of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters, delivered the ASEAN Position Statement on Drugs and Malaysia's National Statement.

### Corruption

Malaysia's signing and ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) reflects our commitment to promote and strengthen measures in combating corruption at the domestic, regional and international level. As a fully engaged member of the Convention and a proactive member of the global anti-corruption community, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) works closely with their



local and international counterparts with regard to recovery of assets of illicit origin which has direct linkages with money laundering and corruption activities.

The Malaysian National Key Result Areas (NKRA) placed combating corruption among the seven (7) key areas of priority of the Government and the initiatives in fighting corruption is to assist in the nation's transformational program, so as to turn Malaysia into a high income nation by 2020. This is done through addressing the root causes of corruption in promoting open and transparent governance in both private and public sectors. On domestic regulations, Malaysia has put in place several comprehensive laws such as the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Act 1997 (Amendments 2006), Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 and the Whistle-blower Protection Act 2010.

The MACC organised the 16<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Putrajaya on 2-4 September 2015 which was attended by civil servants, international organisations, civil society and private sector from 130 countries. The Conference adopted the "Putrajaya Declaration: Zero Tolerance for Impunity" which includes the declaration on the need for numerous actions to prevent and to stop corruption, to ensure corrupt acts are not repeated and for the convicts to repay society for their corrupted acts.

On 4 February 2016, the MACC signed an MOU with Azerbaijan to establish cooperation to prevent corruption. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> MOU signed by MACC with other states or international organisations. The MOU aims to enhance cooperation on seven (7) aspects which includes providing information involving investigations, sharing and exchanging

information on the rules of criminal and corrupt activities and sharing effective investigation techniques.

#### **iv. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**

The Government of Malaysia has embarked in transforming the national disaster management structure and its mechanism following the floods during the monsoon season in 2014 and earthquake disasters following the 5.9 magnitude tremor in Ranau, Sabah in 2015. On 26 August 2015, the Cabinet has agreed to establish the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) under the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia.

NADMA is the national focal point for disaster management at the regional and international level and it works closely with the Department of Civil Defence of Malaysia, under the Prime Minister's Department. NADMA also works closely with international organisations such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and its subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) and the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group; the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR); Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Emergency Preparedness Working Group; ASEAN Regional Forum; East Asia Summit; Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC); Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC); and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Typhoon Committee.

Apart from this, Malaysia's disaster management mechanism and structure is further improved with the formal establishment of another layer of management, at the



community level with the establishment of the Community Disaster Emergency Response Team comprising of local leaders and volunteers.

At the regional level, Malaysia signed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) on 26 July 2006, which subsequently entered into force on 24 December 2009, and has been an active member of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) since.

Malaysia's National Tsunami Early Warning System is an integral part of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System and the Northwest Pacific Tsunami System coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNESCO. As part of the IOC Tsunami Network, Malaysia has also established linkages with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Honolulu, and the Japan Meteorological Agency in Tokyo.

Malaysia has always been very forthcoming in helping out countries in need. Most of Malaysia's humanitarian assistance at the international level was done in the context of bilateral relations, either through direct financial contribution, or in kind. Apart from this, Malaysia has also dispatched its Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART) on relief missions to various disaster stricken places. In the HADR field, Malaysia is also the host to the UN's Humanitarian Response Depot as well as ASEAN's Disaster Emergency Stockpile. Malaysia aspires to play a more prominent role in the international humanitarian community and

the country is going down the right path towards realising this by hosting the UN and ASEAN's facilities.

#### **v. Maritime Security**

Malaysia has its responsibilities to ensure that its maritime zones, including the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea, are safe and secure for navigation. Malaysia constantly undertakes enforcement, direct protection and surveillance of its maritime zones. In addition to physical presence, Malaysia has also incorporated electronic monitoring capabilities to enable better surveillance of maritime activities in its maritime zones, particularly in the Straits of Malacca.

In addition to Malaysia's unilateral efforts in the Straits of Malacca, the littoral States constantly undertake coordinated patrols since 2004. The Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrol (MSP) consists of two components, the Malacca Straits Sea Patrol (MSSP) and the Eyes-in-the-Sky (EIS) air patrols. With the implementation of the MSP, comprehensive arrangement for maritime security in the Straits of Malacca has been achieved.

The successes of the efforts have been acknowledged by reports worldwide, among others the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) weekly and annual reports. The declassification of the Straits as a high-risk zone by the Joint War Committee of Lloyd's Market Association in August 2006 was another example of the fruitful outcome of the efforts by Malaysia and the other littoral States in ensuring the security of maritime navigation in the Straits of Malacca.



In strengthening maritime security, Malaysia recognises the importance of ensuring maritime safety and environmental protection. The continued maintenance of aid to navigation remains a vital component of ensuring the safety of ships navigating through the Straits. The Aids to Navigation Fund was established to facilitate voluntary contributions in the maintenance of aids to navigation in the Straits, in line with Article 43 of UNCLOS 1982.

Maritime Enforcement Agency of Malaysia (MMEA) Efforts and Approaches in Combating Unlawful Acts at Sea

The MMEA as the sole maritime enforcement agency have implemented appropriate measures and approaches to ensure safety and security in the maritime area.

The continuous presence of MMEA's assets in the hot spot areas are the main effort and operation supported by Sea Surveillance System (SWASLA) to enable better surveillance. MMEA's approaches in combating unlawful acts at sea are based on effective enforcement at sea through increased patrols in hot spot areas by air and surface vessel, forming dedicated Special Force for quick response on sea robbery and piracy incident, conduct special operations focusing on sea robbery and piracy, increased inspection on ships and locating suspected ship at harbour anchorage or at sea, improve inter and intra agencies joint operations procedures, optimize mobile radar to support sea operation and increase asset readiness availability.

Effective enforcement efforts on land and investigations are carried out by working closely with neighbouring counterparts in detecting

perpetrators' syndicate links, sharing of information and data analysing with relevant inter and intra agencies, conducting joint investigations with neighbouring countries, enhancing information gathering from local communities, and conducting capacity building with other agencies such as Interpol, NCIS and ABF.

Effective shipping communities' efforts and cooperation are achieved through awareness programme campaigning and advice to the shipping communities for the need of timely reports on any suspicious activities or crime incidences, improve ship internal security measures by conducting best management practices (BMPs) and cease black market syndicate selling stolen cargo.

Malaysia believes that effective preventive measures could be achieved with greater and better cooperation and coordination amongst the regional enforcement agencies particularly in the aspect of sharing timely tactical data information, harmonizing the SOP and establishing extensive networking at operational level especially on joint investigation. In this context, MMEA has successfully organised several seminars and programmes to enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States with other regional architectures.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and MMEA organised a Seminar on Piracy / Sea Robbery and Maritime Terrorism in the ASEAN Region on 24-26 February 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, funded by the ASEAN-Japan Integrated Fund (JAIF). Under the framework of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Malaysia and Japan are co-lead countries for Priority Area 2 (Confidence Building Measures based on international and regional



legal frameworks, arrangement and cooperation) of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. Malaysia, Japan, India and the United States of America co-chaired the ARF Seminar on Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia on 3-4 March 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. A workshop on Maritime Security co-chaired by Malaysia and Japan is planned for the inter-sessional year 2016-2017.

Apart from cooperation with National Central Bureaus (NCB) in the ASEAN region, MMEA cooperates with INTERPOL to develop Capacity Building Training (CBT) which has been extended to other countries.

#### **IV. Role of ARF**

The ARF is fast becoming a primary platform to discuss regional peace and security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region characterised by security consensus decision making and minimal institutionalisation.

The adoption of the ARF Vision Statement at the 16th ARF in Phuket in July 2009 marked the progress in charting the future direction and vision of ARF by 2020. Subsequently in 2010, the ARF Ministers adopted the Plan of Action (PoA) to implement the ARF Vision Statement which acts as a guiding principle to move the ARF from the stage of confidence building measures (CBMs) to the development of preventive diplomacy (PD) and ultimately conflict resolution.

In light of the growing threats of the new traditional and non-traditional security challenges of the 21st century, the ARF must adapt and sustain itself to be relevant in the regional and global environment. Malaysia is of the view that in moving towards preventive diplomacy and ultimately conflict resolution, the progress should be at a pace comfortable to all and on the basis of consensus of all ARF Participating Countries.





## MYANMAR



### **Security Concerns common to the ASEAN Community**

1. The Asia-Pacific is a strategically important region in the world. ASEAN Member States have considerable influence in the Asia-Pacific region, in the economic space through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) for political and security cooperation. Although considerable development has been achieved through broad economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, some regional issues are currently threatening regional security and stability.

2. The Southeast Asian region is strategically located between the Eastern and Western hemispheres of the world. In Southeast Asia, ASEAN Member States, through the political, economic and cultural sectors, have contributed much to regional security and stability. Yet, among ASEAN Member States, issues such as border disputes, multiple claims to certain islands, illegal border trade, human trafficking, and other transnational crimes and interference in the internal affairs of other nations continue to exist. These issues are contradictory to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and need to be tackled carefully.

3. The expansion of military power among nations within the region, territorial disputes and the shifting regional power balance all contribute to regional instability. If these issues are not addressed peacefully, by diplomatic means,

there is a risk that the situation could escalate rapidly, impacting not only state-level security, but regional security. The Asia-Pacific region is not only facing traditional security threats, but also non-traditional security threats. These threats include international terrorism, production of WMDs, arms smuggling, transnational crimes, illegal drugs producing and trafficking, human trafficking, maritime security, natural disasters, climate change, pandemic diseases and illegal migration. The rapid development of technology and the momentum of globalization has led to an increase in the spread of non-traditional security concerns, as a consequence, such concerns can continue to grow from regional to global level.

### **National Defence Policy of Myanmar**

4. Myanmar practices an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy aimed at world peace and friendly relations with nations and upholds the principles of Peaceful Co-existence among them. In accordance with this, Myanmar has not displayed aggression against any neighbouring countries or other nations. The Myanmar Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) has no intention to commence any invasion against any other nations, however in the case of any threats to the State's sovereignty and national interest, protective measures will be taken. Myanmar shall not allow the deployment of any foreign troops in its territory. The Myanmar Tatmadaw always upholds the three main national causes as the national policy and takes responsibility for



and takes responsibility for national security and defence. Regarding the Defence of the Nation, the National Constitution states:

(a) The Union shall not commence aggression against any nation.

(b) No foreign troops shall be permitted to be deployed in the territory of the Union.

5. Myanmar develops and implements National Defence Policies in order to safeguard the national interests of Myanmar as well as the citizens of Myanmar. In line with the historical background, socio-economic conditions and geographical location of the Myanmar, in addition to the overall situation of the region and the historical tradition of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, the following National Defence Policies apply:

(a) To prevent all acts detrimental to the three main national causes, which are non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

(b) To formulate National Defence with the People's War Strategy centered at Tatmadaw as a pillar, depending on the synergy of entire people.

(c) To valiantly and effectively prevent three foreign aggression and interference in the internal affairs of the Union, by deploying various ways and means while avoiding interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

(d) To employ a defence system that is oriented towards friendly relations with

other nations in accordance with the five principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

(e) Not to permit the forming of any military alliance with other nations or the deployment of any foreign troops in the territory of the Union.

(f) To cooperate with the international community in non-traditional security issues and issue related to counter terrorism affairs and to render assistance when calamities occur in the Union.

### **Defence Budget (Military Expenditure)**

6. The Government of Myanmar is working to maintain only the necessary manpower and equipment for the national defence sector and logistics. In this regard, in order to achieve adequate strength and successfully carry out the duties conferred by the National Defence Policy and the Constitution, and in order to optimize defence expenditure so as not to impose a financial burden upon the Union and the citizens, only the minimum required expenses are allocated to the defence budget. The Union has allocated the following to the Defence Budget: 2011-2012 Fiscal year Kyats 1,269 Billion, 14.73% of Union Budget; 2012-2013 Fiscal year Kyats 2,103 Billion, 14.57% of Union Budget; 2013-2014 Fiscal year Kyats 2,288 Billion, 13.81% of Union Budget; 2014-2015 Fiscal years Kyats 2,613 Billion, 13.44% of Union Budget; and 2015-2016 Fiscal year Kyats 2,750 Billion, 13.34% of Union Budget. The Union budget, including defence expenditure, is scrutinized and ratified by the Hluttaw, as mandated by the Constitution, this is to ensure the transparency of expenditure. As the State's security improves and the economy develops



defence expenditure will be reduced. In order for defence expenditure not to impose a burden on the government, the Armed Forces is engaging in self-reliance measures as a basis to fulfill the socio-economic needs of service personnel and their families.

### **National Contributions to promoting regional security**

7. With ASEAN being part of the Asia-Pacific, security threats to the region are also challenges for ASEAN. International terrorism, production of WMDs, arms smuggling, transnational crimes, illegal drug production and trafficking, human trafficking, maritime security, natural disasters, climate change, pandemic disease and illegal migration are not only challenges to regional security, but also to global security.

8. Myanmar joined ASEAN in 1997 and since that time has promoted regional cooperation. In the same year, Myanmar also became a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and has continued to promote cooperation with South Asian countries. After becoming an ASEAN Member State, Myanmar joined the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which is one of the most important political and security organisation in the Asia-Pacific region. As a member of the ARF, Myanmar participated at various meetings, dialogues and workshops organised by the ARF.

9. Since 2005, Myanmar has commenced formulating bills for anti-terrorism. In 2007, Myanmar signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and ratified the Convention in 2012. Subsequent to amending

the necessary bills with regard to the funding and handing over of criminals, Myanmar also signed the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among like-minded ASEAN Member Countries.

10. Regarding anti-narcotic measures, prior to joining ASEAN, Myanmar attended the annual Meetings of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) as an observer. Since becoming a member of ASEAN, Myanmar attended the annual ASOD and has been implementing its resolutions.

11. From 1999-2000 to 2013-2014, Myanmar implemented a 15-year project for the total elimination of narcotic drugs through the adoption of five measures: the elimination of poppy cultivation; the eradication of narcotic drug use; preventative measures; organising local people to support the measures; and cooperation with international organisations. In order to meet Myanmar's Anti-Narcotics project requirements, another 5-year drug elimination plan for the fiscal years 2014-2015 to 2018-2019 is currently being implemented. For the effectiveness of anti-narcotic measures, the Department of Narcotic Drugs Elimination was reorganized into the Myanmar Police Force Narcotic Drug Suppression Division.

12. Anti-narcotic measures are also being conducted in collaboration with adjacent countries in the region. In 1993, Myanmar signed the MOU for narcotic drugs control with China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia and in 2014, the MOU for the Centre of Information Sharing in the Asia-Pacific region was signed with ASEAN Member States and Republic of Korea.



13. Myanmar successfully hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference (ACMMC) on 29 April 2015, the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting (ANCM) on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015, the 28<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting of ASEAN War Veterans Organization from 21 to 24 October 2015, the 4<sup>th</sup> Myanmar-India Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks from 23 to 25 November 2015, the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) after Action Review Workshop on the 2015 Flood and Landside Response on 9 February 2016, the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief from 25 to 26 February 2016 and the Myanmar-Singapore Intelligence Exchange (Intellex) from 6 to 9 April 2016.

14. In order to build regional security and friendly relations with countries in the region, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and the Commander-in-Chief(Army), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and Commander-in-Chief (Air Force) have all paid goodwill visits to regional countries. In addition, military leaders from countries in the region have also paid goodwill visits to Myanmar. Senior military officials, Union Ministers and deputy ministers from Myanmar have attended ASEAN defence-related meetings and participated in regional security activities, including by signing regional security agreements. Moreover, Myanmar has participated in regional security exercises. In order to build confidence and strengthen friendly relations and mutual understanding among ASEAN Member States, the member nations need to cooperate to prevent individuals and insurgents and terrorist organisations from settling in their respective territories. ASEAN Member States need to cooperate through dialogue and security

technology to share information, in order to prevent harm to regional security. Security building should be developed through dialogue among ASEAN Member States, with a genuine ASEAN security review emerging from discussions.

15. In conducting counter-terrorism activities, coordination meetings among related agencies from regional countries are important for supporting and protecting countries. Information exchanges, such as conducting data sharing system are fundamental to the fight against terrorism. Regarding human security, social environment sectors, such as urban foundations, combatting international terrorism, protecting patients, combating arms and illegal drug trafficking and environmental conservation need to be addressed. Aiming towards human resource development in states in the region through the synergies of Southeast Asian nations, terrorism must be repelled through effective cooperation and the strengthening of regional economic power. The effective cooperation of ASEAN member states will achieve genuine stability, peace and security in the region and eliminate terrorism among ASEAN Member States. In the future, the single ASEAN Community will be implemented and through the friendly cooperation of the people in the region, the ASEAN Community will bring about stability and security for its peoples.

16. The contribution of the armed forces from ASEAN Member States, based on the principles of coordination and cooperation, are critical to the peace and stability of the region. In responding to regional security challenges, the armed forces of ASEAN Member States need to cooperate through joint actions and continue to work towards a more stable and secure region.



Moreover, the non-traditional security threats such as natural disasters, terrorism, maritime security and transnational crime, epidemics, food and energy security, human security, cybercrime, climate change and global warming remain regional concerns and the armed forces of ASEAN Member States should continue conducting information sharing, capacity building, and joint exercises and training.

17. ASEAN Member States should continue to cooperate to encourage the peace and stability of the region. They should also contribute in a cooperative manner to encourage the States which possess nuclear weapons to sign the additional protocol to the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), combat the rise of extremists and terrorists, combat climate change, protect nations against pandemic disease, coordinate on disaster management and information security, prevent the illegal trade of wildlife, combat drug trafficking, and human and arms smuggling.



## THE PHILIPPINES



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

The Asia-Pacific region is facing various security challenges, stemming from both traditional and non-traditional security issues. In particular, there are a number of territorial disputes, an arms build-up as the defense sector of many countries modernize, persisting domestic conflicts, emergence of non-state actors, and proliferation of non-traditional challenges, to name a few. The region also continues to be a witness to strategic competition. These developments are happening at a time when Asia is the fastest growing region economically with the 21<sup>st</sup> century being referred to as the Asian century.

These various security concerns confronting the Asia-Pacific underline the region's dynamism and fluidity of the security environment. All of these point to the need for effective security arrangements that are anchored on the rule of law, which can manage regional security concerns. Intergovernmental and transnational cooperation as well as continuous capacity building are required in order to achieve regional stability.

### **Deep Concern in the Maritime Security Domain**

One of the most pressing concerns that confront the Asia-Pacific region are territorial and maritime disputes. The international community has expressed concern over the situation in the

West Philippine Sea and South China Sea, particularly after recent developments, including island building, deployment of missiles and military hardware under the guise of civilian purpose and providing common goods, landing of commercial and military aircraft at the artificial islands, and the scrambling of jets. These developments raise the risks of confrontation that is not in anybody's interests and might prejudice peace, stability, and regional growth. In response, the international community has been continuously calling for the exercise of self-restraint, non-use of threat or force, and compliance with international law and instruments, such as the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Other territorial disputes that are of concern to Asia-Pacific countries are the overlapping claims over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, Kuril Islands/Northern Territories, Takeshima/Dokdo Islands, Ieodo/Suyan Reef and Socotra Rock and the Kashmir dispute. Conflict in the said areas could undermine safety of sea lanes of communication, which is critical for regional security and prosperity.

Given the importance of maritime security and maritime domain awareness to Asia-Pacific states, the region is witnessing transformation in its maritime security forces. Southeast Asian littoral states are embarking on naval upgrades which include the acquisition of new vessels and development of submarine programs. Littoral states have also emphasized the role of maritime domain awareness in their defense



and security policies. Further, there is a continued call on strengthening military-to-military dialogue and cooperation and to jointly safeguard maritime security.

With respect to non-traditional maritime security issues, the region continues to face piracy, poaching, marine pollution, reduction of fish stock, and the use of maritime routes for unlawful activities that threaten the economic security of the states. Hence, in addition to capability building of naval forces, there is an equally pressing need for civilian maritime agencies to build their capacity for responding to non-traditional security challenges.

### **Strategic Competition among Major Powers**

With the 21<sup>st</sup> Century being referred to as the Asian century, the Asia-Pacific region has been the focus of increasing attention by the international community, particularly major powers. Noteworthy is the US' Rebalance to Asia policy that indicates its renewed interest in the region. Meanwhile, the rise of China in economic and military terms is also closely being monitored by observers. While states have called for more transparency with regard to China's military modernization, its stature as a major trade partner is considered a welcome development.

US-China relations has been of particular interest to Asia-Pacific states as the engagements of both major powers with other members in the region continue to increase. While strategic competition between the two major powers is acknowledged as a reality, there is also a general sense that peaceful relations between the US and China as well as

an open regional security architecture where both countries are included are necessary as both countries play a role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

Aside from the policies and programs of US and China, other indicators of policy recalibration with regard to engagement in the region include India's Act East and Russia's Look East policies. Furthermore, Japan has been reviewing its security policies that will allow it to play a more proactive role in the region. This is supported by the Philippines as a welcome development in the regional security architecture.

### **Disasters**

Natural and man-made disasters have resulted in the loss of lives and property. Several Asia-Pacific states are particularly affected due to their geographical location. The onslaught of disasters, which are further exacerbated by the effects of climate change on weather patterns, have become one of the most pressing non-traditional security challenge that states are confronted with. Not only does it require a collaborative effort within national governments, it also necessitates international cooperation. These disasters have redefined the roles of the armed forces which are now compelled to help address these challenges given that militaries are organized and equipped to be the first responders during disasters.

Notably, calamities have long term effects on food, water, and energy security of regional states. The El Niño phenomenon from 2015 to 2016 has resulted in drought, water shortages, and heightened food insecurity due to agricultural production collapse and fisheries decline. These present challenges for the



defense and military sectors since competition for scarce resources is a major factor for internal displacement of people and can trigger conflicts or aggravate existing ones. In order to respond to calamities, regional and global initiatives on disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) cooperation are being pursued by regional states.

### **Increasing Concerns for Cyber Security**

Cyber security is also a cause for concern due to the number of cyber-attacks on government and business portals, identity thefts, and unauthorized access to information. An unsecured cyber infrastructure compromises secure exchange of classified information between governments. It can also lead to loss of strategic advantages for defense and military establishments. Furthermore, an attack on the cyber infrastructure of the private sector will have dire economic implications if confidential information on trade, finance, and business are accessed by unauthorized groups who intend to use such information for criminal purposes.

### **Rise of Violent Extremism and the Situation in the Middle East and North African Region**

Violent extremism has reemerged as one of the most pressing global security challenges for states. For the Asia-Pacific region, states are concerned over the possible recruitment of their citizens as fighters of the self-declared Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) as well as the possible linkage between local violent extremist groups and the said group. There is also increasing concern over the use of social media to spread radical ideologies and recruit more members.

In addition, violent extremist groups other than the self-declared ISIS, namely Al-Qaeda, continue to exist. Possible collusions between local violent extremist groups with other such groups across regions, remains a concern in the Asia-Pacific as such collusions could lead to further radicalization of violent extremist groups that have no qualms on carrying out terrorist attacks.

Moreover, a nexus between terrorism and transnational crime is becoming more apparent as such violent extremist groups engage in criminal activities to financially support for terrorist activities. Given the transnational nature of the issue of violent extremism and terrorism, several multilateral platforms focusing on counter-terrorism and deradicalization have been established in the regional security architecture, namely the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Counter-Terrorism, Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, among others.

### **Volatile Korean Peninsula**

The situation in the Korean Peninsula remains volatile in light of North Korea's nuclear programs despite condemnation from the international community. North Korea conducted a hydrogen bomb testing in January 2016 as well as a satellite launch in February 2016. While the tests were conducted within its territory, such tests indicate that North Korea has embarked on a nuclear path despite several resolutions from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) banning such programs. Such tests have also stymied the prospects of resuming the Six-Party Talks.





### **Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Other Hazardous Materials**

The proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear explosives (CBRNe) weapons and other dual-use items, which can be used as components for improvised explosive devices, continue to be a concern for the Asia-Pacific. While regional states are parties to several agreements under the non-proliferation regime, the increasing interconnectedness brought about by globalization coupled with fluid borders inadvertently contribute to the rise of illegal channels that serve as conduits for the illegal transfer of these CBRNe. Weapons proliferation is further complicated by the possibility that such weapons may fall into the hands of non-state actors.

### **Spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

Aside from the proliferation of CBRNe, the spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) remains as an equally important concern given that the spread of SALW contribute to violent criminal activities and exacerbate intra and inter-state conflicts. Furthermore, unauthorized access to such SALWs, particularly among non-state actors, pose new security concerns as they operate with the aim to destabilize governments and societies.

## **II. National Security and Defense Policy**

The Philippines' defense and security landscape presents diverse and complex security challenges and concerns that need to be addressed. Given the myriad challenges, concerns, and constraints, prioritization remains to be the fundamental approach of the

Department of National Defense (DND) in providing direction on defense policy and enhancing defense and military capabilities of the country. Priorities are identified as a result of assessments and consultations among stakeholders to include the AFP General Headquarters (GHQ), Philippine Army (PA), Philippine Navy (PN), Philippine Air Force (PAF), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat, Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Priorities are further classified as core or peripheral. Core concerns include challenges to territorial integrity, maritime security, natural disasters, cyber security, internal security, and global peace and security while peripheral security concerns include food, water, and energy security, pandemics and migration, and proliferation of weapons/CBRN explosives.

DND focuses on capacity building and capability development in order to effectively meet the security challenges that confront the country. Its major policy thrusts include upgrading the AFP's capability, modernizing the Government Arsenal (GA), enhancing the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), developing the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), utilizing the reserve force to complement the AFP and the OCD, ensuring the welfare of veterans, cultivating synergy with local government units (LGUs) and the private sector, and strengthening defense cooperation with other countries through various engagement platforms.

Capacity building entails acquisition of materiel to build a credible defense posture, which the Philippines is currently working on under the AFP Modernization Program. In addition



the Philippines continues to undertake improvements and construction of necessary infrastructure, implementation of reforms in the military organization, enhancement of human resources, updating of military doctrines, among others.

The Philippines recognizes that securing national interests and contributing to a stable rules-based regional architecture requires dynamic cooperation with other countries and active participation in different regional organizations and multilateral fora. In this regard, the country is strengthening cooperation and deepening ties with bilateral partners.

### **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

#### **Counterterrorism**

The armed challenges from rogue/terrorist groups such as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), continue to be a security concern for the Philippines, with their activities such as kidnappings and bombings endangering the lives of not only Filipinos but also foreign visitors. An issue of concern is the potential for these local groups to collaborate with the self-declared ISIS as the latter aspires to develop a *wilayat* or province in Southern Philippines and a caliphate in Southeast Asia.

In response to these threats, the Philippine government has been stepping up its operations through the arrest of bomb experts and other high-profile terrorists and by countering extremist propaganda at the grassroots and local communities. Combatting terrorism and violent extremism is also an integral aspect of the Philippines' cooperation with its bilateral partners.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is the Agency of Primary Responsibility in the Implementation of Anti/Counter Terrorism Policy and Operational Directives from the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC). *PNP Task Force Sanglahi Alpha* is the designated operating unit of the PNP against terrorism. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and other law enforcement agencies provide the necessary support to PNP to ensure successful law enforcement operations against terrorists.

The Philippines continues to undertake counter-terrorism operations and share appropriate intelligence and information with other regional partners during bilateral and multilateral Intelligence Exchange (INTELEX) conferences. In 2015, the Philippines participated in the following conferences: Multinational Counter Terrorism Exercise (MNCTX) held in March 2015 in Malaysia, Counter Terrorism Operator's Workshop of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Counter Terrorism held in April 2015 in Australia, 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Analyst-to-Analyst Intelligence Exchange (AMAAIE) Conference held in May 2015 in Brunei, and Bilateral Counter Terrorism Conference held in June in Australia. The Philippines, through the AFP, also conducted its 5<sup>th</sup> INTELEX Conference with India's Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in January 2015 and its 21<sup>st</sup> INTELEX Conference with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in July 2015.

The Philippines also agreed to adopt the following security measures against terrorism and transnational crime through the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Foreign Ministers and Chiefs of Defense Forces with Indonesia and Malaysia on 05 May 2016:



- Conduct of patrol among Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines using existing mechanisms as a modality;
- Render immediate assistance for the safety of people and ships in distress within the maritime areas of common concern;
- Establish a national focal point among the three countries to facilitate timely sharing of information and intelligence as well as coordination in the event of emergency and security threats; and
- Establish a hotline of communication among the three countries to better facilitate coordination during emergency situations and security threats.

With the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), more work needs to be undertaken by the Philippines. In the meantime, the Philippines continues to implement peace initiatives in the South to address underlying causes of internal security challenges. In addition, progress has also been made by Philippine authorities in normalizing several provinces or making them “insurgency free”.

### **Non-proliferation, counter-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

The Philippines stresses that non-proliferation efforts require concrete actions from all members of the international community and not simple tacit support and expressions of commitment. Aside from supporting the principles of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), and the UNSC 1540,

the Philippines also complies with several conventions under the non-proliferation regime, including the Hague Code of Conduct (HCCO) Against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles.

Notably, the Philippines has the distinction of being the first ASEAN country to endorse the “Humanitarian Pledge” and was among the first few countries that collectively issued an NPT RevCon Working Paper that highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. The Philippines cited the need for effective measures towards a legal framework that will ban nuclear weapons.

### **Transnational Crime**

Executive Order No. 62, s. 1999 signed by the President on 15 January 1999 created the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime (PCTC) to formulate and implement a concerted program of action of law enforcement, intelligence and other agencies for the prevention and control of transnational crime. Assisted by 21 law enforcement agencies, PCTC coordinates all transnational crime operations carried out by relevant agencies of the Philippines. Its priority crime areas include: illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; money laundering; terrorism; arms smuggling; trafficking in persons (TIP); piracy; and any crime which impacts the stability and security of the Philippines.

With Philippines being the lead shepherd for TIP within the Senior Officials’ Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), the PCTC also serves as the Secretariat for the SOMTC Working Group on TIP. The signing by the ASEAN Leaders of the ASEAN Convention





against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and its accompanying ASEAN Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (APA) in November 2015 is a significant achievement for the Working Group on TIP. In 2016, the Philippines initiated the socialization of the ACTIP and APA in two (2) recent meetings namely: (1) the 12th ASEAN SOMTC Working Group on TIP and the Socialization of ACTIP and APA in January 2016, and (2) the SOMTC-ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs Collaboration Meeting in April 2016.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Joint Terrorist Financing Investigation Group (JTFIG) is an inter-agency coordination among law enforcement units which gathers/provides intelligence/information on personalities or groups involved in terrorist financial networks. The Regional Anti-Terrorism Council Convergence Group – National Capital Region (RATCCG NCR) shares information on terrorism-related threats and updates on target hardening and terrorism-related cases. Several conventions and agreements in counterterrorism were also executed including (1) the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, (2) Interpol-190 Countries, (3) Aseanapol-10 Countries, (4) Bilateral Agreements with AMS and Other Dialogue Partner States, and (5) ASEAN Japan Dialogue On Counter-Terrorism Program (JAIF).

The National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Sub-Committee on Dangerous Drugs and Controlled Chemicals (NALECC-SCDDCC) serves as a venue of coordination among agencies responsible for dangerous drugs and controlled chemicals-related concerns. Several Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) and Understanding (MOU) were signed between the

Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority (PDEA) and countries such as Indonesia, Russia and Mexico. During the APEC Summit 2015 held in the Philippines, PH President Benigno S. Aquino III and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos talked about expanding cooperation in energy and natural resources development and reinforcing their fight against transnational crime.

### **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response**

The Philippines has been actively contributing to regional efforts for HA/DR and disaster risk reduction (DRR). The Philippines participated in the negotiations for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction at the 3rd UN World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan which culminated into the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030. Drawing from its own experiences, the Philippines emphasized the critical role of states in DRR, as well as the importance of transparency, accountability and multi-stakeholder participation in DRR. The Philippines also highlighted the need to empower local government and communities to respond to disasters and for the inclusion of climate change and health issues in the global discussion on DRR.

With the lessons learned from super typhoon Haiyan in which several governments and international partners provided relief aid and rehabilitation assistance, the Philippine government has also formulated the Enhanced Policy on Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance (PIHA) of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of Philippine policies and procedures on international humanitarian assistance.



In line with the ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the Philippines, through the OCD, crafted its National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP). The plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations/institutions during a disaster/emergency phase and includes operational procedures on Search, Rescue, and Retrieval, Camp Coordination and Management, Logistics, Emergency Telecommunications, Food and Non-Food Items Cluster, Health, Protection, and Management of the Dead and the Missing. Subsequent to the NDRP, the Philippines crafted its Manual for Response that will govern its internal operating procedures in times of calamities.

The Philippines also remains supportive of HA/DR-related initiatives on practical cooperation such as the ASEAN Disaster Relief Exercise (ARDEX), ASEAN Regional Forum on Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx), ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) Courses, AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, and UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Training Courses. The Philippines participated in the ARF DirEx held in May 2015 in Malaysia and the 6th International Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning Symposium (IRAHSS) held in July 2015 in Singapore. It also joined other member countries of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in finalizing the APEC Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in September 2015.

Through the OCD, the Philippines aims to play a key role in enhancing disaster resilience among

communities by ensuring the implementation of national standards in carrying out disaster risk reduction programs, providing advice and technical assistance in mobilizing resources, and conducting early recovery and post-disaster needs assessment.

### **Maritime Security**

The maritime geography of the Asia-Pacific, along with the different challenges ranging from longstanding territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea, to transnational and non-traditional threats such as maritime piracy and armed robbery, human smuggling, drug trafficking, and environmental degradation, highlight the centrality of maritime security in the overall security architecture in the Asia-Pacific.

The Philippines contributes to promoting peace and stability in the maritime space through its advocacy for the primacy of rule of law as enshrined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The arbitration process initiated by the Philippines in 2013 before the Arbitral Tribunal under Annex VII of UNCLOS, seeks to clarify some aspects of the complex maritime disputes in the South China Sea toward their peaceful and lasting resolution. Following the hearings held in November 2015 in The Hague, the Philippines is now awaiting the release of the ruling of the Tribunal and has expressed that it will respect such ruling. The Philippines stresses that the arbitration process is a friendly, peaceful, and transparent approach that promotes the rule of law and ensures that 'right is might'.

The rules-based approach of the Philippines has been receiving support from many



countries in the region and beyond, with more and more governments expressing the importance of the rule of law in addressing inter-state disputes. In addition to finding peaceful and lasting solutions to the intractable disputes, the Philippines also actively supports and contributes to the expeditious conclusion of a Code of Conduct (COC) and the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). In line with this, the Philippines hosted in May 2015 a seminar-workshop for representatives from ASEAN and China to better understand the meaning of concepts such as 'self-restraint' and 'non-use and/or –threat of force' as they are intended by the DOC.

The Philippines employs a comprehensive approach towards maritime security and maritime domain awareness by building the capacity of both military and civilian agencies. To effectively integrate and synchronize the efforts of Philippine maritime agencies, the Philippines has established the National Coast Watch System (NCWS), which is envisioned to be a reliable system for information-gathering and information-sharing. It is an inter-agency monitoring, control, and response system that aims to pool existing capabilities and integrate capability development plans among Philippine maritime agencies for efficient response and objective decision-making.

In recognition of the value of international cooperation on maritime security, the Philippines supports several global and regional initiatives and platforms by regularly participating in the activities of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Maritime Security, ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), ARF ISM on Maritime Security, Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS),

Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (RECAAP), and National Maritime Foundation Annual Sea Power Seminar (NMFASPS). Aside from multilateral cooperation, the Philippines also has bilateral border patrol arrangements with its neighboring countries, namely Indonesia and Malaysia, to address illegal activities along borders, namely hijacking, smuggling, theft of marine resources, human trafficking, among others.

In addition, the country also takes advantage of information sharing and intelligence exchanges with other armed forces. The AFP participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIM) held in February 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference (APICC) in September 2015 in Brunei Darussalam, the Northeast Asia Security Seminar in October 2015 in South Korea, and the East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Cooperation and Security in November 2015 in India. The AFP also conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> Analyst-to Analyst Exchange (ATAX) Conference with the Malaysian Armed Forces in October 2015. On these events, maritime security concerns in Southeast Asia and the Philippines were discussed to include territorial disputes and non-traditional security challenges.

Meanwhile, as the co-chair of the ARF ISM on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) for the period of 2015-2017, along with the United States and Japan, the Philippines has initiated projects under the ARF Maritime Security Work Plan. The Philippines hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF-ISM MS in April 2016 which was attended by 103 officials from ARF countries to discuss current and emerging issues concerning maritime security, safety of navigation, and marine environment protection. The Philippines also hosted seminars and workshops (October 2015 and April 2016) toward the possible creation of an ARF National



Maritime Single Points of Contact which would facilitate multilateral cooperation and coordination at the operational level in addressing different maritime challenges. Another related initiative is the Philippines' convening of an experts' group workshop to explore the possible creation of an ASEAN Coast Guards Forum given the absence of an ASEAN forum for maritime law enforcement agencies. These efforts demonstrate the Philippines' commitment to regional efforts in building a rules-based maritime security architecture in the Asia-Pacific, with emphasis on adherence to international law, including UNCLOS.

The Philippines also participated in the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism Exercise in May 2016 in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, where member countries focused on enhancing practical cooperation to address maritime terrorism in the region. The Philippines has also been participating in the planning conferences for the conduct of the MAHI TANGAROA, a maritime field training exercise that is being organized by the ADMM-Plus EWG on Maritime Security. The said exercise is tentatively scheduled in November 2016 in New Zealand.

In view of how maritime challenges require multilateral cooperation and coordination, the Philippines also signed with Indonesia and Malaysia a Joint Declaration on Immediate Measures to Address Security Issues in May 2016. The declaration embodies a shared resolve to address armed robbery against ships, kidnapping, smuggling, maritime terrorism, among others toward protecting the lives and welfare of people in the respective countries. The document explores the conduct of

coordinated patrols among the three countries, increased sharing of information, and the establishment of hotlines for emergency situations.

#### **IV. Role of the ARF**

The ARF is a key regional platform for constructive dialogue and consultation on security issues that are of common interest and concern to the region. Not only does the ARF serve as a mechanism for building confidence and trust among the countries of the Asia-Pacific, it also functions as a platform for translating common principles and ideals into substantive policies and actions that can address common security challenges among the participating countries. As such, the full cooperation of each member in the ARF would be important in realizing the goal of regional peace and stability.

Dialogues and consultations have contributed to confidence building among the parties and which are necessary steps to move the ARF from confidence building measures stage to that of preventive diplomacy. The Philippines actively supports the evolution of ARF from Stage 1 to Stage 2 in accordance with the ASEAN Regional Forum Concept Paper and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy. Through the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy and to abide by.

The ARF has conducted numerous activities, workshops, and seminars to facilitate security cooperation among the parties. These included workshops on non-proliferation nuclear forensics, measures to enhance cyber security—legal and cultural aspects, countering illicit trafficking of CBRN materials, maritime security,



marine environmental protection cooperation, peacekeeping experts' meeting, to name a few.

Crucial in the ARF process is ASEAN centrality wherein ASEAN will be at the core and the driving force of the regional process while ensuring that other stakeholders are actively engaged. Moreover, ARF will work in synergy with other regional mechanisms such as the ADMM, ADMM-Plus, AMMTC and other ASEAN-led mechanisms.





## REPUBLIC OF KOREA



### I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment

From a political, economic and social perspective, the Asia-Pacific region has evolved as one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific Region can only be achieved in a stable security environment. Therefore, our priority is to jointly address and respond to both emerging traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as North Korean nuclear issues, issues of historical perceptions and territorial disputes, maritime security issues, terrorism, natural disasters, and transnational crimes.

Over the next few years, the ways in which we cope with such geopolitical and geo-economic challenges will determine the shape and nature of the new order in Asia. In particular, the Republic of Korea keenly recognizes that the task of building sustainable and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula is inseparable from that of fostering peace and cooperation in Northeast Asia. Northeast Asia still suffers from a discrepancy between its growing economic interdependence and relatively underdeveloped political and security cooperation. Moreover, Northeast Asia currently lacks mechanisms for effective multilateral cooperation in dealing with inter-state conflicts.

Against this backdrop, the ROK government seeks to put in place a framework for the attainment of sustainable peace and prosperity

on the Korean Peninsula and throughout Northeast Asia through *Trustpolitik*, by pursuing the Korean Peninsula Trust Building Process and the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI).

The Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula aims to safeguard peace on the basis of a firm and resolute security posture. All provocations are to result in commensurate costs. At the same time, peace will be achieved through the stable development of inter-Korean relations. The Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) is a key element of *Trustpolitik* at the regional level. It is a future-oriented effort by the ROK government to transform a structure of conflict and discord in the region into an order of dialogue and cooperation. The initiative aims to start from soft security issues, which are relatively easy to collaborate on, and gradually expand the scope of cooperation. By cultivating a habit of dialogue and cooperation, NAPCI seeks to lay the groundwork for sustainable peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia.

In order to contribute to overcoming common security threats and advance the goals of peace and stability in Northeast Asia and beyond, the ROK is actively participating in the ASEAN+3, EAS, ARF and ADMM-Plus while bolstering its bilateral relations with other countries in the region. All of these efforts are designed to sow the seeds for the eventual unification of Korea. Similar to the way in which the European integration process positively influenced the



German unification process, and vice versa, lasting peace and the eventual unification of Korea will be an essential and integral part of Asia's integration and long-term stability.

#### **a. North Korean Nuclear Issue**

At the beginning of this year, North Korea carried out its fourth nuclear test on January 6 and long-range missile launch on February 7. The Republic of Korea, together with other participating countries of the Six-Party Talks, had offered to hold denuclearization talks on many occasions. However, North Korea refused to come to the table for denuclearization talks and persisted in carrying out these provocations. North Korea continues to develop its nuclear and ballistic missile programs while demonstrating its nuclear ambitions more flagrantly than ever. North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile development is in violation of its obligations under international laws, such as the UNSC resolution 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013), and 2270 (2016), Non-Proliferation Treaty, and its own commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.

The international community with a united voice has strongly urged North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. More than 100 countries denounced North Korea's recent nuclear test and long-range missile launch, and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2270, which contains the 'strongest-ever' non-military measures in UN history, was unanimously adopted. The UNSC resolution 2270 contains many biting measures targeting the regime, including a ban on shipping, mandatory cargo inspections and

sectoral sanctions on North Korea's trade in resources. These measures are crucial in cutting the regime's revenue for WMD programs.

North Korea has categorically rejected the resolution and ramped up its belligerent threats to a whole new scale. Even after the adoption of the UNSC resolution 2270, the regime conducted multiple launches using ballistic missile technology on March 10, 18, 21, April 15 and 23. The North Korean leader himself has ordered his army to keep the already deployed nuclear warheads on standby so as to be fired at any moment. North Korea has openly threatened to make pre-emptive nuclear strikes on the Republic of Korea and the US. On May 10, North Korea had gone as far as to stipulate its 'byung-jin' policy of simultaneously pursuing nuclear and economic development in the Rules of the Workers' Party.

These extraordinary circumstances and threats indeed require an extraordinary response. As such, the international community, including the members of the UN Security Council, is exerting full-court pressure through faithful implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions, imposing bilateral sanctions and diplomatic pressure to make North Korea change its strategic calculation. It is important to continue to exert sustained pressure so that North Korea feels the real pain of sanctions and realizes that denuclearization is the only viable option. Although the door to dialogue is not closed, the only way to achieve genuine peace is to create an environment in which North Korea has no choice but to change and become a responsible member of the international community. Only after North Korea makes a genuine change in its thinking, can authentic and meaningful dialogue and



meaningful dialogue and negotiations take place, which would pave the way for substantial progress in denuclearization.

### **b. The Korean Peninsula**

North Korea has posed serious threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula by continuing provocations. On 4 August 2015, North Korea's provocation using wooden-box landmines at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) left two ROK patrol soldiers seriously injured. While the ROK government responded to North Korea's lethal provocations in a restrained and legitimate manner, North Korean military fired artillery shells across the DMZ on 20 August 2015. Moreover, Pyongyang issued an ultimatum to Seoul and announced a "quasi state of war," which raised military tensions to the highest level. In its "Report of Special Investigation of a Landmine Detonation," the United Nations Command stated that North Korea's landmine provocations constitute clear violations of the Korea Armistice Agreement.

Amid mounting tensions, the ROK government stood firm against North Korea's misdeeds while keeping the door open for dialogue with North Korea. As a result, the two Koreas reached an inter-Korean high-level Agreement on 25 August 2015, in which the North expressed regret over the injuries of the soldiers of the South caused by the landmine explosions. In September 2015, North Korea accepted the ROK's proposal for Red Cross Talks, followed by reunions of separated families. On 11 December 2015, follow-up inter-Korean high-level talks (after the Agreement in August) were held in the Kaesong Industrial Complex, but the meeting ended without agreement.

Maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula is the utmost priority of the ROK government. The ROK government will respond to any provocation from North Korea in a swift and resolute manner, and will work closely with the international community to urge North Korea to make the right choice and become a responsible member of the international community. The ROK government also will continue to increase momentum for international discourse on North Korea's human rights issue in close cooperation with the international community.

## **II. National Security and Defense Policy**

### **a. National Security Strategy**

#### **i. National Vision and National Security Objectives**

The National Vision of the ROK government is opening a "New Era of Hope" in which the happiness of each individual becomes the bedrock of the nation's development. In pursuing this "New Era of Hope," we seek a virtuous cycle in which individual happiness is pursued in tandem with national development. To realize this vision, the government has established four principles: promoting economic revival, the happiness of the people, cultural enrichment and establishing a foundation for peaceful unification. The establishment of a foundation for peaceful unification is a priority that embraces the entire domain of our security efforts including our efforts in the realm of national defense, unification and diplomacy. To this end, the government has specified its National Security Objectives: "safeguarding the territory and National Security Objectives:



“safeguarding the territory and sovereignty of the ROK and ensuring the safety of the people,” “establishing sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula and preparing for an era of unification,” and “promoting cooperation in Northeast Asia and contributing to world peace and development.”

First, the government will concentrate its efforts on protecting the nation’s territory, sovereignty and its people’s lives and property from multifaceted and complex threats such as armed provocations by North Korea as well as current, future, and transnational threats.

Second, the government seeks to realize sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula and prepare for an era of unification by building trust between the two Koreas. Above all, the government will make the utmost efforts to closely cooperate with neighboring countries and the international community to induce North Korea to take the right path and abandon its nuclear program. The ROK is, furthermore, committed to achieving the normalization and stable development of inter-Korean relations and aims to consolidate reunification efforts, both domestic and abroad, to bring unification to the Korean Peninsula.

Third, the ROK government seeks to bolster national security by promoting cooperation in Northeast Asia and by contributing to world peace and development. The ROK first seeks to build trust among the nations of the Northeast Asian region through dialogue and cooperation, and transform the dynamics of conflict into a framework for cooperation. By extending and building upon the efforts for coexistence and reconciliation in Northeast Asia, the government will induce cooperation with Eurasian nations

and advance toward peace, stability and shared prosperity in the wider region that encompasses Asia and Europe.

## **ii. Tenets of the National Security Strategy**

In order to achieve its National Security Objectives, the ROK government has set the tenets of its National Security Strategy: “establishing a solid security posture,” “pursuing the trust-building process on the Korean Peninsula,” and “promoting trust-based diplomacy.” These are implementation strategies for our defense, unification and diplomatic efforts to establish a foundation for peaceful unification.

First, a strong national security is the basis for the very existence of the nation and serves as the foundation for improved inter-Korean relations as well as lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK government will also further strengthen a thorough response posture to deter provocations by North Korea and sternly retaliate in response to any provocation by North Korea. The government will also be equipped with the capability to effectively respond to North Korean nuclear capabilities and missile threats. Any transnational threats such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and massive disasters, as well as current and future threats, will be responded in a proactive and preemptive manner. In order to enhance security capabilities, the government will expand security cooperation by strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation through the development of the ROK-U.S. Alliance and strategic cooperation with neighboring countries.

Second, the trust-building process on the Korean Peninsula is a way to actively foster



peace. On a basis of trust, the ROK government will seek to encourage North Korea to change, promote the normalization and development of inter-Korean relations, and achieve lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. The government will seek to lay the groundwork for the gradual development of inter-Korean relations and peaceful unification by building trust incrementally. This will be a balanced approach to ensure that national security is not neglected on account of inter-Korean relations. The government will seek to implement policies regarding North Korea and unification together with the people on a basis of public consensus and support. And the government will strengthen cooperation with the international community to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue, establish peace on the Korean Peninsula, and create an environment conducive to unification. The government aims to take the strengths of the policies of previous administrations and build on them in a fitting way. In the meantime, it seeks to resolve conflicts in society and forge consensus amongst the public on issues related to North Korea and unification.

Third, the ROK government seeks to make full use of trust-based diplomacy to resolve the so-called “Asian Paradox” - a phenomenon in which the level of political and security cooperation lags far behind the deepening economic interdependency. The Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) is a key policy to realize trust-based diplomacy in Northeast Asia. Through this initiative, the ROK government seeks to establish a practice of multilateral cooperation in the region by starting with soft security issues that represent common challenges to the Northeast Asian region. The participating countries can easily cooperate on

these soft security issues including nuclear safety, energy security, and disaster management, and gradually broaden the scope of cooperation within the region.

The government will seek to build greater consensus on the need for North Korea to change, and further strengthen cooperation with the international community to induce North Korea to renounce nuclear development and promote human rights. In the process, the government will explain to various countries about the legitimacy and necessity of unification to build consensus and further consolidate support from the international community for unification.

## **b. National Defense Policy**

### **i. National Defense Objectives**

The National Defense Objectives are: “protecting the country from external military threats and invasions,” “supporting peaceful unification,” and “contributing to regional stability and world peace.” The specific interpretation of the objectives is as follows:

First, “protecting the country from external military threats and invasions” means being prepared to meet the present military threats from North Korea and at the same time being prepared to meet other potential threats to our peace and security. North Korea poses a serious threat to our security by developing and increasing its large-scale conventional arsenal, nuclear program, missiles and other weapons of mass destruction, and by continually perpetrating acts of armed provocation such as the attack on the ROK Ship Cheonan and the shelling of Yeonpyeongdo Island. As long as



these threats persist, the North Korean regime and its armed forces, which are the entities who pose these threats, will remain as our enemies.

Second, “supporting peaceful unification” means contributing to a peaceful unification by deterring war, alleviating military tensions, and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Third, “contributing to regional stability and world peace” means contributing to stability of Northeast Asia and world peace by advancing our friendly and cooperative relationships with neighboring countries on the basis of the ROK-U.S. alliance, and through active participation in international peace keeping operations.

**ii. National Defense Vision and Tenets of the National Defense Policy**

**(National Defense Vision)** The ROK military has to build the capability and posture to achieve the National Vision, National Security Objectives, and National Defense Objectives by responding effectively to various security threats amidst changing security environments. In that regard, the MND has adopted the goal of establishing an “Advanced Elite Military” as its mid- to long-term National Defense Vision. The term “advanced” refers to a military for the people in which all troops have upright values and mindsets; a military culture trusted by the people is in place; and a creative and effective defense operations system with excellent defense capabilities has taken root, making it an exemplary model in the world. The term “elite” refers to a military in which strong and brave troops are armed with the most optimal weapons and equipment; trained as we fight; and ready to exert the best, unified combat power. The combined term “advanced elite military” means a military that is elite,

advanced and has the posture and capability to fight against the enemy and win.

**(Tenets of the National Defense Policy)** The ROK military has identified and is pursuing the following seven key Tenets of the National Defense Policy as its consistent policy direction toward achieving the National Defense Vision: (1) Establishing a robust defense posture; (2) Strengthening future-oriented self-defense capability; (3) Developing the ROK-U.S. military alliance and reinforcing defense diplomacy and cooperation; (4) Providing military measures and readiness in accordance with the changing inter-Korean relationship; (5) Bolstering innovative defense management and promoting defense industry; (6) Creating a proud and rewarding environment for military service; and (7) Implementing defense policies focusing on respect for the people. To accomplish such tenets, the ROK military will actively move ahead with “Creative Defense,” a new paradigm in which defense strength is generated by incorporating creativeness, science and technology into national defense management.

**[Defense Budget (as of 2015)]**

**1. Defense Budget(in KRW billions) : 37,456**

**2. Defense Budget-to-GDP Ratio : 2.35%**

**III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

**a. Counterterrorism**

Terrorism continues to be a serious threat to international peace and security. Despite the relentless efforts of the international community, however, terrorism shows no signs of abating in



the near future. Throughout 2015, the ROK supported the collective efforts of the international community to fight terrorism and participated in various counter-terrorism related discussions concerning prevention, response measures and capacity building.

With regard to cooperation with international organizations, the ROK has been fully implementing the UN resolutions on counterterrorism by imposing sanctions against individuals and entities designated by the Al-Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee. At the UN Security Council summit in September 2014, the ROK reaffirmed that it would remain a committed partner in stemming the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism.

The ROK held a workshop on countering violent extremism in cooperation with the Hedayah Center in July 2015. Experts from government and academia gathered and exchanged views on risks and solutions of radicalization. The ROK also commissioned a research project on CVE for deeper analysis on the risk of violent extremism in Korea and East Asia.

In addition, the ROK took part in the first meeting of the APEC Counterterrorism Working Group in February and the 13th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counterterrorism and Transnational Crimes in May. The ROK also held trilateral consultations on counterterrorism with China and Japan in May, bilateral consultations with China in November, enhancing the progress of cooperation and information sharing in this field.

**b. Non-Proliferation, Counter-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

As the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery

continues to gravely challenge international peace and security, North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. The fourth nuclear test conducted by North Korea on 6 January 2016 and its multiple launches using ballistic missile technology are a flagrant disregard of the UN Security Council's relevant resolutions. The unanimous adoption of the Security Council resolution 2270 on 2 March 2016 reflects the firm, united resolve of the international community to no longer tolerate North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and its repeated provocations.

The Republic of Korea remains strongly committed to the non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. The ROK will continue to contribute to strengthening the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and IAEA safeguards system including through the universal application of the Additional Protocol (AP). Although the 2015 NPT Review Conference was unable to adopt the final document, the ROK will work with other State Parties to further the progress made during the Conference. The ROK will continue to promote an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to call for the immediate start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) based on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) which was adopted in April 2015.

Recognizing that the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear issue and its full implementation will strengthen the global Iranian nuclear issue and its full implementation will strengthen the global non-proliferation regime, the Korean government welcomes the arrival of the Implementation Day of the JCPOA in January 2016.



The Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process has galvanized global efforts to secure nuclear materials across the globe and counter nuclear terrorism. The ROK welcomes the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and supports its universalization. The ROK, having hosted the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, will continue to actively play its part in promoting nuclear security, including the implementation of the Communiqué and the five Action Plans (UN, IAEA, INTERPOL, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction) adopted at the 2016 Washington Summit. As Chair of the 2016 IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security, the ROK is ready to work with the international community to carry the momentum forward and enhance an enduring nuclear security architecture.

In response to the growing risk of WMD terrorism, the ROK is working towards the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 and looking forward to the successful Comprehensive Review process in 2016. As a member of all major multilateral export regimes, and especially as Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for 2016-2017, the ROK will contribute to further developing the regimes. The ROK is ready to join international efforts to reinforce the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) regime through its review conference in 2016, and achieve universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The ROK views transparency as well as safety and security is important for promoting the peaceful use of outer space.

The ROK has continually sought ways to boost global counter-proliferation efforts. The ROK hosted the PSI Asia-Pacific Workshop in July 2015 in Seoul to support the strengthening of the region's ability to fight the proliferation of WMD and related materials. As such, the ROK will continue to reach out to PSI partners in the region to strengthen global counter-proliferation efforts.

The Korean government annually hosts the ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). At the 14th Conference in December 2015, about 130 experts from around the world discussed the implications of and possible responses to key issues concerning disarmament and non-proliferation. Among the topics were regional issues including the North Korean and Iranian nuclear issues, space security as well as the Nuclear Security Summit.

### **c. Transnational Crime : Cyber crimes**

Combating transnational crime by definition requires a transnational response. To this end, the ROK has stressed the importance of consolidating regional cooperation, with a particular focus on addressing cyber-security threats. Major cyber-attacks have targeted the Republic of Korea in recent years, and in response the ROK has formulated comprehensive measures to counter cyber-attacks and has worked to strengthen cooperation with the international community.

As part of these endeavors, in September 2012 the ROK hosted an ARF seminar titled Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace, in which participants shared their concerns





about cyber-threats as potential sources of conflict. Moreover, in 2013, the ROK hosted the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace on October 17 and 18, which produced a paper titled *The Seoul Framework for and Commitment to Open and Secure Cyberspace*. The paper elaborated cyber-security-related measures to stimulate economic growth and development, produce social and cultural benefits, safeguard international security, and advance capacity building in the field of cyberspace. In December 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in ROK and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on International Law and State Behavior in Cyberspace in Seoul to address cyber-security issues.

While actively participating in global fora in the field of cyber-security, the ROK held a series of cyber-policy consultations with key countries in the region to raise awareness of cyber-security issues, enhance its partners' understanding of cyber-policy matters, and discuss potential cooperation steps. The ROK has also worked to strengthen sub-regional cooperation in the field of cyber-security through the Korea-Japan-China trilateral consultations, launched in 2014.

ROK appreciates adoption of 'ARF work plan on security of and in the use of ICTs' August 2015 mandating member states to come up with Confidence Building Measures in cyberspace within the framework of ARF. ROK is committed to continuous contribution to this process.

**d. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

The international society is confronted with a

serious refugee crisis. More than 60 million people have been forced to leave their homes due to life-threatening conflicts and violence, placing increased burden on the countries that accept the refugees seeking safety. Amid this situation, the Republic of Korea (ROK) is actively contributing to regional and international disaster relief efforts. The ROK provides financial support to disaster and conflict-stricken countries, supports capacity-building activities in the area of disaster management, and assists the emergency response efforts of the United Nations.

In pursuing such humanitarian activities, the Korean government has followed the universal humanitarian principles of the international community. The ROK has also been actively engaged in international dialogues.

As a responsible member of the international society, the ROK responded actively to increasing humanitarian needs caused by emergency disasters such as earthquakes, typhoons, and infectious diseases, or by chronic disasters in conflict-stricken countries such as Syria and Iraq. Considering the urgent need for assistance to minimize damage from disasters, the Korean government provided approximately 44 million US dollars in response to more than 40 humanitarian crises in 2015.

Further, the ROK has continuously reinforced humanitarian assistance for refugees. Compared to three million US dollars in 2010, the scale of humanitarian assistance to refugees has been increased to about 30 million US dollars in 2015. In order to provide more efficient humanitarian assistance, the Korean government concentrates on supporting the education and health of children and women



who are the most vulnerable in disaster situations. In particular, the ROK has endeavored to enhance the quality of health and education for girls by creating a synergy effect from linking humanitarian assistance with the 'Better Life for Girls' initiative, a program announced by President Park Geun-hye at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015.

Moreover, the Korean government deployed its Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) as part of efforts to provide relief to the people affected by the 2015 Nepal earthquake. The government deployed two units comprising of 47 rescue and medical workers to the earthquake-stricken area in Bhaktapur, Nepal.

As a proactive supporter of regional disaster management, the Korean government has shown through diverse approaches its commitment to disaster relief cooperation in the region. In this regard, the ROK is planning to assume the position of the Co-Chair of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) for the next cycle.

#### **e. Maritime Security**

The Republic of Korea has played an active role in the global fight against Somali pirates. As one of the 24 founding members of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), it assumed the Chairmanship of CGPCS Working Group 3, a position it held until May 2014. Since its inception in 2012, the Working Group has mainly discussed self-defense measures for vessels.

In addition, since 2009 the ROK has been taking part in international cooperation on maritime

security by deploying the Cheonghae Anti-Piracy Unit to Somali waters. The Cheonghae Unit has conducted convoy missions to protect vessels from Somali pirates as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 under the command of the Command Maritime Forces (CMF).

Also, the ROK has made financial contributions in hopes of eradicating the root cause of Somali piracy by strengthening the judicial capacities of the government of Somalia and neighboring countries. It provided 200,000 dollars to the CGPCS Trust Fund and 100,000 dollars to the IMO Djibouti Code Trust Fund in 2015. On the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, the ROK contributed approximately 150,000 dollars to the ReCAAP Information-Sharing Center (ISC) in 2015.

### **IV. Role of the ARF**

#### **a. National Contributions to Enhancing the ARF and Regional Security**

As a founding member of the ARF, the ROK is committed to joining the great journey of the ARF towards confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the region. The ROK participated in the ARF's various CBMs and PD activities during the inter-sessional year of 2015-2016; these include the Inter-Sessional Support Group meeting, four Inter-Sessional Meetings and the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of ARF Experts and Eminent Persons, along with other CMBs and Eminent Persons, along with other CMBs and PD workshops and seminars. The ROK will continuously enlarge and strengthen its engagement in the ARF's endeavors, and in this vein, the ROK would like to play a more proactive role by co-chairing the Inter-Sessional



Meeting on Disaster Relief for the next cycle since we recognize the importance of joint disaster management and response in the disaster prone Asia-Pacific region. The ROK looks forward to working closely with ASEAN Partners in contributing to enhancing joint disaster response and management cooperation in the region.

**b. Future of the ARF**

As a unique intergovernmental forum concerned with multilateral security in the Asia-Pacific region, the ARF functions as an effective venue for exchanging views on security threats and plays an essential role in promoting peace and stability in the region. Since its establishment in 1994, the ARF has facilitated dialogue among many countries by providing opportunities to freely exchange views on various security issues.

In the meantime, the ARF has also been carrying out its own confidence-building measures in connection with new security challenges of non-traditional and transnational nature. These include natural disasters, terrorism and transnational crimes.

In the evolving defense and security structure of the region, the ARF must seek to fully utilize its strengths and pursue complementary relationships with other regional operations and mechanisms as demonstrated in the establishment of the ADMM-Plus and the expansion of the EAS.

The ROK notes that ARF process has been effectively reinforced through active negotiations and experiments among member states and hope we can continue to sustain the discussions on strengthening the ARF process, including the discussions on enhancing its institutional capacity and supplementing the current EEP system so that its fruitful discussion and recommendations can be more faithfully delivered to the track 1 level.



## THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



### I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment

Dynamic development of the Asia-Pacific region determines its role as an influential center in the emerging multi-polar world order and a global economic growth leader. This is the region where new cooperation formats gain momentum, active integration processes take place and strategic interests of major powers get intertwined.

At the same time the Asia-Pacific still retains high conflict potential that can destabilize the region, impede or even hamper its sustainable development. The situation is aggravated by the attempts of certain countries to build the regional relationship according to their own standards at the expense of other countries' security, which leads to the emergence of new hotbeds of confrontation and instigates arms race.

The situation in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia in general remains complicated and unpredictable. One of the main causes of tensions preserved is a fourth nuclear test conducted by DPRK in January 2016 and the missile launch in February 2016. Russia expects Pyongyang to revert to constructive interaction with the international community. A strong impetus to the improvement of the situation in the Korean Peninsula could be given by the steps aimed at normalization of inter-Korean relations. A number of relevant initiatives has been put forward by the leadership of the DPRK.

Another factor that significantly complicates normalization of the situation in Northeast Asia is an unacceptably high degree of military activities within the existing military alliances with the purpose of gaining unilateral benefits and shifting the current regional power balance. A matter of particular concern are the plans of deployment of the US THAAD systems in the Republic of Korea and shaping of an integrated ballistic missile defence (BMD) system involving the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan, which in fact means establishment of a new BMD positioning area in Northeast Asia serving as a regional component of the future global US BMD system.

Progress towards peace and stability in Northeast Asia should be pursued by all the stakeholders in the region. There is an urgent necessity to get down to the establishment of multilateral security and cooperation mechanisms in the region on the non-bloc, equal and non-discriminatory basis.

Together with other partners, involved in the Six-Party process, Russia continues to work towards normalizing the situation in Northeast Asia and creating the environment for the early resumption of negotiations on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

Positive example in this context is the start of implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in relation to the Iranian nuclear program. The combination of all measures provided in the



JCPOA and the UNSC resolution 2231 will effectively guarantee that Teheran's nuclear program is of entirely peaceful nature. It is important to fulfill the JCPOA provisions without setbacks, while all the countries involved in this process strictly adhere to their obligations.

Particularly alarming is the situation in Afghanistan, including in its northern part. Proliferation of the influence and multiplication of the followers of the so-called Islamic State (IS), specifically through merger with other armed opposition groups, produces strong destabilizing effect.

Russia supports the efforts taken by the Afghan Government to promote national reconciliation and stands ready to contribute to the launch of the relevant negotiations, including by showing flexibility with regard to a potential relation of the sanctions regime, provided that it is not contravening national interests of Kabul.

Large-scale drug production in Afghanistan, primarily of heroin, seriously jeopardizes security and stability in this country as well as in the region and the whole world. Apart from its direct noxious effects, production of drugs provides substantial financial resources to terrorism, which is closely linked to money laundering and corruption. Therefore, there is a need to ensure synergy within the international community in combating illicit production, drug abuse and trafficking in drugs originating from Afghanistan.

The situation in the South China Sea and the East China Sea requires constant monitoring. The parties to the territorial disputes should respect the principle of non-threat or non-use of force while continuing to seek for peaceful solutions to the current problems in conformity

with the international law. Relevant negotiations should be held between those directly involved in the disputes in a format determined by themselves. The 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the instruments adopted by ASEAN and China – the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and the Guidelines to Implement the Declaration agreed upon in 2011 – should serve as a basis for settling the differences in the South China Sea.

Latest developments in Syria and other Middle East countries, the increasing threat of international terrorism, primarily posed by the IS, also affect the situation in the Asia-Pacific. The scope of non-conventional security challenges tends to expand, encompassing illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime and numerous forms of cross-border crime, sea piracy, illegal migration and human trafficking, climate change and more frequent natural disasters.

## **II. Defence Policy of the Russian Federation**

The main objectives of Russia's defence policy are determined by the President of the Russian Federation in the National Security Strategy until 2020 and the updated Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation approved on 26 December 2014. The Doctrine introduces the concept of non-nuclear deterrence that stands for a set of foreign policy, military and military-technical measures aimed at preventing aggression against Russia through non-nuclear means.

Russia ensures its national security on the basis of principles of rational sufficiency and effectiveness and resorts to military measures



only after political, diplomatic, legal, economic, information and other non-force instruments have been exhausted.

The activities of the Russian Armed Forces in the Asia-Pacific are carried out in strict compliance with international norms and bilateral agreements, aimed against no one and posing no threat to peace and stability in the region.

### **III. National Contribution to Regional Security**

#### **Regional Defence Cooperation**

The development of Russia's defence ties with Asia-Pacific countries is focused on maintaining peace and stability in the region and fostering mutual trust and cooperation. In this regard key importance is attached to the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

One of the outcomes of Russia-Thailand co-chairing of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine is the establishment of ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine in Bangkok. Russia has nominated itself to co-lead the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action in 2017-2020. In this work we are planning to utilize capacity of the International Mine Action Center of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

The participation of a Russian Navy Pacific Fleet detachment in the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counterterrorism Exercise in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore in May 2016 has been an essential contribution to the practical interaction within the ADMM-Plus.

We are proactively developing bilateral defence cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries, including China, India and ASEAN Member States.

The dialogue mechanisms between Russia and China function effectively, including annual meetings of Defence Ministers and Chiefs of the General Staff, command and staff negotiations and consultations, as well as joint exercise.

India remains one of the most important Russian partners in the region in the sphere of military and technical cooperation. We render the Indian side assistance in developing its military-industrial complex. The Indo-Russian Joint Military Exercise INDRA is conducted.

An informal Meeting of the Defence Ministers of Russia and ASEAN Member States took place in Moscow in April 2016 as part of commemorative activities to mark the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership. Specific areas of cooperation were outlined such as combating international terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, military medicine and humanitarian mine action.

Friendly entries of Russian Navy ships into ports of Asia-Pacific countries are of great significance. In 2016 Russian sailors visited Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Currently 1,720 representatives from different countries of the region are studying in the Russian military academies.

The Russian Ministry of Defence organizes annual Moscow International Security Conference. In April 2016 representatives from



more than 80 countries, among which 20 were representing the Asia-Pacific, attended the meeting. The International Army Games to be held in August 2016 and the International Military and Technical Forum "Army-2016" scheduled for September in Moscow will substantially contribute to further strengthening of ties with our partners.

### **Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

Given the growing terrorist threat, Russia attaches key importance to building and strengthening counter-terrorism potential of Asia-Pacific countries both bilaterally and multilaterally. In this regard significant contribution is made under the aegis of relevant ASEAN-Russia cooperation mechanisms – the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. Besides, we provide assistance to ASEAN countries in training law-enforcement and special services personnel, including in educational institutions of the Federal Security Service of Russia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

The ARF remains a valuable platform for elaborating effective solutions in this field. Upon Russia's initiative two new priority areas, i.e. countering money laundering and combating terrorism financing, were introduced to the updated ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017.

We consistently build up partnership relations with Asia-Pacific countries within the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) and the FATFstyle AsiaPacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) to which Russia is an observer.

The dialogue on international information security has been making strides. The ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) adopted in 2015 envisages the establishment of a relevant open ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures to develop rules, norms and principles of responsible behavior of States, as well as confidence-building measures for the ARF with regard to security in the use of ICTs.

Russia supports the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN and seeks to expand cooperation within the regional institutions to suppress trafficking in heroin, cocaine, synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. Russia is proactively engaged as an observer in the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) for Asia and the Pacific – the subsidiary body of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

We view the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as an important regional forum for the promotion of specific counter-terrorist initiatives. During Russia's co-chairmanship in the APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) consistent efforts were undertaken to implement the Consolidated Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in 2011. Against the backdrop of rising threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), the issue of countering cross-border movement of FTFs has been included in the CTWG agenda upon Russia's initiative.

In 2016 the Russian Federation intends to co-organize jointly with Indonesia, Philippines, Japan and Peru the Conference on Secure Trade in APEC Region (STAR) that will focus on



ensuring stable functioning of "supply chains in the context of transportation security".

Chemical and biological terrorism emerges as an increasingly large-scale, systematic and cross-border threat. Given the repeated use of chemical warfare agents by various terrorist groups, the chemical terrorism has become a reality that requires decisive and prompt response of the international community. Similar measures need to be taken to combat bioterrorism, especially taking into consideration that one has even fewer opportunities under existing international instruments and mechanisms. In this regard at the Conference on Disarmament in March 2016 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov proposed to draft an International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Chemical and Biological Terrorism.

### **Nuclear Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Security**

The Russian Federation substantially contributes to the efforts aimed at achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. Our priority is the implementation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between Russia and the United States (New START) signed in 2010. In the spirit and to the letter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the document stipulates real, verifiable and irreversible reductions of strategic offensive arms with the United States and Russia cutting the number of their nuclear warheads on strategic carriers by third and the number of strategic carriers themselves by more than a half.

At the same time, taking into account the correlation between strategic offensive arms and strategic defensive arms and its increasing

importance in the nuclear arms reduction process, the deployment of the global ballistic missile defence system in the Asia-Pacific region arouses great concern. Unilateral development and deployment of missile defence systems affects international environment and could damage global strategic stability and security. It is necessary to prevent proliferation of ballistic missiles and missile technology through joint political and diplomatic efforts of all countries concerned. The attempts to ensure security of certain states and groups of states at the expense of the security of other states are unacceptable. The policy of relevant countries with regard to this issue should be based on the objective of maintaining peace and security in the Asia-Pacific.

Full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 as the key non-proliferation decision remains a priority, including with regard to the Asia-Pacific. All regional countries should actively cooperate with the 1540 Committee, the central body coordinating international efforts to implement the Resolution, particularly on the comprehensive review of its implementation by the Committee.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is one of the most important tools for strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The completion point in formalizing the nuclear weapon-free status of Southeast Asia has been reached. The five nuclear-weapon States have played their part having done their utmost for the early signing of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ to the SEANWFZ Treaty. Russia is ready for this, together with other nuclear-weapon States.

Prevention of arms race in outer space becomes increasingly relevant. Important contribution has been made within the Third





ARF Workshop on Space Security (Beijing, 29 November - 2 December 2015), during which the overwhelming majority of participating States expressed their willingness to adopt additional measures to deter the weaponization of outer space, including by developing a relevant legally binding instrument.

### **Emergency response in Asia-Pacific**

The Asia-Pacific accounts for 70% of the overall number of natural disasters in the world. In order to successfully manage emergency risks, an effective regional emergency response system is needed. It could be built on the basis of an integrated international network incorporating national crisis management centers. The implementation of this initiative proposed by the Russian Federation would facilitate the exchange and analysis of operational data both on a day-to-day basis and in responding directly to serious catastrophes, improve the quality of international aid and accelerate decision-making in relevant situations.

In this context, the compliance with recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan, March 2015), as well as the development of practical cooperation within the ARF, APEC, ASEANRussia Dialogue Partnership, is of key importance. Russia is determined to consistently implement the updated ARF Work Plan on Disaster Release for 2015-2017. We support the practice of organizing regional and international exercises, including the traditional ARF DiREx Exercise. We encourage synchronizing activities of multilateral regional institutions responsible for preventing and mitigating natural disasters, and developing a consolidated region-wide plan of emergency response exercises.

Russia continues to render practical assistance to Asia-Pacific countries affected by disasters and catastrophes. In October 2015 Russia delivered 30 tons of humanitarian aid to Yangon (Myanmar). In October and November 2015 the Emercom of Russia carried out 91 flights on BE-200 to assist the Republic of Indonesia in suppressing the fires in Kalimantan and Sumatra. As a deliverable more than 50 massive fires were put out, over 20 large settlements were protected from fire, rare kinds of flora and fauna, as well as the cultural heritage sites were saved.

### **IV. Regional Security Architecture and Multilateral Diplomacy in Asia-Pacific**

In the face of increasing challenges and threats, the primary task is to develop a balanced system of interstate relations in the region, based on non-bloc policy, mutual trust and respect, norms of international law, principles of equality, non-interference in other states' internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-use of force or threat of force. Russia, China, India and Indonesia have put forward their ideas on this matter that are quite compatible. Other countries have also their findings in this area.

In this context it is of utmost importance to activate efforts to build an architecture of common and equal security in the Asia-Pacific region with a view to ensuring the synergy of national initiatives and formulating in future the general general "rules of conduct", which would take into account the legitimate interests of all countries in the region. They could be outlined in a legally binding document on comprehensive security in the Asia-Pacific.



Moving towards this direction should be step-by-step, at a pace comfortable for all participants, while maintaining the ASEAN Centrality. The best format for this purpose is the multilateral consultations launched in the framework of the East Asia Summit as a key platform for a Leaders-led strategic dialogue on regional issues.

Concurrently, the ARF should remain the instrument of practical cooperation on specific aspects of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific, while the ADMM-Plus should serve as a mechanism for multilateral military cooperation. It is crucial to avoid duplication of their functions and produce a multiplicative effect of their activities.

Such effect may be strengthened by establishing cooperation in the spirit of network diplomacy with other regional institutions, especially with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which is dealing mainly with similar security challenges and expanding its international influence. It is also expedient to benefit from the experience gained through such forums as APEC, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.



## SINGAPORE



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

Geopolitical dynamics in the region remain complex. While much progress has been made towards greater economic integration, this progress may be hampered by the major structural shifts taking place within the geostrategic environment. Stable relations among the major powers are essential for ASEAN's continued stability and development. In this regard, Singapore supports the US and China's positive engagement of each other and the region for the benefit of a prosperous and peaceful Asia-Pacific. We believe that ASEAN must maintain its unity and centrality, in order to remain a neutral platform for the major partners to engage the region and each other. This will ensure that ASEAN stays true to its *raison d'être* of maintaining peace and stability in the region.

ASEAN has made concerted efforts over the years to deepen and broaden its relationships with major partners – for example, through its network of Dialogue Partnerships and wider regional fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). These efforts have helped to engender mutual confidence among countries and promote regional peace, security and stability. Nonetheless, there are some key challenges ahead that confront this peace and stability in our region.

Singapore remains deeply concerned over the situation in the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK's

nuclear test on 6 January 2016 and rocket launch on 7 February 2016 were in defiance of calls by the international community to avoid such dangerous and destabilising actions. This recent series of deliberate and provocative actions, including the DPRK's ballistic missile tests, represent grave threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the region. Singapore urges the DPRK to abide by its obligations to the relevant international agreements and work with the international community toward the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. It is our hope that the DPRK will integrate itself into the region to share in our region's peace and prosperity.

Although Singapore is not a claimant state and does not take a position on the competing territorial and maritime claims, we are concerned about the situation in the South China Sea (SCS). Recent developments, such as increasing militarisation and reports of clashes between maritime enforcement agencies, have escalated tensions. Incidents could easily spiral out of control and trigger unintended consequences. In this regard, we urge all parties to refrain from activities that might raise tensions or impede freedom of navigation and overflight. We also urge all parties to commit to non-militarisation, to exercise self-restraint and to refrain from the use or the threat of the use of force. The SCS disputes should be settled peacefully with full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, in accordance with universally-recognised principles of international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). To promote regional peace and



stability, ASEAN and China should remain committed to work towards the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), as well as the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct (COC).

There is also the growing threat of terrorism stemming from the developments in the Middle East and the return of foreign fighters to the region. ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific are not immune to the reach of the Islamic State (IS) and other extremist groups, which have the ability to spread their radical ideology and incite terrorist acts within our region. Singapore welcomes the unanimous adoption of UNSC Resolution 2249, which condemns IS as a global threat to international peace and security, and calls on Member States to take all necessary measures to counter terrorist organisations. As a responsible member of the international community, Singapore will do what we can within our means to combat the IS threat. We support efforts to build regional capacity in countering violent extremism (CVE), and encourage greater sharing of experiences and best practices in de-radicalisation, religious rehabilitation and social integration. Terrorism is an issue that has global ramifications, and countries must continue to work together to counter this serious threat.

## **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

Singapore's defence policy is based on the twin pillars of deterrence and diplomacy. Singapore believes in the need for a strong defence, to ensure that we enjoy peace and security, and to provide us with the political space and freedom to act in the best interests of our people. This is why Singapore has invested steadily and

prudently in defence over the years, to build up a professional and capable Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Given our small population size and limited resources, Singapore focuses on force multipliers – technology, paired with a highly educated and technologically-savvy population – to overcome the limits of our small standing military. Singapore's defence expenditure in FY2015 stands at 3.3 percent of our Gross Domestic Product.

## **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

As a small country, Singapore's security and prosperity are greatly dependent on regional peace and stability. Singapore seeks to establish strong and friendly ties, through extensive interactions and cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels, with defence establishments and armed forces in the region and around the world. Singapore also believes that regional security and stability are best served by a robust, open and inclusive security architecture that encourages countries to engage constructively in dialogue, and ensures that all stakeholders have a voice and a seat at the table. As such, Singapore actively participates in various multilateral fora and arrangements, including the EAS, ASEAN, the ARF, the Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD), the Five Power Defence Arrangements, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), and the ADMM-Plus.

The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN and a key component of the regional security architecture. Established in 2006, the ADMM aims to promote regional peace and stability through dialogue and practical cooperation in



in defence and security matters with the view towards enhancing security cooperation. At the 9th ADMM in Kuala Lumpur in March 2015, the ASEAN Defence Ministers pledged to respond collectively to the threat of terrorist organisations to the region, and reaffirmed their commitment to address common security challenges together. The ADMM has also played a key role in establishing the ADMM-Plus, a forum which was inaugurated in Hanoi in October 2010. The ADMM Retreat and 3rd ADMM-Plus were held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015. At the ADMM Retreat, the ASEAN Defence Ministers affirmed the integral role of the ADMM in strengthening the ASEAN Community. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> ADMM-Plus, the Defence Ministers affirmed the value of the ADMM-Plus in strengthening practical cooperation among Member States' militaries. The ADMM-Plus Ministers also agreed on the importance of establishing effective and practical measures to de-escalate tensions and prevent conflicts in the disputed waters of the region. In this regard, Singapore proposed for the ADMM-Plus to: (a) adopt the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) and expand CUES to include white shipping; and (b) establish an air protocol to guide behaviour for military aircraft, similar to the Supplement to the MOU on the Rules of Behaviour for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters between the US and China in September 2015. The ADMM-Plus remains a useful and valuable platform for ASEAN and the eight "Plus" countries to have open and constructive dialogue as well as to engender practical cooperation in common areas of security interest.

Singapore is strongly encouraged by the good progress of the six ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) in the areas of maritime security (MS), humanitarian assistance and

disaster relief (HADR), peacekeeping operations (PKO), counter-terrorism (CT), military medicine (MM) and humanitarian mine action (HMA). As current co-chairs of the EWG-CT, Singapore and Australia are working together to address this important area of concern through a series of workshops, meetings and an exercise. We worked closely with the co-chairs of the EWG-MS, Brunei and New Zealand, to organise the ADMM-Plus MS&CT Exercise which was held from 2 to 12 May 2016. This is the largest ADMM-Plus Exercise till date, involving some 3,500 personnel, 18 naval vessels, 25 aircraft, and 40 Special Forces teams. This Exercise built inter-operability amongst the militaries and deepened mutual trust and understanding on security issues of common interest for the region.

The SLD, which is held annually in Singapore and organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), has established itself as the foremost defence and security conference in the Asia-Pacific region since its inception in 2002. It provides a useful opportunity for Defence Ministers, senior officials and prominent security experts of the region to meet and discuss important security issues of the day. A total of 26 Ministerial-level delegates and participants from 34 countries attended the 14<sup>th</sup> SLD that was held from 29 to 31 May 2015. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivered the keynote address at the 14<sup>th</sup> SLD in conjunction with Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. Discussants exchanged candid views on several hot-button security issues at the 14<sup>th</sup> SLD, including developments in the South and East China Seas, the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the human smuggling situation, and global terrorism.



The SLD Sherpa Meeting, also organised by the IISS, serves to supplement and strengthen the SLD process by providing an inter-sessional platform for senior civilian and military officials to engage in frank discussions in current defence and security issues. The fourth SLD Sherpa Meeting was held from 24 to 26 January 2016, and was attended by about 70 delegates from 23 countries. Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, General (GEN) (Ret) Luhut Pandjaitan delivered the keynote address, the first foreign speaker to do so since the meeting's inception.

### **3 (i) Counterterrorism**

The threat of terrorism remains a key concern for the region. Continued vigilance and cooperation by all countries will be needed to deal with the complex and long-term challenges posed by terrorism and the ideologies that perpetuate it.

Since the 1997 Declaration on Transnational Crime, ASEAN's counter-terrorism efforts have made much progress. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cebu in 2007, is the first region-wide and legally-binding anti-terrorism pact. Singapore was one of the first ASEAN Member States to ratify the Convention. The ACCT entered into force on 27 May 2011, and has, since January 2013, been ratified by all 10 ASEAN Member States. Singapore welcomes these significant achievements on the Convention, which enhances regional cooperation against terrorism and affirms the region's commitment to the global strategy on counter terrorism.

In support of regional capacity building, Singapore has hosted a number of counter-terrorism workshops and initiatives in

the areas of Border Security, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives, Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Crisis Management in Post Attack Scenarios, under the auspices of the ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue.

In April 2015, Singapore organised the EAS Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration. The platform allowed countries to share their experiences and for security practitioners, religious scholars and academics to promote moderate views to counter the radical ideology of groups like ISIS.

### **3 (ii) Non-Proliferation, Counter-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

Singapore has a long history of working to combat the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). We ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1976 and concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1977. Singapore also ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol (AP) and adopted the amended Small Quantities Protocol in March 2008. Singapore supports the universalisation of both the CSA and the AP. Singapore works closely with the IAEA in the area of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We hosted two IAEA outreach seminars on the Agency's Safeguards Systems for States in Southeast and South Asia in March 2011 and joined the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database in March 2012. Singapore also serves regularly on the Agency's Board of Governors (BOG), most recently for a two-year term from September 2010 to September 2012. This is a post that Singapore is expected



to occupy again in 2016. We are also party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and support efforts to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty.

Singapore supports the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process, a forum at which world leaders committed to securing nuclear materials. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended all four NSS meetings in 2010, 2012, 2014 and most recently in Washington in 2016. Singapore also joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in May 2010 and subscribed to the Hague Code of Conduct against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles in August 2011. In September 2014, Singapore acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and accepted the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM.

Singapore welcomes the EU's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre of Excellence (CBRN-CoE) initiative in Southeast Asia. The CBRN-CoE aims to improve national policies and international cooperation to mitigate CBRN risks in the region. Our agencies are involved in several CBRN-CoE projects and activities. For example, DSO National Laboratories hosted the Regional Expert Meeting on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics for ASEAN States in November 2014 under Project 30, and the working session on "Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on chemical and biological waste management in South East Asia" in July 2014 under Project 6. More recently, the Defence Trade Advisory Office (DTAO) is participating in Project 47 entitled "EU Outreach Programme – Export Control Cooperation in Southeast Asia", which supports the creation or updating of

effective export control systems for dual-use items, and the transfer of EU best practices on dual-use export controls. DTAO will be participating in the following training modules: (i) product classification; (ii) interdiction; and (iii) trends and methods of illicit trade.

Singapore strongly supports counter-proliferation initiatives, and has actively participated in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) since 2004. Singapore is the only member from Southeast Asia to be in the PSI Operational Experts Group (OEG) and has hosted PSI exercises, such as Exercise Deep Sabre I, was held in Singapore in 2005 and Exercise Deep Sabre II in 2009. Under the PSI OEG Asia-Pacific OEG Asia-Pacific Exercise Rotation Schedule, Singapore will host Exercise Deep Sabre III in September 2016. Singapore attended the PSI OEG Meeting in London, United Kingdom in April 2016 and will host the next PSI OEG Meeting in Singapore in 2017.

Singapore fully supports the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)'s efforts to further develop capabilities and readiness against the threat of chemical weapons. We participated in the 20th Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in December 2015. Pursuant to Article X, Singapore has been conducting the Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents training course since March 2008, and successfully concluded the fourth instalment of the course in March 2015. The course has benefitted participants from more than 25 Customs authorities in Asia. In addition to its original purpose, the course has also encouraged a platform for the sharing of experiences on the management of hazards.



In addition to its original purpose, the course has also encouraged a platform for the sharing of experiences on the management of hazards. In addition, Singapore values the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Scientific Advisory Board of the OPCW as a participant of the Temporary Working Groups on Sampling and Analysis and Verification. Singapore participated in the 2014 Meeting of States Parties of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and has submitted returns on BWC Confidence Building Measures (CBM) annually since 2012.

Singapore signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the first legally-binding international instrument that regulates the international transfer of conventional arms, on 5 December 2014. This reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to the elimination of the threat posed by the illicit arms trade, as well as international disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives that promote global peace and security. Singapore is currently working towards ratification of the ATT.

As a reflection of our commitment to prevent WMD proliferation, Singapore adheres to a robust and enhanced export control regime. The Strategic Goods (Control) Act controls the transfer and brokering of goods capable of being used to develop, produce, operate, stockpile or acquire WMDs, along with strategic goods and related software and technology. The Act's control list is regularly updated to keep abreast of technological developments and remain aligned with the four multilateral export control regimes. We launched a Secure Trade Partnership Programme with businesses in May 2007, which encourages companies to adopt robust security measures in their trade operations to improve the overall security of the global supply chain. Singapore also launched

the Trade Facilitation & Integrated Risk-based System (TradeFIRST) in January 2011 to provide a single holistic framework to encourage a virtuous cycle of compliance. Under TradeFIRST, companies with more robust systems, internal practices and security measures are rewarded with a higher level of trade facilitation.

In January 2016, Singapore co-hosted the annual Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management with the US State Department's Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS) and Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). The Seminar keeps the industry abreast of the latest developments in export controls and best practices for improved compliance. Since 2011, Singapore has participated in the Annual Asian Export Control Seminars held in Tokyo, which address domestic industry outreach and international collaboration and cooperation. Singapore also participates regularly in the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non Proliferation in Tokyo, including the most recent Talk held in January 2016.

### **3 (iii) Transnational Crime**

Regional security challenges are increasingly transnational and non-traditional in nature and cannot be adequately addressed by individual countries' domestic policies. Singapore therefore believes in a concerted regional effort in combating transnational crimes.

Under the aegis of the ASEAN Ministerial and Senior Officials' Meetings on Transnational Crime (AMMTC & SOMTC) Singapore is the ASEAN Voluntary Lead Shepherd for two transnational crime areas – namely, cybercrime and international economic crime.





In our capacity as the ASEAN Voluntary Lead Shepherd on Cybercrime, Singapore has been working closely with other AMS to identify priority areas of common interest to harmonise ASEAN's competencies in combating cybercrime. Singapore has also collaborated with strategic partners like INTERPOL to have a clear understanding of the challenges we collectively face when tackling cybercrime, and to develop suitable programmes to enhance ASEAN's capabilities and capacity to combat cybercrime. We also work with close alignment to the objectives under the ASEAN Political Security Blueprint 2025.

In 2013, Singapore tabled a proposal for the establishment of the SOMTC Working Group on Cybercrime ("WG on CC") which was unanimously supported by AMS. The WG on CC provides a platform for AMS to collaborate on capacity building, training and sharing of information related to cybercrime. The WG on CC has been tasked to strengthen ASEAN's efforts and initiatives in the areas outlined in the SOMTC Work Programme for 2016-2018 namely: (i) information exchange; (ii) legal matters; (iii) capability building and training; (iv) law enforcement matters and (v) extra-regional partnerships. The WG on CC is also a platform for AMS to (i) discuss and adopt a coordinated approach to deal with cybercrime; (ii) follow up on recommendations on cybercrime from other ASEAN-related fora; and (iii) engage Dialogue Partners on cybercrime collaboration. The third WG on CC successfully concluded in Jakarta, Indonesia on 23 May 2016.

Aligned to the focal areas of the Work Programme on Cybercrime, Singapore has developed/implemented the following deliverables:

### **Information Exchange and Awareness Building Efforts**

In conjunction with the RSA Conference Asia Pacific and Japan being held again in Singapore (RSAC APJ, 20 to 22 July 2016), Singapore will be organising a full week of cyber-related events for ASEAN officials. This year, aside from the annual ASEAN Senior Officials Roundtable on Cybercrime (SORC), Singapore has introduced new elements targeted at Ministerial-level representatives and cyber law enforcement practitioners to encourage more sharing of best practices and greater networking opportunities with global cyber Thought Leaders:

#### **- Inaugural ASEAN Plus Three Cybercrime Workshop (New)**

Singapore will be organising the inaugural ASEAN Plus Three Cybercrime Workshop from 18 to 19 July 2016. The Workshop aims to:

- i. Discuss strategies on collaboration with Regional and International Police Organisations to combat cybercrime;
- ii. Map out emerging cybercrime threats in ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea; and
- iii. Exchange best practices for a more proactive response to fight cybercrime.

The Workshop is supported by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund. It will comprise Heads of Cybercrime Units from ASEAN and the Plus Three Dialogue Partner Countries.

#### **- 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Roundtable on Cybercrime (SORC)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SORC will be held on 19 July



2016. Similar to past editions of the SORC, the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SORC will feature two components – (i) industry briefings by experts and academia on the latest threats and challenges in cybercrime, as well as public-private collaboration in addressing cybercrime; and (ii) an exclusive closed-door session for AMS to discuss the intelligence gleaned from the briefings, as well as regional cybercrime initiatives to increase cooperation, enhance capability development and capacity building.

In addition to the two components, a new closed-door session will be introduced this year, where the ASEAN Dialogue Partners (China, Korea and Japan) will be invited to present on the cyber threat landscape and how they have responded to deal with these challenges. The aim of this session is to provide insights for AMS on the cybercrime threats faced by the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and secure the benefits of these advanced countries' best practices and solutions.

- Forum on the Future of Cybercrime (New)

Singapore will also be organising a unique "Forum on the Future of Cybercrime" on 20 July morning. This inaugural Forum will feature presentations from the best speakers of RSAC APJ 2016 across academia, public and private sectors to discuss the current and future cybercrime threat situation. ASEAN Plus Three Ministers, SOMTC leaders and C-level executives from the private sector have been invited to attend this exclusive, by-invitation-only Forum. Attendees will be part of privileged discussions with global experts on emerging cybercrime threats given the rapid flux of technologies and the challenges facing law enforcement.

## **Regulatory, Legal and Enforcement Matters**

As part of the Singapore International Cyber Week (SICW), an inaugural ASEAN Cybercrime Prosecutors' Roundtable Meeting (CPRM) will be held on 11 October 2016. The ASEAN CPRM aims to equip ASEAN legal prosecutors with the requisite technical capabilities as well as identify a more coherent and collaborative legal response to prosecute cybercriminals and address cybercrime.

## **Regional Cooperation**

During the 16<sup>th</sup> Japan-ASEAN Summit in October 2013, ASEAN and Japan agreed on the intention to deepen cooperation to address cybercrime as a new challenge in the region. Consequently, Singapore hosted the inaugural ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue in May 2014, funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund or JAIF. The Dialogue aimed to: (i) share information on cybercrime trends and lessons learnt to combat cybercrime in ASEAN and Japan; (ii) enhance international cooperation on cybercrime among AMS and Japan, including the identification of mutual contact points and scenario-based exercises; and (iii) promote capacity building in order to effectively prevent and combat cybercrime through the JAIF 2.0.

Following the call by Japan, Singapore submitted a joint proposal with INTERPOL to ASEC and JAIF to develop an ASEAN Cyber Capacity Development project. The project will strengthen AMS' capacity and capability to fight cybercrime, and promote strengthen AMS' capacity and capability to fight cybercrime, and promote extra-regional cooperation between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners. It includes a



review by experts from INTERPOL of the cyber framework of each AMS to understand each country's exclusive needs in the area of combating cybercrime. Leveraging the presence of the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) and its state-of-art cybercrime fighting facilities in Singapore, the project seeks to foster a common understanding of cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime, consolidate AMS' strengths and weaknesses and conduct cybercrime capacity building programme for law enforcement practitioners.

In March 2016, the Government of Japan approved the "ASEAN Cyber Capacity Development Project" to be funded by the JAIF 2.0. The project will be implemented for a period of two years.

### **Capacity Building**

Singapore has organised a number of training programmes to build up the capabilities and capacity of ASEAN law enforcement agencies to tackle the cybercrime threat. Singapore has continued to partner with the US to deliver cybercrime training at the 1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asia Regional Internet Crime Investigation and Prosecution workshop held in Kuala Lumpur on 3 to 5 February 2016. More recently, Singapore co-organised with the US, facilitated by INTERPOL through the IGCI, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Singapore-United States Third Country Training Programme (TCTP)/INTERPOL Southeast Asian Workshop on Cybercrime from 3 to 6 May 2016.

Such workshops, conferences and seminars serve as a platform for knowledge sharing and in providing training in cybercrime investigations to law enforcement agencies in the region. It also

draws on the expertise from more advanced ASEAN Dialogue Partners and INTERPOL to enhance ASEAN's competencies in combating cybercrime. These platforms also serve as a meeting point for law enforcement officers from participating agencies to network for stronger collaboration and cooperation. Building direct points of contacts allow for swifter collaboration during cross jurisdictional cybercrime investigations and crisis situations. ASEAN needs to continue to build up its collective in-country and regional capacity and create a strong regional network to better share information and cooperate with each other.

On top of such initiatives, Singapore has also organised local courses to train AMS' law enforcement officers in cybercrime investigation and forensics. Foreign law enforcement experts have been invited to participate in such courses. To facilitate cross-border collaboration and cooperation, Singapore has undertaken the responsibility for updating the contact list for the various cybercrime investigators and prosecutors in the ASEAN region under the WG on CC. To facilitate effective communication and common understanding of the cybercrime terms, the WG on CC has also taken stock to constantly update the glossary of cybercrime terms for ASEAN's benefit. The glossary stands at 50 terms as at 23 May 2016.

Singapore's current legal framework for International Economic Crime (IEC) is relevant and effective. Offences such as the possession and use of counterfeit credit cards and counterfeit currency are adequately addressed by various provisions in the Penal Code. The Computer Misuse and Cybersecurity Act also has adequate provisions to deal with criminals who make use of devices such as 'skimmers'



and computers to steal data from genuine credit cards and provide them to counterfeit credit card syndicates. Recent amendments to the Penal Code also updated various technical definitions and references in offences related to card fraud in order to deal with the issue more effectively.

In terms of public education, the Singapore Police Force has forged a strategic partnership with the credit card industry to generate merchant awareness in credit card crime prevention. Singapore Police Force's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) is also represented at the Singapore Card Security Group (SCSG), which is made up of various card-issuing banks and companies. The SCSG meets frequently to share fraud-related intelligence and develop joint strategies to counter new card fraud trends. It has also conducted several joint merchant education programmes targeting specific retail sectors. In close consultation with the Monetary Authority of Singapore and other agencies, the SCSG was also instrumental in recommending and implementing effective measures to enhance payment card security, including the implementation of smart chip technology on all Singapore-issued payment cards, the implementation of two-factor authentication, and card activation of new and replacement cards.

As SOMTC Lead Shepherd for IEC, Singapore, Singapore organised and hosted the inaugural ASEAN Workshop on IEC in Aug 2013. The workshop, funded by our dialogue partner, Republic of Korea, aimed to create a platform for ASEAN law enforcement agencies to exchange information and best practices on the trends, patterns and challenges in combating international economic crime. One of the key deliverables of the workshop was the compilation and distribution of a list of focal

points to facilitate information exchange, law enforcement cooperation and capacity building in combating international economic crime in the ASEAN region. Singapore is looking at organising the next ASEAN IEC Workshop in the second half of 2016.

Singapore also conducts an annual International Economic Crime Course (IECC) to equip relevant investigators with basic competencies in the investigation of commercial crime. The course strives to equip relevant investigators with the basic competencies needed to investigate commercial crime. This course also surveys the latest trends, threats and challenges facing law enforcement agencies in the area of commercial crime. Thirty enforcement officers from Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore participated in the most recent IECC which was conducted from 14 to 18 March 2016. ASEAN Member States are invited to send economic crime officers who are proficient in English for this course. The next course will be held in 2017.

Singapore takes a serious view of trafficking-in-persons (TIP) crimes. An inter-agency Taskforce co-led by Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Manpower was formed in 2010 to coordinate whole-of-government strategies to fight TIP. Since the launch of the National Plan of Action in 2012, much effort has been made to strengthen policies and systems along a four-pronged approach of Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnerships. The Taskforce works closely with the law enforcement agencies and embassies of countries that victims may originate from. This close cooperation ensures that reports of trafficking are quickly and thoroughly investigated. Information sharing and upstream enforcement against human traffickers also prevent other innocent victims from being exploited.



Singapore supports regional and international efforts to combat TIP. Singapore cooperates with other ASEAN States through platforms such as the AMMTC, which oversees the region's effort to combat TIP, and the SOMTC and its Working Group on TIP. Beyond ASEAN, Singapore also works with partners such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as the Group of Friends (GoF) United Against Human Trafficking in New York and Geneva, to find better ways to combat TIP.

One international agreement that Singapore has been working closely with other ASEAN Member States on is the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and Regional Plan of Action (RPA). The ASEAN Leaders signed the ACTIP at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015. The 27th ASEAN Summit also noted the APA and looked forward to its implementation. Singapore is among the first ASEAN Member States to ratify ACTIP. The Instrument of Ratification was deposited with the ASEAN Secretary-General by Singapore's Permanent Representative to ASEAN Mr Tan Hung Seng on 25 January 2016.

Singapore is a party to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UN TIP Protocol). The UN TIP Protocol is an optional Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC). It seeks to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons while protecting victims and promoting cooperation among State Parties. MFA deposited a signed copy of the instrument of accession at the UN Treaty Event held in New York on 28 September 2015.

### **3 (iv) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

Disasters can affect any country without warning. As a good neighbour and friend, Singapore provides assistance where we can, participating in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions in which we can make contributions that are meaningful and within our means.

In 2015, Singapore's overseas deployments and assistance included contributions water purification teams following the floods in Kelantan, Malaysia and a Chinook with heli-bucket for aerial fire-fighting efforts in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Palembang, Indonesia. Singapore also provided assistance to Nepal following the April 2015 earthquake, deploying: (a) officers from the Singapore Police Force and Gurkha Contingent; (b) a Singapore Civil Defence Force Search and Rescue Team; (c) a Combined Medical Team with personnel from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Medical Corps and the Ministry of Health; and (d) a Disaster Victim Identification Team comprising SPF and Health Science Authority personnel. The government also contributed a total of SGD\$250,000 through the Singapore Red Cross, as well as donated medical supplies and relief goods (such as tents, blankets, food) to the Nepalese government.

Beyond participating in overseas operations, Singapore seeks to build regional capacity for HADR. As foreign military assistance can make a valuable contribution to HADR efforts, Singapore launched the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC) in September 2014, to provide a platform for military-to-military coordination in HADR,



in support of the military of a disaster-affected State. By doing so, the Changi RHCC will complement existing disaster response institutions – such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) – that support the disaster-affected state's government in coordinating the overall relief effort. With Nepal's consent, the RHCC was able to deploy an advance team to support the Nepalese military and authorities in the wake of the April 2015 earthquake. The RHCC helped to provide the Nepalese Multi-National Military Coordination Centre, and other assisting militaries and agencies, with a comprehensive situation picture for monitoring the disaster situation, assessed needs and forces deployed across Nepal. It also coordinated with partner militaries such as Brunei, France and Thailand on airlift and deployment arrangements, through their International Liaison Officers (ILOs) at the RHCC. Singapore is appreciative of like-minded countries that have come on board to support and partner with the RHCC thus far. These countries include Australia, Brunei, China, France, India, Laos, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and the UK.

To promote dialogue and enhance cooperation in HADR, Singapore co-hosted with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Global Forum on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination as well as the introductory session of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific in April 2015. The WHS Global Forum discussed ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of civil-military coordination in

disaster relief responses at the national, regional and international levels.

Singapore strongly supports the establishment and operationalisation of the AHA Centre in Jakarta as part of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)'s mandate. As a hub for relevant information and expertise exchange, the AHA Centre is a key coordination centre for regional disaster relief efforts to facilitate effective and efficient ASEAN responses to disasters within the region. Singapore's Changi RHCC is working closely with the AHA Centre to ensure effective coordination between the two Centres when responding to disasters within ASEAN.

### **3 (v) Maritime Security**

As a maritime nation, Singapore has a strong interest in keeping the international sea lines of communication open, safe and secure. Singapore takes a serious view of any threats to the freedom and safety of navigation. To this end, Singapore works with like-minded countries to uphold the sanctity of international law, including UNCLOS, and plays an active part in fostering regional maritime security cooperation and the enhancement of port security.

As a major hub port and one of the top ten ship registries in the world, Singapore is committed to the security of seaborne cargo. In 2002, Singapore was the first port in Asia to participate in the US-led Container Security Initiative. As one of the first States to implement the International Maritime Organization's (IMO's) International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, Singapore has contributed actively to capacity building programmes at various



regional forums to assist countries in their implementation of the ISPS Code. Singapore is also party to the IMO's International Convention for the Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS), and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention).

Singapore has been closely cooperating with key partners to ensure maritime security in the region, given the existence of vital sea lanes of communication such as the SCS, the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), the Lombok Strait and the Sunda Strait. To this end, Singapore remains fully committed to the following three principles which have gained broad consensus amongst regional stakeholders: first, that primary responsibility for the security of the regional waterways lies with the littoral States; second, the international community, including major user States and bodies like the IMO, have an important role to play; and third, new cooperative measures should be developed in line with UNCLOS and other international conventions.

Singapore is also supportive of ASEAN's approach towards maritime issues as encapsulated in the Bali Concord II, signed in October 2003, which reiterates the transboundary nature of maritime issues and the need to address them regionally in a holistic, integrated and comprehensive way. We also continue to participate actively in various ASEAN fora such as the ARF and the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)/Expanded AMF, the ADMM, the ADMM-Plus and the ASEAN Navy Chiefs Meetings, to address maritime issues.

These principles have been translated into cooperative efforts at a regional level. The Malacca Strait Patrols (MSP) is a joint undertaking by the littoral States of Indonesia,

Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, to enhance maritime security in the SOMS. The MSP comprises the Malacca Strait Sea Patrol, the "Eyes-in-the-Sky" maritime air patrols and the Intelligence Exchange Group. Since its inception in July 2004, the MSP has been able to substantially reduce the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships occurring in the SOMS. The MSP celebrated its 10th anniversary in April 2016. The 4th MSP Exercise was held in Singapore on 21 Apr 2016, where members reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the MSP's operational effectiveness, and test out their processes and linkages for information-sharing and coordination.

Apart from air and sea patrols, Singapore also believes in enhancing maritime domain awareness and ensuring a systematic and timely exchange of information to keep sea lanes safe. In this regard, the Information Fusion Centre (IFC), which was established in 2009, seeks to advance inter-agency and international cooperation in maritime information-sharing through its linkages to operations centres around the world, as well as a network of International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from regional and extra-regional countries. The IFC's partnerships and the pooling of various information-sharing and analytical systems in one location has enabled the IFC to cue operational responses to a wide range of maritime security issues, ranging from piracy, hijacking, Search and Rescue, weapons proliferation or human/arms trafficking and smuggling. The ASEAN ILOs in IFC also serve as the Permanent Secretariat of the ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting. As of March 2016, the IFC had links with international maritime centres and 69 operational centres and agencies from 37 countries, and a total of 104 ILOs from 23 countries have been deployed at the IFC since its establishment.



Singapore is a Contracting Party to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), the first intergovernmental initiative that promotes and enhances cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and the host country of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) since it was formed in 2006. As of end April 2016, 20 States have acceded to the ReCAAP, namely, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Denmark, India, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, the ROK, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the UK, the US and Viet Nam. The ReCAAP's expanding membership and network of partner organisations over the years are testament to the increasing importance attached to strengthening cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. ReCAAP celebrated its 10th anniversary in March 2016. Over the years, the ReCAAP ISC has established itself as an authority on trends and analyses of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, and continues to play an instrumental role in disseminating timely and accurate information for governments and industry alike. The ReCAAP ISC has produced quality analyses of trends in the region and increasingly collaborated with partner organisations and the industry to produce useful practice guides for the maritime community, including the Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia launched in February 2016. The ReCAAP ISC has also supported numerous capacity-building efforts to improve the capability of regional governments to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in the region. In 2009, the ReCAAP was held up by the IMO as a model for the Djibouti Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery

against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (GoA). These achievements speak volumes about the success of ReCAAP as an effective model of regional cooperation.

Beyond regional cooperation, Singapore also shares the international community's deep concern over the scourge of piracy threatening key sea-lines of communications like the GoA. To this end, Singapore has been contributing to the multinational counter-piracy efforts under the ambit of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 since 2009, to secure these sea lanes for everyone's use. The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) has deployed five Task Groups, comprising either one Landing Ship Tank with two Super Puma helicopters or a Frigate with a Naval Helicopter, as well as a Maritime Patrol Aircraft to the GoA. At the request of the Combined Maritime Forces, Singapore has taken command of the CTF 151 in 2010, 2011, and 2013. We are currently undertaking our fourth command of CTF 151 from March to June 2016.

#### **IV. Role of ARF**

The ARF has made good progress since its inception in 1994 as an open and inclusive forum for Asia-Pacific nations to discuss key political and security issues. The ARF's evolution from Stage I Promotion of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) to Stage II Development of Preventive Diplomacy (PD) mechanisms, after more than 15 years, is a significant development. It is a reflection of the ARF's success in engendering greater comfort levels among its members, fostering closer collaboration and candid dialogue as well as its ability to respond to the complexities in the evolving geopolitical landscape in the Asia-Pacific.





The implementation of the PD agenda, in accordance with universally recognised norms and principles of international law, and in tandem with the development of CBMs, will ensure that the ARF moves ahead to address the multi-dimensional challenges confronting the region. To this end, while we should accommodate the comfort levels of all ARF participants, Singapore remains fully committed to the implementation of the PD Work Plan. We welcome and support ARF members' various proposals in this regard. The ARF should also continue its work in enhancing linkages between the complementary activities of Track I and Track II, as the latter is a useful avenue to explore ways to promote the ARF's effectiveness.

While there will inevitably be overlap among various fora such as the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, these overlapping structures, with ASEAN at the core, reflect the region's diversity. A loose, overlapping configuration will be more resilient to external shocks than an overly-neat architecture that could prove brittle. Nevertheless, to ensure their continued effectiveness, we can explore practical ways to improve coordination and information-sharing, among the fora, while respecting their various mandates. It is important that discussions on security issues in ASEAN continue to involve the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies made up of subject matter experts who will be responsible for implementation and ensuring consistency with international standards and obligations.

Singapore remains fully supportive of the ARF process and its role as a key pillar in the multi-layered regional security architecture.



## THAILAND



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

1. Over the past decades, the regional security environment of the Asia-Pacific has been shaped by the geo-politics of the region which remains complex, with both traditional and non-traditional challenges. Compared to other regions, the Asia-Pacific remains relatively stable. Nevertheless, there are regional flashpoints and challenges which, if left unaddressed, could undermine regional peace and stability and affect adversely the region's upward economic trajectory. The non-traditional security challenges confronting the region include transnational crime, terrorism, extremism, pandemics and natural disasters. There is also the challenge of economic security, food security, water security, energy security, cyber security, among other things. This is the concept of comprehensive security which is being pursued in the ASEAN framework. Confronting these challenges require efforts, close cooperation by all parties at every level, and addressing them in a holistic manner.

### **Regional Architecture and ASEAN Centrality**

2. Another challenge that we are seeing today is a regional architecture that lacks proper equilibrium. We have a multi-polar situation without clear-cut rules and regulations, which has led to greater uncertainty, and represents a growing challenge for all countries in the region, particularly for small and developing countries.

The efforts by many countries, including the major powers, to expand their role in the region have made the situation ever more dynamic. Resolving the multi-dimensional security challenges in the region requires that we have in place a good regional architecture.

3. At the global level, close engagement with the international community, through multilateral framework, especially the United Nations, remains necessary. This is to maximise efforts to reduce the impact of conflicts, tensions, and global challenges.

4. At the regional level, ASEAN has become an important platform for key players to come together to help manage change in a peaceful and effective manner. The existing ASEAN led-mechanisms provide a venue for dialogue, as well as a set of norms, rules and instruments, to promote confidence building and preventive diplomacy.

5. This is the basis of the ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, inclusive and multi-layered, and which has been recognised by various countries outside the region, including the major powers. Anchored by the East Asia Summit (EAS) and supported by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), this regional architecture should continue to play a pivotal role in building trust and confidence and addressing the shared challenges to peace and stability.



6. These arrangements and mechanisms are complemented by a regional economic architecture comprising interlocking networks of economic cooperation arrangements, from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to sub-regional economic groupings, from regional FTAs to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

7. Together, these regional arrangements and mechanisms, many of which were initiated by ASEAN, help guarantee inclusivity and legitimacy, where every State has a stake and all can benefit from the peaceful management of change in the region. It is also essential that this regional architecture promotes a new, suitable equilibrium in our region.

### **Approaches to Regional Security**

8. In addition to having a good regional architecture, common goals for regional as well as global security are needed, if a new suitable equilibrium in our region is to be reached.

9. These goals include securing peace, pursuing sustainable growth, promoting shared prosperity and preserving the planet. These goals reflect the diverse security challenges that our region faces. Achieving these goals requires that countries shift their thinking: from confrontation to collaboration, from a zero-sum attitude to a positive-sum attitude. Most importantly, in pursuing security in a comprehensive manner, no one must be left behind.

10. This cooperative approach to security has a number of important elements. Promoting trust and confidence between countries in the

region, by giving more trust and confidence to each other, will allow us to receive more security in return. Equitable and supportive partnerships, through regional groupings and trilateral partnerships, should be created. Countries have to avoid the trap of having to choose sides or engage in partisan divides. Cooperation between the major powers must be promoted. Countries in the region should think of sovereignty in less traditional terms in order to support collective security in the long term – based on mutual security, mutual benefits, and respect for the rule of law and international law.

11. Equally important is the need to promote development in tandem with security. Security is the foundation for building economic, social and cultural prosperity. But challenges to human security could also affect national and regional security. It is therefore important to address the root causes of development, decrease disparities whether within countries or between countries, and pursue sustainable and inclusive development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. In all these efforts, Thailand is guided by His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which is based on His Majesty's development experiences accumulated over the course of 40 years and which places the people at the core.

### **Regional Security Situations**

12. Looking at the regional security situation, in the past few years, one of the areas that have contributed to rising tensions is the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula is critical to the peace and stability in the region. The situation, however, has become more uncertain and unstable with



violation of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Such nuclear programme continues to create tension and is a major cause for concern in the region, as well as threaten regional stability and also global nuclear non-proliferation efforts, anchored on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime which is in the interests of all Parties to uphold. It is important that the relevant UNSC resolutions are implemented and that we create conditions conducive to a return to the Six-Party Talks, which will support confidence and lessen tensions through diplomatic channels. In the meantime, the ARF could serve as a facilitating platform for dialogue to help address the nuclear issue and other relevant security issues on the Korean Peninsula.

13. Maritime security, safety and cooperation have assumed greater importance because maritime connectivity has become more significant for Southeast Asia. We are witnessing growing maritime challenges, from transnational crimes at sea to piracy to tensions in maritime areas as well as other challenges. These challenges in the maritime domain, if not addressed, can threaten the stability of our region, which is the foundation for our economic growth. Therefore, challenges in the maritime areas, such as piracy, need to be countered effectively to ensure safe and secure Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). Other important maritime challenges such as transnational crime at sea and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing will also need closer cooperation.

14. Overlapping maritime claims need to be addressed peacefully, through dialogue and based on international law, including UNCLOS 1982. A win-win approach to the situation in the region's maritime areas should be taken. Constructive joint activities for mutual benefit

could be undertaken, focusing on achieving concrete results and carried out in line with international law. Such activities could be carried out in a constructive manner and in tandem with negotiations, so that territorial claims do not become obstacles.

15. Mutual cooperation is necessary because there is growing recognition of the potential and opportunities of the maritime domain. One example is the Blue Economy idea as initiated by the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the UN regional economic and social commissions. Maritime connectivity also holds great potential and this is being advanced through various strategies in the region, including the post-2015 ASEAN Connectivity agenda. These are important drivers of regional growth and prosperity which cannot be realised without cooperation.

16. With regard to the South China Sea, all parties concerned have to exercise self-restraint, avoid activities that might complicate the situation, and intensify dialogue and consultations, with the aim to build trust and confidence and to resolve disputes peacefully. It is also necessary for all sides to pursue full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) which will create an atmosphere conducive to negotiations to address problems in a peaceful manner between all parties concerned. The early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) should be supported. Freedom and safety of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, for the interest of unimpeded commerce and travelling across the South China Sea, are also in the interests of the region and the international community.



17. In the field of non-traditional security challenges, cooperation to countering terrorism and transnational crime has become more pressing in light of recent incidents of terrorism in various regions. It is an area where there is no enduring solution without regional and multilateral cooperation. Enhanced cooperative measures are therefore essential – from stronger measures to curtail rising transnational crime to more intelligence exchange and law enforcement cooperation to tackle extremism and terrorism to enhanced cooperation. These and other measures are contained in the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision: “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together” adopted last year by ASEAN Leaders. Collectively, they underscore ASEAN’s priority to enhance capacity to respond comprehensively and collectively to existing and emerging security challenges.

18. With the establishment of the ASEAN Community and the overall improvement in connectivity, our borders can become more susceptible to transnational crime and cross-border challenges. Beyond ASEAN, the growing links within the Asia-Pacific region, through enhanced trade and movements of people, can increase the region’s vulnerability to those groups and individuals that wish to cause harm to our societies and peoples. It is therefore necessary to have enhanced cooperation on border management in order to minimise the negative consequences of enhanced regional connectivity.

19. Addressing the threat of terrorism and extremism is a priority issue where all Parties should continue to work together. The ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), which has been signed and ratified by all ASEAN Member States, serves as a framework for

regional cooperation to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism at all levels. No less important are sharing of best practices and experiences regarding moderation, dissemination of knowledge and understanding between religion and race, and addressing root causes such as loss of economic opportunities, poverty, famine, violation of human rights and injustice. The voice and action of the moderates should be promoted as a powerful counter-narrative against extremism.

20. It is also important to address terrorism financing and terrorist misuse of ICTs. One should not disregard the growing threat of cybercrime and cyber-terrorism. It is a reflection of the growing challenge of cybercrime that there have been calls in regional frameworks such as ASEAN and the ARF to enhance cooperation on this issue. To enhance cyber security, there should be increased networking and cooperation among dedicated agencies responsible for monitoring cyber security. Measures should be undertaken to ensure that there are laws that cover cyber security using compatible standards, including facilitating cooperation on information sharing and technology, as well as human resource development and joint training.

21. Significant progress has been made in ASEAN’s efforts against transnational crime. Last year, ASEAN Leaders signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) during the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. The Convention will enhance our capabilities to address trafficking in persons in a comprehensive manner, covering prevention, protection, law enforcement, policy mechanisms, and partnership building aspects. On illicit drugs, ASEAN institutionalised the



ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD), which was initiated by Thailand, in order to provide political impetus and strategic guidance to ASEAN cooperation on drug matters.

22. The stockpiling of military arms should take place in a limited manner and as necessary to safeguard sovereignty and national interests, and should not be used to assail or threaten other countries.

## **II. National Security and Defence Policy**

23. In order to promote transparency and enhance trust and confidence between Thailand and ASEAN Member States and other partners within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, the Ministry of Defence has published a policy statement outlining Thailand's national security and defence policies as follows:

(1) To safeguard and uphold the Monarchy Institution with the King as the Head of State and the Highest Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces so that the Monarchy Institution remains as the centre that harmonises hearts and souls of the Thai people and as the most important institution of the nation, and this can be accomplished by making every efforts in operating with other government agencies.

(2) To enhance defence cooperation with neighbouring nations, ASEAN Member States, friendly nations, as well as, international organisations, both at bilateral and multilateral levels, in support of arranging the security environment, collectively building confidence, stability and peace, by underlining prevention and reduction of conflict with neighbouring nations, building positive image of the nation to the international audience, supporting the

mission for peace and humanitarian operations under the UN umbrella and regional cooperation, initiating and developing wider scope of military cooperation, maintaining the balance of relationship between nations in the region, expediting the activities under cooperation framework between Thailand and neighbouring countries for the survey and demarcation of boundary, as well as supporting the integration of the ASEAN Community, especially the ASEAN Political-Security Community.

(3) To enhance the integration of force with every sector for the purpose of national defence by incorporating every aspect of national power to support the operative mission for security with the Ministry of Defence. During peace time, the Ministry of Defence must utilise the resources for the benefit of the country through the enhancement of every aspect of national power. This can be achieved by giving priority to the support of the urgent policy of the Government and the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), especially the national reformation, the arrangement of social discipline, the restriction of conducting illegal activities, the reconciliation of the people in the nation, the solving and prevention of drug trafficking, and the acceleration in bringing back peace and safety of lives and assets of the people in the southernmost provinces, as well as by supporting the safeguard of national interests, the national development for security purpose, the provision of assistance to the people especially from the problem of disasters, epidemic and communicable diseases, solving problem of natural resources and environment, water resource management, illegal immigration, solving other transnational crimes including arms trafficking, drug trafficking, human trafficking, piracy, computer crimes and international terrorism.



(4) To enhance the capability of the armed forces and the national defence system to be ready to safeguard independence, sovereignty, security and national interests, in terms of both the preparation of force and the use of force, by adhering to the principle of maintaining forces for self-defence purposes, emphasising on the deployment of force for joint operation, giving priority to the development of personnel for combat readiness and attentively operating the mission with sacrifice, improving proactive intelligence gathering to ensure timely strategic warning and provision of information for decision making, improving joint logistics by utilising the standard platform of military equipment and other potentials endured by each service, enhancing cooperation from the people to ensure that military missions are supportively carried out from peace time, and developing the reserve system and military mobilisation to ensure military necessities and giving priority to reservation of equipment and energy for security purposes.

(5) To develop activities related to the defence industry through the integration of the capabilities from both private and public sectors, as well as to capitalise on the cooperation of ASEAN Member States to become self-reliant in the production of necessary military equipment. To develop science and technology for defence related affairs as to be equivalent to those of other nations in the region and be able to become self-reliant in the defence industry by operating with every sector, both domestically and internationally, and to enhance information technology, communication and space affairs, while focusing on integration, standardisation and the safety of information technology system and communication within the Ministry of Defence and the ability to respond to cyber warfare.

(6) To give priority to the provision of assistance to war veterans and their families so that they can live in society with honour and dignity. This is seen as the courageous way to reward them for their merits, and to enhance morale for personnel who had served to defend the nation, as well as, to develop the capability of war veterans to support national security related activities.

(7) To appropriately develop the Armed Forces structure and improve personnel with competency by concretely developing civilian defence officer system to be substantially employed, improving knowledge, capability, moral, ethics, as well as physical and mental readiness of personnel, improving benefits and welfare to enhance morale, as well as supporting the rights and duties of personnel of the Armed Forces to become professional soldiers and integrating the Armed Forces with people to maintain national security.

24. The Ministry of Defence has set out Immediate Policies for the 2016 Fiscal Year (1 October 2015-30 September 2016), which contribute to regional security as follows:

(1) Use all available existing security mechanisms at all levels and defence diplomacy to build confidence and trust with neighboring countries, ASEAN Member States and allied nations in order to support improvements to the economies, trade and investments within the region for better security, stability and livelihood of the people.

(2) Support the ASEAN Political-Security Community on issues with respect to: (1) Border Administration, (2) Maritime Security, (3) Transnational Crimes, (4) Trust and Confidence Building using Preventive Diplomacy, and (5)



Promote joint ASEAN operation potentials, as well as to expedite the establishment and the strengthening of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) potentials, to establish the Emergency Communication Network under the ADMM framework and to conduct a joint exercise between Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine and Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

(3) Military forces on the border to collectively operate with the Border Patrol Police and Immigration Police to increase security measures along the border to deter and protect the border from narcotics, illegal substances, undocumented foreign labourers, and unregulated agricultural products.

(4) Support related government agencies in solving immediate problems according to government policies, such as the issues of IUU fishing, Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean, issues concerned with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), forest encroachment, haze caused by forest fire, and drought.

25. In the 2016 fiscal year, the Ministry of Defence has been allocated 206,461,410,900 baht (approximately 5,793,930,950 US dollars using the nominal exchange rate) to execute activities under the Ministry of Defence Action Plan, which has six strategies. This includes (1) the safeguarding and upholding of the Institution of the Monarchy (2) national defence (3) security of the State (4) security cooperation with other countries (5) development and humanitarian assistance and (6) war veterans.

### **III. National Contributions to Regional Security**

#### **Joint Exercises**

26. As a means to build trust and confidence, strengthening capacity to provide humanitarian assistance and natural disaster relief efforts, strengthening military relations in the region and promoting defence diplomacy, the Cobra Gold exercise, the largest multinational exercise in the region, is held annually. The 35th iteration of the exercise was held on 9-19 February 2016 in Thailand. More than 9,000 military personnel from 27 countries participated - seven countries, including Thailand, the United States, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Singapore participated in the main exercises, while China and India participated in the humanitarian civic assistance exercises. Nine countries, including Australia, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mongolia, and the Philippines participated in the Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT). Nine countries, including Myanmar, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Chile, the Netherlands, Brunei Darussalam, South Africa, the UAE and Saudi Arabia sent officials to participate in the Combined Observer Liaison Team (COLT). In all, 18 countries from the ARF and some Member States of the European Union were involved at the Cobra Gold 2016 in Thailand.

#### **Peacekeeping**

27. Another area of cooperation that Thailand continues to attach great importance is UN peacekeeping. As of January 2016, Thai military and police personnel are participating in five UN peacekeeping missions, from South Sudan to





Haiti. The Thai military has been active in promoting further cooperation within ASEAN on peacekeeping training and, in this regard, has been supporting the development of an ASEAN network of peacekeeping centres to promote training and capacity-building of peacekeeping personnel. Thailand recognises the inter-linkage between women, peace and security (WPS), and therefore continues to seek ways to promote and enhance the role of women in peace processes, including peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations as well as in post-conflict reconstruction.

28. To share Thailand's experiences in peacekeeping, from 16 to 26 February 2016, during the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), Thailand held an exhibition on "Thailand's Contributions to UN Peacekeeping and Peace-Related Operations" at the UN Headquarters in New York. It showcased Thailand's developmental approach to ensuring sustainable peace through the improvement of livelihoods of the local population through peacekeeping operations.

29. As part of ongoing support for the WPS agenda, on 18 June 2015 Thailand and the International Peace Institute (IPI) launched a report on "Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes", which presented the key finding that when women participate in peace processes, a peace agreement is more likely to be reached and implemented. Thailand also co-hosted a side event during the 70th session of the UNGA entitled "How to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the post-2015 development agenda?" on 30 September 2015, which promoted the WPS agenda within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, by emphasising the economic empowerment of women in conflict

and post-conflict situations.

30. To further the effective fulfillment of their duties when personnel are deployed in UN peacekeeping missions in English and French-speaking countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the British Council and the Alliance Francaise, co-organised English and French language training courses respectively during 28 September-16 October 2015 for 101 Thai military and police officers preparing to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

### **Counter-Terrorism**

31. Thailand joins the international community in condemning terrorist acts which cause loss of innocent lives and injuries and stand ready to cooperate with the international community in the fight against terrorism. In order to tackle these challenges, Thailand is of the view that the root causes of terrorism including poverty, lack of education, spread of radical ideas via social media, must be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Engaging community, civil society, private sector, former violent extremist offenders, and victims is imperative. Effective law enforcement and enhanced security measures must be maintained. International cooperation must be strengthened - be it in the area of information and intelligence exchange, best practices sharing and capacity building.

32. To these ends, Thailand upholds the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and supports relevant UNSC resolutions. We are actively participating in various international counter terrorism fora such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED),



the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and ASEAN. Moreover, in order to promote better understanding among diverse faiths and cultures, and enhancing interfaith partnership which contributes to stemming the use of extremism, Thailand and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) -- the OIC's subsidiary organ -- co-hosted the International Symposium on Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies on 11 January 2016. Additionally, in order to address the growing challenges of cybercrime and cyber-terrorism, Thailand is in the process of drafting the Cyber Security Bill and the National Cyber Security Policy Framework to integrate the work of all stakeholders. Thailand has gone further by suggesting the need for an ASEAN Centre to fight cybercrime and cyber-terrorism.

### **Non-proliferation and Disarmament of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

33. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation continue to be an important security issue at both the regional and global levels. Thailand is fully committed to supporting the regional and multilateral process of disarmament and non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which is a key confidence building measure that contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security. Thailand has a firm policy not to develop, acquire, or proliferate any kind of WMD and their means of delivery. To achieve the goal of the total elimination of WMD, disarmament and non-proliferation should be pursued simultaneously.

34. In terms of national legal frameworks, relevant regulations pertaining to exportation and importation of dual-use goods have been

updated. The amended Customs Act has empowered customs officials to inspect, search and confiscate suspected merchandise in transit or transshipment. In addition, the new Nuclear Energy Act has passed the National Legislative Assembly. This Act covers all relevant dimensions of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as imposes penalties on those who violate any provision of this Act. Once the Nuclear Energy Act is in force, Thailand will be able to ratify a number of international instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), the Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Additional Protocol to IAEA Safeguards Agreement, and thereby help further enhance nuclear security.

35. At present, a whole-of-government Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being drafted to ensure efficient and integrated implementation and coordination in cases of interdiction of suspected merchandise entering or passing through Thailand by sea, land and air. Several outreach and awareness-raising activities and programmes, including visits to ports and border checkpoints, have also been conducted throughout the country.

36. At the regional level, comprising ten Non-Nuclear Weapon States, ASEAN has a strong commitment to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime based on NPT, as well as to enhanced cooperation on nuclear safety and security, based in part on the Nuclear Security Summits. For us living in this region, the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, also known as the Bangkok Treaty, provides a regional basis and framework to promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear



energy, reinforcing the regional stability that is so important to growth. Thailand and other State Parties continue to implement the Treaty and to work with the Nuclear Weapon States towards the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty.

37. Furthermore, the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), initiated by Thailand and endorsed as an official ASEAN body under Annex I of the ASEAN Charter in 2015, has served as a collaborative network of nuclear regulatory bodies and relevant agencies to share information, experiences, and best practices, as well as to discuss issues relevant to nuclear safety, security and safeguard for peaceful use. These have to be carried out in parallel, in order to ensure sustainability. Thailand has conducted a number of activities under this framework. Most recently, Thailand hosted the Regional Workshop on Nuclear Forensics and Biological Dosimetry for ASEANTOM in February 2016.

38. Thailand continues to support global efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security. The Prime Minister of Thailand attended the 4th Nuclear Security Summit on 31 March-1 April 2016 in Washington, D.C. Thailand was recognised at the Nuclear Industry Summit Award Luncheon for the contribution Thailand has made in the removal of all highly enriched uranium (HEU) from the country. Moreover, Thailand has cooperated with the IAEA in hosting regional meetings, seminars and training for capacity building in nuclear related matters for countries in the region.

### **Transnational Challenges**

39. On human trafficking, Thailand recognises

that combating human trafficking requires cooperation from various stakeholders. The focus has been on forging strategic partnerships through a two-pronged approach: (1) multi-stakeholder approach and (2) international cooperation approach. As part of Thailand's public-private-civil society-media partnership (PPCMP), senior cabinet members preside over Policy Committees/Sub-Committees dealing with both human trafficking and IUU fishing, which also comprise representatives from the public and private sector and domestic NGOs. The multi-stakeholder engagement raised awareness of the importance of these issues among relevant partners and resulted in a resolute commitment in finding a sustainable solution to these problems.

40. Thailand has also been cooperating with our partners at the bilateral level to fight human trafficking. Thailand's Taskforce to Combat Internet Crimes against Children (Thai-CAC), which is a collaboration between Thailand and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), was established to tackle child sex offences. Thailand and neighboring countries, namely Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar, are in the process of reviewing signed MOU on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking, to ensure that the existing mechanism is sufficient in combating the evolving nature of human trafficking. Thailand is also in the process of establishing MOUs with Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, the UAE and South Africa.

41. Additionally, Thailand has been playing an active role in supporting existing international, regional and sub-regional frameworks. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative (COMMIT) in April



2015, the Co-Chairs, along with senior officials from six countries, endorsed the Fourth Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA-IV) and the Third COMMIT Joint Declaration. The Joint Declaration is aimed at eradicating any situation where human beings are placed in exploitative situations that deprive them of their fundamental human rights. At the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015, ASEAN Leaders signed the ACTIP. This Convention is indicative of the firm commitment of ASEAN Member States in combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims in accordance with their rights. A Plan of Action on this issue was also adopted. In the Bali Process, Thailand has played a leading role in drafting the Bali Process Policy Guides on Identifying and Protecting Victims of Trafficking. The two Policy Guides were used as a standard framework for Bali Process members to guide its policymakers and practitioners in their fight against human trafficking. Thailand also hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting on 1 February 2016.

42. Irregular migration is the joint responsibility of the originating countries, transit countries and destination countries. Responsibility should not be the burden of any one country. The appropriate way to address this problem is to focus on the root causes, by helping to develop the quality of life in order to lower economic disparities and eliminate injustice, on a humanitarian basis and in line with human rights. Thailand also recognises the fact that irregular migrants are vulnerable to falling prey to human smuggling and trafficking network.

43. In response to the influx of the irregular migrants in the Indian Ocean in May 2015, Thailand organised two Special Meetings on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean in May and December 2015, respectively. During the Bali Process Ministerial Meeting in Bali on 23 March 2016, Thailand's initiatives were

welcomed by participating countries and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and were also reflected in the Co-Chairs' Statement of the Conference. These initiatives by Thailand, as shared by representatives from Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the briefing with relevant Thai agencies on 16 February 2016, are among the key factors that helped reduce the number of maritime irregular migrants in the Indian Ocean from 31,000 in the first half of last year to 1,600 in the second half. Cooperation on this issue should continue because if this issue is not addressed in all aspects, transit countries will tacitly become breeding grounds for human trafficking networks.

44. Under the ARF Framework, in an effort to strengthen cooperation on trafficking of illicit drugs, Thailand is the Co-Lead on illicit drugs with the United States under the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017. Moreover, the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center or the ASEAN-NARCO in Thailand, which was initiated by Thailand and established to facilitate coordination among networks on drug control of ASEAN Member States, is expected to play a key role in fighting the threat of illicit drugs. Thailand also co-hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference on Enhancing Border Management with the UNODC on 25-26 April 2016 to develop best practices and potential regional approaches to have more effective cooperation on border management on a region-wide basis. In the ASEAN framework, the ASEAN framework, the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) has agreed to make illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber as the new priority area of transnational crimes, as proposed by Thailand. This development will help ASEAN address these environment-related issues in a sustainable and comprehensive manner.



## **Maritime Security and Maritime Cooperation**

45. Thailand attaches high importance to the promotion of maritime security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Thailand views that regional cooperation on maritime security and maritime issues is essential not only to build trust and confidence but also to address mutual concerns and advance shared interests.

46. Thailand has taken several measures to respond to new challenges, particularly the challenge of piracy in Southeast Asian waters, in a comprehensive manner. With a view to ensuring resilience of our organisational structure and being better able to protect ships in our waters, Thailand is in the process of enacting a new Maritime Bill to transform Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centre (THAI-MECC) to be better equipped with new mandates and tools to address maritime challenges, including maritime crimes

47. In cooperation with other States to combat piracy in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Thailand, as a littoral State, has participated in the Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrols since September 2008 and has joined the “Eyes in the Sky” air patrols since January 2009. Thailand has also been actively participating in the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) where it is the current Chair, in an effort to address the uncertainty and meet the growing challenge of piracy and armed robbery of ships as a region. Thailand and Singapore co-chaired the meeting celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) in March 2016. Thailand and the ReCAAP ISC will also co-host a meeting among member countries and coastal

states to exchange best practices and challenges in legal procedures on Transboundary Crimes at Sea on 13-15 July 2016 in Bangkok.

48. Moreover, Thailand has actively participated in the various ASEAN related frameworks on maritime security such as the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ARF ISM on MS), ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), ADMM, ADMM-Plus, and ASEAN Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ATM). All of these frameworks are mutually supportive and serve to promote confidence building, enhance transparency, develop shared rules of procedure, norms and values, as well as develop SOPs in areas such as Search and Rescue, and enhanced maritime domain awareness. ASEAN and the EU are also scheduled to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Dialogue on ASEAN-EU Maritime Security Cooperation on 15-16 September 2016 in Bangkok.

49. Thailand attaches great importance to overcoming the challenge of IUU fishing. To this end, Thailand has established the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing to counter this challenge in an effective and comprehensive manner. Thailand also works in close cooperation with foreign partners to enhance its cooperation to resolve this common challenge. Through various arrangements, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the ARF, and in partnership with important regional institutions, such as the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) based in Thailand. Thailand has also just acceded to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing in May 2016, reflecting our firm commitment to combating IUU fishing.



50. Thailand regards the promotion of regional maritime connectivity as crucial for the ASEAN Community. As we enhance our cooperation in ASEAN connectivity and the growing links within the Asia-Pacific region, we need to address the adverse impact of connectivity that gives rise to cross-border challenges and non-traditional security threats, particularly natural disasters, human trafficking, people smuggling, and piracy, all of which require cooperative efforts.

### **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

51. Climate change and natural disasters will continue to present a major threat to our security. Climate change affects the prosperity and sustainability of the region and the world. Drought and floods affect the agricultural sector and food security. The Asia-Pacific region is already the world's most disaster-prone region. In this regard, natural resources and the environment are global treasures and we should cooperate to conserve and protect, no matter what country one lives in. In the case of mitigating the effect of natural disasters and public hazards, countries in the region should enhance cooperation, share technology and best practices in various areas, such as military medicine, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, military development and military engineers.

52. Thailand remains committed to contribute to dialogue and enhanced cooperation to better manage disasters. Thailand has continuously provided humanitarian assistance to disaster stricken countries and played a role as a reliable partner in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) preparedness efforts through several channels including the UN, ASEAN and bilaterally.

53. Thailand supports the work of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ARF ISM on DR) and the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief to contribute under the ARF framework in this area. Thailand and the United States co-chaired the ARF Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management on 31 May-1 June 2016 in Bangkok, and will co-chair the ARF ISM on DR for the next cycle with the Republic of Korea. Within the framework of the ADMM-Plus, Thailand also co-chaired with Russia the Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine from 2014 to 2016. Thailand has also established the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) in Thailand, in an effort to contribute significantly to our preparedness and handling response in the broader area of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief cooperation.

54. Under the UN framework, Thailand has been a donor to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) since 2006. Since 2012, Thailand is committed to contribute 20,000 US dollars annually to the fund. Thailand has also been active in assisting countries affected by disasters throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

### **IV. Role of the ARF**

55. In the evolving regional security architecture, the ARF remains a key forum to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interests and concern in the Asia-Pacific region. As an important component of the ASEAN-centred regional architecture, the ARF provides an inclusive platform to address the increasingly complex regional traditional and non-traditional



security challenges. Continued efforts by all ARF Participants in implementing the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement, as well as other current work plans under the respective priority areas, ultimately contribute to the confidence building efforts in the region. The advancement of the ARF process towards the phase of preventive diplomacy, in parallel with the strengthening of confidence building measures, remains a priority of the ARF. To this end, Thailand will co-chair the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues with China in 2016 in Beijing, in an effort to promote greater momentum on the issue of preventive diplomacy.

56. In recent years, there is a growing number of initiatives aimed at building regional preventive diplomacy capacities, which reflects the diversity of the Asia-Pacific countries and their different security concerns. ARF Participants should continue to collaborate and carry out activities under work plans of the ARF, and also ensure that there are synergies between the activities in order to capitalise on existing initiatives.

57. Additionally, it is important to develop greater synergies amongst ASEAN-led arrangements such as the ADMM-Plus and the EAS, as well as exchange best practices with other regional organisations dealing with security issues, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The ARF would also further benefit from new and innovative ideas of the Track 1.5 and 2 entities in the region, such as the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs), the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), and the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS). There should be enhanced dialogue between the ARF and these regional security organisations and the Track 1.5 and Track 2 bodies in the region.



## THE UNITED STATES



### **I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment**

For well over 20 years, the ASEAN Regional Forum has dutifully served as a venue built around the enduring principles of stability and cooperation. Within the Asia-Pacific, traditional and non-traditional security concerns present a dynamic environment that poses challenges to the balance of peace and stability in the region. The ARF has achieved its successes over time using open dialogue, tangible cooperation, and results-driven initiatives to find common understandings and solutions to uncommon problems. Through this process, the United States reaffirms its commitment to finding solutions based upon consensus and respect for international law, values, and norms. ASEAN centrality plays an essential role in this process, and the United States fully supports a constructive, action-oriented body with ASEAN at its core. Furthermore, the United States believes that clearly defined, proactive approaches will yield the largest benefits to regional stability. Therefore, we commend and pledge our support to the ARF to advance its goal of implementing Preventive Diplomacy measures, including empowering the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR). The cooperative results from ASEAN-centered multilateral fora and the implementation of Preventive Diplomacy principles show promise for the Asia-Pacific region and are indispensable to U.S. security interests. The United States remains resolute in its advocacy for ASEAN centrality in the region and urges other ARF

participants to engage similarly with the deliberateness, understanding, and vision that will continue to serve the region well in the decades to come.

The U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security is a cornerstone of our strategic engagement in the Asia-Pacific. The partnership built under this treaty has promoted seamless cooperation on a wide range of regional and global security issues, leveraging the presence of U.S. forces to respond to security threats. The close cooperation between the Japanese government and the United States in responding to the region's natural disasters demonstrate the importance of our relationship and our capability to respond quickly. We have taken steps to expand our security cooperation by revising the Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation to ensure that the bilateral alliance continues its vital role in deterring conflict and advancing peace and security. We are also moving forward with the Japanese government to implement our military base consolidation plan. Progress on force realignment will help us to establish a geographically distributed, operationally resilient, and politically sustainable force posture in the Asia-Pacific region – critical to U.S. national interests. We continue to work closely with the Japanese government to address emerging challenges in space and cyberspace, and to strengthen our missile defense capabilities to counter threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The U.S. lauds Japan's role in the G7 Presidency and the





hosting of the 42<sup>nd</sup> G7 Summit in May 2016. Additionally, the U.S. commends Japan for its strong commitment to add the collective voice of the influential G7 nations to discussions on maritime security challenges, humanitarian and disaster relief efforts, global economic resiliency, climate change, global health system improvements, and human rights policies of the Asia-Pacific.

Our alliance with the Republic of Korea (ROK) is evolving into a global partnership, while continuing to play a key role in deterring aggression from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The United States remains steadfast in our commitment to the defense of the ROK; we remain committed to growing this alliance into a comprehensive strategic partnership based on our common values and mutual trust. This past year was a successful one for the alliance as it included the conclusion of a new ROK-proposed, conditions-based framework for the transition of wartime operational control. It also included a trilateral information sharing arrangement between the United States, ROK, and Japan that will allow for a more effective response to a DPRK contingency. The United States and the ROK also established a new policy-level defense trade dialogue, the Defense Technology Strategy and Cooperation Dialogue. The U.S.-Japan-ROK Defense Trilateral Talks-- a regular dialogue that advances trilateral security cooperation -- enhances our ability to counter the DPRK nuclear and missile threat. The United States and the ROK are working together, not only on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, but also in places such as Afghanistan, South Sudan, and off the coast of Somalia. This collaboration includes peacekeeping activities, stabilization and

reconstruction activities, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) efforts.

We continue to enhance our alliance with Australia through greater cooperation on shared regional and global interests, including countering violent extremism. The United States and Australia continue to work towards full implementation of the Force Posture Agreement signed in Sydney in August 2014. Rotations of U.S. Marines and U.S. Air Force aircraft in Australia's Northern Territory improve interoperability and capacity through opportunities to train and exercise both bilaterally and multilaterally in the region. Our Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) with Japan and Australia also plays a positive role in enhancing regional stability and security. Officials from Australia, Japan, and the United States met in Tokyo in February 2016 for the annual Security and Defense Cooperation Forum and discussed defense and security policies, regional capacity development, peacekeeping operations, maritime policies, future contingencies, and HA/DR plans and procedures. Lastly, New Zealand and Japan participated alongside 30,000 Australian and U.S. troops in the 2015 Talisman Saber exercise, a biennial joint military exercise that features civilian-military cooperation and operational integration.

The U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty continues to promote stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Our bilateral cooperation in areas critical to regional peace and stability continues to grow, with particular focus in the areas of maritime security, disaster response, counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, and non-proliferation. The newly established U.S.-Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation



Agreement will take the U.S.-Philippine alliance to unprecedented levels of cooperation. In particular, it supports a joint commitment to advancing mutual security interests by increasing our interoperability, supporting the Armed Forces of the Philippines' defense modernization plans, and improving our ability to respond to natural disasters in the region. The United States will continue to advance this enduring strategic alliance through high-level dialogues, such as the Bilateral Strategic Dialogue. Opportunities for progress also exist where we share a common interest in expanding regional defense and security cooperation through the ADMM-Plus and other vehicles, such as the Expanded ASEAN Seafarers' Training (EAST) initiative. The United States continues to support Philippine participation in joint exercises with other partners in the Southeast Asia and Pacific regions, as well as encouraging the Philippines to invite participation by neighboring countries in bilateral military exercises, such as Exercise Balikatan.

The United States and Thailand have been treaty allies for over 60 years and we continue to collaborate to address humanitarian and security concerns such as counterterrorism, disaster relief, nonproliferation, and maritime security. The combined U.S.-Thai response to the Nepal earthquake in April and May 2015 demonstrated the value of our alliance in responding to humanitarian crises in the region. The United States looks forward to resuming efforts to deepen our alliance once Thailand returns to democratic rule.

As two of the world's largest democratic countries, the United States and Indonesia share a responsibility and an abiding interest to

address strategic challenges as partners. In this spirit, U.S. President Barack Obama and Indonesia President Joko Widodo committed to forging a Strategic Partnership in October 2015 and to expanding cooperation on shared strategic interests in the region. The two presidents pledged to strengthen collaborative efforts to address non-traditional security threats, including terrorism and violent extremism, natural disasters, illegal trafficking of wildlife, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, water security, and health pandemics. They also agreed to expand cooperation and capacity building in cyber space. In October 2015, Defense Secretary Carter and Defense Minister Ryamizard signed a Joint Statement for Comprehensive Defense Cooperation that serves as a guide to expand future defense collaboration. The statement covers five pillars of defense engagement: maritime, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, defense modernization, and countering transnational threats. To build bilateral and regional capacity, the U.S. and Indonesian militaries also conduct regular exercises, such as the multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo in Padang, Indonesia. This annual exercise commenced in April 2016 and included 15 nations to emphasize naval readiness and cooperation of security efforts.

Singapore is a strong partner of the United States to strengthen regional and global security. A rotational deployment of United States' Littoral Combat Ships and P-8 aircraft is a symbol of deepening ties and a long-lasting commitment to Singapore. Singapore has been an active participant in global efforts to ensure peace and stability including in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Counter-ISIL coalition, and Gulf of Aden counter-piracy, where Singapore has twice



commanded Combined Task Force 151. Most recently, Singapore pledged forces to the Counter-ISIL Coalition and was the first nation from Southeast Asia to join the multinational response effort. Our militaries have strong ties and participate in several bilateral and multilateral exercises each year. In 2015, we further broadened our relationship by re-signing a memorandum of understanding for the Third Country Training Program (TCTP), a capacity building initiative jointly managed by the U.S. and Singapore. Aimed at bridging development gaps in the region, the TCTP has provided technical assistance and training to over 750 officials through 22 workshops since its inception in 2012. This year, the TCTP curriculum will focus on thematic workshops supporting the implementing high standard trade agreements, specifically the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), promoting environmental protection, and addressing non-traditional security threats, such as cybersecurity and cybercrime. As a like-minded partner on terrorism issues and as a co-chair of the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Counterterrorism along with Australia, Singapore plays an important role in facilitating regional efforts against violent extremism.

The relationship between the United States and Malaysia has reached new heights in recent years, and the U.S. is eager to continue working with our Malaysian partners to increase regional and global security. A robust slate of bilateral and multilateral military exercises has enhanced our respective capabilities to promote regional security and respond to humanitarian disasters. The United States values Malaysia's past contributions to the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan, and we are working closely on counter terrorism issues,

including stopping the flow of foreign terrorist fighters joining ISIL. Malaysia is also an important partner in stemming the proliferation of nuclear materials. As the U.S.-ASEAN Country Coordinator, the United States looks forward to working closely with Malaysia in advancing our shared priorities and interests in the context of promoting regional cooperation, respect for international law, ASEAN-centrality, and maintenance of peace and stability.

For more than 20 years, the United States has been engaged in advancing diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Our relationship with Vietnam continues to expand and deepen, guided by the bilateral Comprehensive Partnership launched in 2013. President Barack Obama visited Hanoi in May 2016, marking just the third visit by a U.S. President since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Against the backdrop of today's dynamic security environment, this trip was a watershed moment for continued efforts to strengthen Washington-Hanoi relations. Through a healthy set of annual dialogues spanning issues from human rights to security and defense relations, the U.S. and Vietnam are cooperating in areas such as security, trade, nonproliferation, health, the environment, science and technology, education, and human rights. The United States and Vietnam signed an MOU on Advancing Bilateral Defense Cooperation in 2011, and have continued to be engaged through U.S. Navy port visits – including the first ever at-sea exercise in 2014. Furthermore, our strong relationship with Vietnam has supported reciprocal political and military leadership exchanges. This includes a State Partnership Program between Vietnam and the Oregon National Guard to explore further collaboration on HA/DR and Search and Rescue. Lastly, the U.S. and the Diplomatic





Academy of Vietnam (DAV) will co-sponsor an Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum Workshop on Boundary Delimitation in Hanoi in the May 2016. The event will emphasize the importance of in relation to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and will feature academic and international law experts from Singapore, Philippines, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Canada.

During his visit to India in January 2015, President Obama joined Prime Minister Modi in announcing a U.S.–India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region. Noting the complementarity of the U.S. Asia Rebalance and India’s Act East policy, the vision statement provides a framework for joint efforts spanning the political, security, and economic fronts. This includes maritime engagement, counterterrorism and piracy efforts, response to natural disasters, and regional economic connectivity. The two leaders also elevated the U.S.-India strategic partnership through their endorsement of the Delhi Declaration. The Declaration articulates tangible principles to guide ongoing efforts to advance mutual prosperity, a clean and healthy environment, greater economic cooperation, regional peace, as well as, security and stability for the larger benefit of humankind. Both nations have conducted joint military and training exercises of increased complexity and frequency. During his June 2015 visit, Secretary of Defense Carter signed an updated 10-year Defense Framework Agreement. Furthermore, India invited Japan to become a permanent member of the annual U.S.–India Malabar naval exercise and launched a U.S.-India-Japan working group on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, underscoring its growing strategic engagement across the Indo-Pacific region.

The United States is committed to pursuing a positive, cooperative, stable, and comprehensive relationship with China. We welcome a peaceful and prosperous China that plays a responsible role in global and regional challenges, such as the provision of assistance to developing countries, maritime security, peacekeeping, counter-piracy, and coordination on the DPRK, Iran, Afghanistan, and Syria. This past year, the United States and China committed to a historic climate change agreement, completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to development assistance cooperation, an MOU on confidence building measures for our militaries, and extended visa validity arrangements for many U.S. and Chinese travelers. This year’s Strategic and Economic Dialogue, which brings together experts from dozens of agencies across both of our governments to discuss an unprecedented range of subjects, will address remaining differences constructively, and to build cooperation on issues of practical importance.

The United States remains committed to supporting Myanmar’s transition to democracy. The National League for Democracy party’s victory in the November 2015 election and the subsequent transition to the democratically elected parliament and government, which assumed office on February 1 and March 30, 2016 respectively, were historic diplomatic milestones. We support efforts by the Government of Myanmar and ethnic armed groups to reach a comprehensive peace agreement. We remain concerned about the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State and the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities, including the Rohingya population. We are also concerned about ongoing clashes in Kokang, Kachin State, and Shan State, and support the peaceful resolution of these conflicts.

THE UNITED STATES



United States defense engagement with Brunei has increased significantly in recent years. The annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise took place in November 2015, and for the first time included a P-8 Maritime Surveillance Aircraft. Coupled with the Joint Defense Working Committee meeting in September 2015, CARAT continues to be a mainstay in our bilateral military relations. Early in 2015, a U.S. contingent participated for the first time in the 10th Brunei International Skill at Arms Meet. In August 2015, Brunei's Special Forces Regiment conducted the first Joint Combined Exchange Training with U.S. Special Forces in a dozen years. In the last two years, Brunei has co-hosted three major multilateral conferences with PACOM: the Chiefs of Defense conference in 2014, and the Intelligence Chiefs Conference and Senior Officers Logistics Symposium (PASOLS) in 2015. On the back of diplomacy and defense cooperation, the promising U.S.-Brunei relationship aims to help secure mutual security interests in Southeast Asia.

The United States values cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in areas of mutual concern ranging from international peacekeeping, maritime and border security, counter-terrorism, and demining. In September 2015, the United States Pacific Command hosted Bilateral Defense Discussions (BDD) with the RCAF after a three-year hiatus. In March 2016, U.S. Army Pacific and other partners conducted the seventh annual Angkor Sentinel military exercise, where a total of 100 U.S. and 400 Cambodian troops participated in the event. In addition, the U.S. and Cambodia joined efforts for Angkor Opening 2016, a weeklong exchange and tabletop exercise

designed to build partnerships, interoperability, and readiness in humanitarian assistance and port opening operations for disaster relief. Angkor Opening 2016 also featured an event with industry representatives that encouraged increased communication and understanding between industry and military partners alike.

Laos' chairmanship of ASEAN in 2016 is providing new opportunities for U.S. engagement, most notably President Obama's planned visit for September 2016 to participate in the East Asia Summit. While we continue to address legacy issues, like the important Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) accounting mission and helping Laos manage contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO), we are building a new relationship for the 21st century. The many facets of our cooperation—which include health, law enforcement, trade, education, environmental protection, military issues, cultural preservation, disaster preparedness, trafficking -in-persons, entrepreneurship, energy, rule of law programs, and more—address the country's most critical and systemic needs.

Another way that we are engaging the nations of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, is through the regional cooperation and economic integration efforts of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI). LMI focuses on technical capacity building for regional officials in line ministries working in the "Pillar" focus areas of Agriculture and Food Security, Connectivity, Education, Energy Security, Environment and Water and Health. LMI provides technical assistance to the region under these six Pillars, as well as crosscutting themes, such as women's empowerment.



These areas of engagement allow the United States and primary donors in the sub-region, known as the Friends of the Lower Mekong, to engage with and support partner countries' development of shared responses to regional challenges, including non-traditional security threats such as the water, energy, and food security nexus.

The United States and the European Union are deepening collaboration with Asian partners to advance regional security and development, and to build regional institutions and support for the rule of law. The United States and the EU share common goals to promote human rights, freedom of navigation, and respect for international law in the East China Sea and South China Sea. We are working together to encourage China to deepen its engagement with the international community, adopt internationally recognized norms, and participate responsibly in the global economic order. We are also coordinating our messages to condemn DPRK aggression, uphold UNSC resolutions, and pressure the regime to address its egregious human rights abuses. U.S.-EU cooperation has also played a critical role in supporting Myanmar's ongoing democratic transition. We are now engaging the European Union as we explore ways to collaborate through the Lower Mekong Initiative. As we rebalance our interests and investments to the East Asia-Pacific, we look forward to expanding our coordination with the European Union through the ARF and other regional fora.

Likewise, the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain a serious threat to international peace and security. The DPRK's continued failure to comply with its international obligations and commitments threatens

international peace and security and seriously undermines the global nonproliferation regime. The United States has made it clear that we will not accept the DPRK as a nuclear-armed state. The United States, our allies, and Six-Party partners remain committed to the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, which will continue to be the paramount focus of our joint efforts. As we have long made clear, the United States remains open to authentic and credible negotiations to implement security measures of the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. This includes bringing the DPRK into compliance with its international obligations and commitments to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, and to comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. We will continue to hold the DPRK to those obligations and commitments. The path to reintegration with the international community and greater security remains open to the DPRK; however, the onus is on Pyongyang to take meaningful steps to demonstrate that it is serious about honoring the commitments it has already made and complying with its international obligations. We continue to call on all Member States to fully and transparently implement all relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the DPRK, and to exercise strict vigilance against the DPRK's proliferation activities and any other dealings with the DPRK.

Additional global security issues, such as transnational crime (drug, human, and wildlife trafficking), the security situations in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan, the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremists returning from the conflicts in Iran and Syria,



and global climate change, all continue to threaten regional and international stability. Many of these issues are transnational in nature and require concrete multilateral and national responses from ARF Participants. Results-oriented cooperation has proven to be the best course of action for promoting peace and prosperity in the region. The continued strengthening and growth of the ARF's institutional capacity, enhanced bilateral and multilateral relationships, and burden-sharing efforts provide the best solution to these security concerns.

## **II. National Security and Defense Policy**

Throughout 2015, the United States continued its comprehensive engagement with the region through its rebalance to the Asia-Pacific. As stated in the 2015 National Security Strategy, the United States focuses on eight primary lines of effort within national security and defense policy:

1. Strengthen our national defense
2. Reinforce homeland security
3. Combat the persistent threat of terrorism
4. Build capacity to prevent conflict
5. Prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction
6. Confront climate change
7. Assure access to shared spaces
8. Increase global health security

As the United States continues to pursue those eight lines of effort, it will continue to work with allies and partners to manage the challenges we see throughout the Asia-Pacific:

- The ongoing threat of the DPRK's nuclear weapons, proliferation, and missile programs and its defiant and dangerously provocative behavior;
- Long-standing disputes over territory, associated maritime zones, and resources, including in the South China Sea and East China Sea;
- The great human and economic toll of natural disasters like the April 2015 Earthquake in Nepal, and the 2015 flooding in Myanmar.
- Illicit trafficking in persons, weapons, drugs, and dangerous materials including weapons of mass destruction;
- The global threat of pandemic disease that can spread around the world;
- Environmental degradation and the threat posed by climate change;
- Disruptive and potentially destructive activities by State actors in outer space; and Disruptive activities by state and non-state actors in cyberspace.

Ensuring that the United States is prepared to prevent conflict requires a combination of defense, diplomacy, and development. These tools of statecraft enable the United States to strengthen the capability of its allies and partners to help preserve stability. The United States



capabilities to deter conflict, reassure allies, and if necessary, defeat potential adversaries. These objectives require the United States to be capable of responding to a broad range of challenges that are likely to employ a mix of approaches and capabilities.

*Resources:*

*The 2015 National Security Strategy:*  
[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2015\\_national\\_security\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2015_national_security_strategy.pdf)

**a) Data contribution to ARF Arms Register**

A broad range of data is publicly available from the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) at

<http://comptroller.defense.gov/budgetmaterials/budget2016.aspx>

**i. Total defense expenditure on annual basis**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Total Defense Budget Request was \$585.3 billion. However, the total enacted appropriations for defense spending in the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act (OAA) was \$606.9 billion.

\$ in billions	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	FY15 – FY16 Change
Base	496.3	496.1	534.3	+38.2
War/Non-War Supplementals	85.2	64.3	50.9	-13.3
Total	581.4	560.4	585.3	+24.9

*Discretionary budget authority*

*Numbers may not add due to rounding*

The FY 2016 Base Budget Request from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) was \$534.3 billion, funding the non-contingency operational costs of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. The FY 2016 Base Budget Request

does not include Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), which cover security efforts in Afghanistan, and support for the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq, Syria, and the Horn of Africa. In the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$548.1 billion for base defense spending, and \$58.8 billion was appropriated for OCO defense spending. Total defense appropriations in the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act (OAA) were \$606.9 billion.

Further information regarding the DoD National Defense Budget can be found at:

<http://comptroller.defense.gov/budgetmaterials/budget2016.aspx>

**ii. Defense expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**

The budget for national defense was 3.3% of GDP in FY 2016.

**Table 7-7: DEFENSE SHARES OF ECONOMIC AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES (Continued)**  
 (Percentages of Indicated Totals)

Fiscal Year	% of Federal Spending		% of Net Public Spending (Federal, State & Local)		DoD as % of Public Employment			DoD as % of Total Labor Force	% of Gross Domestic Product	
	DoD	National Defense	DoD	National Defense	Military & Civilian	Federal, State & Local	Civilian Only		Federal, State & Local	DoD
2009 Base	14.0	18.8	9.0	11.6	51.3	9.1	25.4	3.1	1.4	3.4
2009 Total	19.1	24.4	12.1	15.6	51.4	9.4	26.3	3.3	1.4	4.4
2010 Base	14.6	19.6	9.4	12.4	51.4	9.4	26.3	3.3	1.4	3.4
2010 Total	19.3	24.1	12.4	15.9	51.4	9.4	26.3	3.3	1.4	4.5
2011 Base	14.6	19.6	9.4	12.6	52.6	9.6	27.7	3.5	1.5	3.4
2011 Total	18.8	24.1	12.6	15.9	52.6	9.6	27.7	3.5	1.5	4.4
2012 Base	14.9	19.2	9.4	12.1	52.6	9.6	27.9	3.5	1.4	3.3
2012 Total	18.4	23.7	11.7	15.2	52.6	9.6	27.9	3.5	1.4	4.1
2013 Base	14.7	18.3	9.2	11.0	52.6	9.4	27.4	3.4	1.4	3.1
2013 Total	17.6	22.8	11.5	14.4	52.6	9.4	27.4	3.4	1.4	3.7
2014 Base	14.3	17.2	8.1	10.4	51.9	9.2	27.2	3.3	1.4	2.9
2014 Total	16.5	21.7	10.4	13.8	51.9	9.2	27.2	3.3	1.4	3.4
2015 Base	13.1	15.9	8.6	10.4	51.1	9.1	27.1	3.3	1.4	2.7
2015 Total	15.1	19.9	10.4	13.8	51.1	9.1	27.1	3.3	1.4	3.2
2016 Base	13.4	14.7	8.9	10.3	50.7	9.0	26.8	3.2	1.4	2.8
2016 Total	14.7	15.4	9.8	10.3	50.7	9.0	26.8	3.2	1.4	3.1

NOTES:  
 Beginning in FY 2011, some labor force data are not strictly comparable with earlier data, due to population adjustments and other changes.  
 These figures are calculated from data in the OMB Historical Tables and the Economic Report of the President. Certain non-Defense data were not available past 2014.  
 All four years 2007 and prior include any enacted war or supplemental funding.

Further information can be found at:

[http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2016/FY16\\_Green\\_Book.pdf](http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2016/FY16_Green_Book.pdf).







**iii. Total number of personnel in national armed forces and its percentage in population**

**a) Total Military End-Strength**

- In FY 2016, there were 2,116,200 active, guard, and reserve members in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**b) Active Military End-Strength**

- In FY 2016, there were 1,305,200 active members in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**c) Reserve Military End-Strength**

- In FY 2016, there were 811,000 ready reserve (reserve and guard) members in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**III. National Contributions to Regional Security:**

The United States remains committed to promoting peace, stability, and consensus in the region by contributing support and participating in a broad range of security activities. The United States specifically focuses on contributing to the following regional issues:

**i. Counterterrorism**

The United States is actively engaged in multilateral and regional efforts to strengthen regional partners and allies and to promote continued regional cooperation on counterterrorism measures. The human atrocities and extreme acts of violence committed by ISIL are not isolated to the Middle East. Recently, ISIL demonstrated to the world its ability to strike in Europe, including the horrific attacks in France and Belgium. It is critical that U.S. and coalition partners cooperate purposefully to counter ISIL and its extremist outgrowths. Southeast Asia is not immune to extremist influence either; therefore, the United States seeks to encourage and support strategic counterterrorism policies in the region. This approach places a premium on building the institutional capacities of states to promote the rule of law and eliminate the underlying factors that drive terrorism and instability.

The U.S. is deeply concerned about ISIL's continued influence in recruiting followers from Southeast Asia and the terrorist group's ability to inspire attacks in the region. We encourage ASEAN to increase information sharing on suspected terrorists, including strengthening reporting to INTERPOL. To help prevent the use of fraudulent passports, the U.S. is prepared to assist ASEAN member states to automate reporting reporting to INTERPOL of stolen and



**Table 3-2: MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**  
(End Strength)

	FY 2014	FY 2015			FY 2016		
		Base	OCO	Total	Base	OCO	Total
<b>Active Military Personnel*</b>							
Authorization Request	1,361,400	1,307,200	1,400	1,308,600	1,305,200		1,305,200
Enacted Authorization	1,361,400	1,309,280	1,400	1,310,680		To Be Determined	
Current Estimate							
Army	598,210	490,000		490,000	475,000		475,000
Navy	325,584	323,600		323,600	329,200		329,200
Marine Corps	188,058	182,700	1,400	184,100	184,000		184,000
Air Force	316,532	312,980		312,980	317,000		317,000
<b>Total Active Military</b>	<b>1,338,384</b>	<b>1,309,280</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,310,680</b>	<b>1,305,200</b>		<b>1,305,200</b>
<b>Selected Reserve Personnel</b>							
Authorization Request	833,700	820,800		820,800	811,000		811,000
Enacted Authorization	833,700	820,800		820,800		To Be Determined	
Current Estimate							
Army							
Army Reserve	195,438	198,000		198,000	198,000		198,000
Army National Guard	354,072	350,200		350,200	342,000		342,000
<b>Total Army</b>	<b>549,510</b>	<b>548,200</b>		<b>548,200</b>	<b>540,000</b>		<b>540,000</b>
Navy	59,254	57,300		57,300	57,400		57,400
Marine Corps	39,450	39,200		39,200	38,900		38,900
Air Force							
Air Force Reserve	69,784	67,100		67,100	69,200		69,200
Air National Guard	106,380	105,000		105,000	105,500		105,500
<b>Total Air Force</b>	<b>176,164</b>	<b>172,100</b>		<b>172,100</b>	<b>174,700</b>		<b>174,700</b>
<b>Total Selected Reserve</b>	<b>824,378</b>	<b>816,800</b>		<b>816,800</b>	<b>811,000</b>		<b>811,000</b>
<b>Total Current Estimate of Military Personnel Authorizations</b>	<b>2,162,562</b>	<b>2,126,080</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>2,127,480</b>	<b>2,116,200</b>		<b>2,116,200</b>

\* Does not include full-time Guard or Reserve end strength.  
 NOTE: This table reflects authorized end strength levels. This will vary from the FY 2016 Budget Request Overview book, which reflects projected end strength levels.

Further information can be found at:

[http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2016/FY16\\_Green\\_Book.pdf](http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2016/FY16_Green_Book.pdf)



lost travel documents as part of a program the U.S. President announced at the Special U.S.-ASEAN Summit in Sunnylands, California in February 2016.

The United States encourages states to implement the UN Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism, including developing national action plans to take a whole-of-society approach to combating this security threat. The U.S. also encourages ASEAN member states to participate in the next Detention and Reintegration Working Group Meeting in Manila in 2016. The United States works closely with regional partners at the United Nations and in regional fora such as the ARF, ADMM-Plus, Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), and APEC to strengthen counterterrorism capabilities. These include efforts to support regional implementation of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy and international instruments related to combatting terrorism. The United States also cooperates closely with many regional partners in the APEC Counterterrorism Task Force (CTTF), contributes to regional security through a number of capacity building projects to combat terrorist financing, strengthens aviation security, and protects the region's food supply from deliberate contamination.

The United States also serves with the Russian Federation as the Co-Chair of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). The GICNT is a voluntary partnership of 86 nations and four official observers, and its mission is to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism. To advance its mission, the GICNT has conducted 9 senior-level meetings and more than 70 multilateral activities, including

workshops and tabletop exercises, across the GICNT focus areas of nuclear detection, forensics, and response and mitigation. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the GICNT since being launched by the United States and Russia in 2006, the Netherlands will host a High Level Anniversary Meeting in The Hague in June 2016. Among other agenda items, the 10th Anniversary event will facilitate a forward-looking view and discussion by identifying nuclear security challenges over the next decade, and the necessary actions GICNT may take to address these challenges. Supported by the United States and Russia, this visionary lead is critically important in today's dynamic security environment.

The ARF Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Work Plan contributes to regional security through work in its priority areas – Illicit Drugs; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN); Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs); and Counter Radicalization. The United States is co-leading efforts to combat illicit drugs and CBRN, and we are an active contributor to the recently approved ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs developed by Australia, Malaysia and Russia. Last year, the United States and Singapore co-sponsored an ARF workshop on cyber confidence-building measures (CBMs), and we aspire to see the progress made at this workshop continue in the future. In the next year, the United States and Thailand will co-chair a concept development workshop on the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC). Additionally, the United States is proposing two CTTC-related workshops; one on the topic of CBRN risk mitigation and another on the topic of long-term support for victims of terrorism to be co-chaired with the Philippines.



The U.S. Department of State works closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support its mission in protecting the United States by promoting effective aviation and border security screening with our foreign partners through enhanced information sharing. For example, an important effort in our counterterrorism work is Homeland Security Presidential Directive Six (HSPD-6), a Presidential initiative following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Through HSPD-6, the State Department works with the Terrorist Screening Center to negotiate the exchange of identities of known or suspected terrorists with foreign partners to enhance our mutual border screening efforts. HSPD-6 arrangements establish institutionalized operational mechanisms for the reciprocal sharing of unclassified, biographic terrorist identities between the United States and its foreign partners. Such arrangements enhance U.S. and foreign partners' border security by helping interdict the travel of known and suspected terrorists while further strengthening our counterterrorism cooperation at a strategic policy level.

The Terrorist Screening Center implements these agreements with foreign partners. These agreements allow partners to namecheck incoming flights to their countries, which helps deter terrorist travel by creating an extra layer of security. HSPD-6 agreements or arrangements are a pre-requisite to participate in the Visa Waiver Program (WVP). To date, the United States has 43 such agreements in place. The U.S. Department of State also works closely with its partners at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to strengthen global aviation security by engaging foreign partners in bolstering aviation screening at last point of

departure (LPD) airports with direct flights to the United States to identify and prevent known or suspected terrorists from boarding commercial flights. The United States has also provided bilateral counterterrorism financing for capacity building assistance to several nations in the region, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. The United States continues to support the enabling of its partners and allies to secure the region effectively from potential terrorist threats.

## **ii. Non-proliferation, Counter-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

The United States seeks the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons and pursues this goal by relying on a shared commitment to all three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in ways that are safe, secure, and supportive of the nonproliferation regime. While the United States continues to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its national security strategy, as long as such weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal. This arsenal deters potential adversaries and assures U.S. treaty allies and other security partners that they can count on the extended deterrence commitments undertaken by the United States.

The NPT remains critical to our common security. Although the April 27-May 23, 2015 NPT Review Conference concluded without adopting a substantive final document, NPT Parties uniformly expressed strong support for the Treaty and its role Review Conference concluded without adopting a substantive final





document, NPT Parties uniformly expressed strong support for the Treaty and its role in international security. We sought consensus to ensure that IAEA safeguards remain effective and robust and to uphold the Treaty's integrity by addressing noncompliance. We also detailed our strong record on nuclear disarmament, our commitment to pursue further steps toward that goal, and our leading role in promoting peaceful nuclear energy. The five NPT nuclear-weapon states (P5) meet regularly to discuss nuclear policy, promote mutual confidence, and review their progress towards fulfilling the commitments made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and discuss issues related to the fulfillment of the NPT.

The United States supports the expansion of peaceful nuclear energy programs in conformity with the NPT and believes that nuclear energy (when pursued according to international standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation) can be a viable source of energy to states looking to meet increasing energy demands. We maintain, however, that such efforts must be conducted in a transparent manner and in full cooperation with the IAEA. The application of nuclear technologies via IAEA technical cooperation programs can also stimulate development in the areas of food security, hydrology, and human health. We believe that adopting the IAEA's Additional Protocol (AP) to a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement is an important step that states can take to strengthen IAEA safeguards and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. We welcomed Cambodia bringing its AP into force in 2015, and encourage further steps in the ASEAN region to help achieve universalization of the AP, as called for in the November 2013 Joint ASEAN-U.S. Leader's Statement. We call upon

all ARF participants to sign and ratify the AP, and we stand ready to help states build capacities to fully implement the AP. The ARF also can play an important role in helping states comprehend the AP and overcome any challenges to its implementation.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, as well as illicit spread of related materials threaten the security of the entire international community. One way that the United States has supported regional approaches to addressing this global challenge is by raising awareness of the requirements of UNSCR 1540 and by promoting its full implementation in the region. The United States has taken measures to meet all of its obligations under UNSCR 1540, measures it continues to improve as witnessed in its submissions to the 1540 Committee. The United States has also supported efforts in the ARF toward this end and has promoted greater cooperation between the ARF and the UN Security Council 1540 Committee. In that regard, the U.S. continues to work closely with the 1540 Committee in its second comprehensive review of UNSCR 1540 slated for completion in 2016. The United States encourages all ARF participants and the forum itself to contribute to the review. Lastly, the United States welcomed Myanmar's accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention in July 2015.

One international effort that helps states to meet the goals of UNSCR 1540 is the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which to date, 105 countries have endorsed. Many ARF participants have already endorsed the PSI, profiling their concrete commitment to regional peace and security.



In a statement delivered to the 2016 PSI Mid-Level Political Meeting (MLPM) hosted by the United States in Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama noted that “PSI remains at the heart of efforts to achieve broader non-proliferation goals, constantly innovating to overcome new challenges and leading the international community in stopping WMD-related trafficking.” Singapore will host the next event in the PSI Asia-Pacific Exercise Rotation (APER), Exercise Deep Sabre, in September 2016. This exercise plans to build on the momentum from the MLPM and lead up to the 2018 PSI High Level Political Meeting in France, marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PSI. The United States encourages all countries concerned with the threat WMD proliferation poses to international peace and security to endorse the PSI.

Lastly, the United States supports the agreement among ASEAN nations to establish a zone in the region free of nuclear weapons, the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty. The SEANWFZ Treaty reaffirms the desire of the ASEAN State Parties to maintain peace and stability in the region and builds upon the obligations the SEANWFZ Treaty Parties undertook as non-nuclear weapon States Parties in the NPT not to acquire nuclear weapons. Among other things, the SEANWFZ Treaty prohibits States Parties from allowing the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territories and the dumping of radioactive material in the zone, subjects that the NPT itself does not address. The United States and the other NPT nuclear weapons states welcome the Treaty efforts of SEANWFZ States Parties to work with the P5 to resolving outstanding issues with respect to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty, and remain prepared to sign the revised Protocol in the near future.

### **iii. Transnational Crime**

The United States augments the capabilities of regional actors and supports the region on a broad range of transnational crime issues. The United States conducts bilateral and regional programming to combat transnational crime under the auspices of international and nonprofit organizations. For example, these programs include training prosecutors and judges to manage terrorism and transnational crime cases, supporting the regional International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, Thailand, instructing maritime interdiction skills, and training special anti-human trafficking units. In addition, the United States has taken steps to protect the economic interaction in the region against cybercrime and intellectual property piracy, and to disrupt the financial activities of transnational criminals and facilitators.

Narcotics production and trafficking are also challenges for all ARF member nations. There are vast networks of highly organized drug trafficking organizations that span the region and threaten regional and U.S. national security through their production and trafficking of illegal narcotics and precursor chemicals. The U.S. government supports partner nation capabilities by funding demand reduction programs and interdiction-training programs to ensure those countries can fight international drug trafficking and related criminal activities. In August 2016, the United States will co-chair a concept development workshop with Thailand on an ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC) to explore the viability of establishing a center that could capitalize on existing regional mechanisms and centers to enhance regional mechanisms and centers to enhance information-sharing capability among ARF member countries. This event will primarily



focus on options to share information concerning drug-related transnational crime while developing a framework that could expand the capacity of ATTIC to address other areas of mutual interest.

Wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise that is a conservation concern and an acute security threat. The increasing involvement of organized crime in poaching and wildlife trafficking promotes corruption, threatens the peace and security of fragile regions, strengthens illicit trade routes, destabilizes economies and communities that depend on wildlife for their livelihoods and contributes to the spread of disease. The U.S. government is increasing law enforcement training and technical assistance globally to combat wildlife trafficking. Additionally, the U.S. is building law enforcement and criminal justice capacity and cooperation to thwart wildlife trafficking. In March 2015, the United States co-chaired an ARF workshop on combatting wildlife trafficking with Malaysia. This workshop convened policy makers and experts from the ASEAN region to discuss this threat, address ways to mitigate the demand for illegal trafficking of wildlife, and share best practices on prevention and investigation of wildlife trafficking. Furthermore, the United States was encouraged when in October 2015 the SOM-Transnational Crime and Foreign Ministers adopted wildlife and timber trafficking as a priority issue. The United States also appreciated Thailand's initiative in proposing wildlife and timber trafficking become a priority issue. The United States is very willing to collaborate with ASEAN to establish a working group and an associated work plan to define clear goals for this newfound priority area. This

working group would be able to coordinate actions against wildlife trafficking with multiple stakeholders, and work with UNDOCK to develop an action-oriented work plan aimed to combat this multi-billion dollar atrocity to nature.

Illegal, underreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a form of wildlife trafficking at the nexus of maritime security and particularly relevant to the security of the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to the direct food, economic, and environmental security impacts of IUU fishing on coastal communities and their nations' rule of law, IUU fishing is a potential trigger for conflict in the East and South China Seas. To further the fight against IUU fishing, the United States is working with international partners to advance Sea Scout, a global initiative launched in 2015 to strengthen efforts to detect, identify, interdict, and prosecute illegal fishing activity and the illicit networks that support it through enhanced cooperation and information-sharing. A model of this type of effort and component of Sea Scout is the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI), a partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, and local law enforcement agencies in Oceania. OMSI bolsters maritime domain awareness, increases law enforcement presence, and expands at-sea law enforcement capabilities by matching available Navy ships with Coast Guard law enforcement expertise and local enforcement authorities. Sea Scout mutually reinforces the related Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA), slated for enforcement in 2016, and both the U.S. Department of State's Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative and the Department of Defense's Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative (MSI).



The United States commends ASEAN for endorsing the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking-in-Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and urge all countries to ratify the Convention. We also encourage all countries to ratify the UN Palermo Protocol on trafficking-in-persons (TIP) and the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants. The United States will sponsor a seminar in August 2016 for officials from all ASEAN member states to discuss ACTIP and to explore the vulnerabilities to human trafficking among low-skilled labor migrants. The SOMTC working group on countering trafficking-in-persons endorsed this project earlier this year, and we look forward to working with the International Organization for Migration to ensure this is a worthwhile event. Furthermore, the United States supports a proposal to help ASEAN member states meet the victim protection components of the ACTIP work plan. The United States anticipates sponsoring a project to help ASEAN member states strengthen their victim protection mechanisms. President Obama unveiled this three-year initiative at the U.S.-ASEAN Special Summit at Sunnyslands, California in February 2016. Furthermore, the United States recently proposed a declaration on TIP and migrants for all 18 East Asia Summit (EAS) leaders to endorse in September 2016. The declaration would affirm the commitment of EAS members to assist ASEAN to fully implement ACTIP and encourage member states to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants.

The United States is encouraged that ARF Participants, in last May's "Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean" agreed on the need for strong regional coordination and increased efforts to provide protection to migrants and combat transnational smuggling

and trafficking networks. As evident by last May's crisis in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal when thousands of migrants were left in perilous situations at sea by unscrupulous smugglers and human traffickers. The U.S. commends those affected countries in the region for their leadership, and for the quick action they took to save lives and assist vulnerable migrants.

ARF Participants also took part in a Workshop on Security, Stability and International Migration in the ASEAN Region in March 2015, which discussed key challenges in managing regional migration, opportunities in promoting economic cooperation and cross border cooperation, protection of migrants in crisis and the role of international organizations and civil society organizations. Furthermore, many ARF members have committed to working on shared guidelines for migrants in countries in crisis. This initiative will generate voluntary guidelines that states, employers, NGOs, and international organizations can follow in situations where migrants are stranded because of armed conflict or a serious natural disaster.

The United States and the Philippines co-chair the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative, assisted by a working group of countries and stakeholders, including, among others, Australia, Bangladesh, and the European Commission. The MICIC Initiative undertook extensive consultations in 2015 and 2016 with a wide range of governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to generate voluntary guidelines that States and others can follow in situations where migrants become stranded because of conflict or a serious natural disaster. The MICIC guidelines to assist migrants in countries in crisis



will be shared at the UN General Assembly later this year.

The speed and efficiency of information and communication technologies (ICTs) are of great benefit to commerce and development, but reliance on ICTs by any nation brings vulnerabilities. This is of particular concern for national and regional security and economic prosperity – especially in Asia, where e-commerce is a significant and increasing portion of many developing countries' economic growth. In a disruptive national or international cyber incident, the lack of external observables of ICTs and the difficulty in determining the nation or entity responsible may lead states to act precipitously, with significant consequences for strategic ICT stability and international security. To reduce the risk of conflict stemming from lack of attribution, practical confidence building measures (CBMs) are needed to enhance the predictability of state activities and reduce national security risks. This can be achieved by fostering transparency, increasing cybersecurity cooperation, and developing capacity within and among states. These practical measures in the form of CBMs can help reduce the risk of conflict.

In the interest of increasing ARF's budding Preventive Diplomacy role and promoting regional cyber stability, the United States supports continued ARF dialogue on enhancing international ICT stability via the ARF Work Plan on Security of and on the Use of ICTs. We support the development and implementation of Cyber CBMs in the ARF and continued ARF discussion on preventive diplomacy's role in cyberspace. The United States will be cooperating with other ARF Participants on the development of relevant cyber workshops and projects in 2017 to support the ARF work plan.

#### **iv. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

ARF Dialogue Partners experience a variety of natural disasters, such as typhoons, floods, and earthquakes, as well as manmade crises, including civil conflict, which often result in significant financial and human costs. In response to these events, the United States continues to provide humanitarian assistance to populations in the region, while simultaneously working to reduce communities' vulnerability to disasters in the most at risk areas. In FY 2015, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) responded to seven disasters in five ARF countries, including complex emergencies in two ARF countries, Myanmar and Pakistan, and worked with agencies from across the U.S. government to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable populations.

Of the total responses to disasters in ARF countries, USAID/OFDA responded to four disasters in two ASEAN member states—Myanmar and the Philippines—providing more than \$20 million in humanitarian assistance, in addition to substantial disaster risk reduction programming throughout ASEAN member states. U.S. disaster assistance aims to meet the immediate needs of affected populations, as well as help families recover from the effects of natural disasters.

In Pakistan, USAID/Food For Peace (USAID/FFP) provided \$57 million to World Food Programme (WFP) for food assistance activities in Pakistan. Out of this total, WFP used \$13.5 million to support the local and regional procurement and distribution of food and \$43.5 million for 'twinning'—the milling, fortifying, and distribution





of GoP-provided wheat. WFP assisted over 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees in northwestern Pakistan, including highly sensitive and volatile areas along the Afghanistan–Pakistan border. The U.S. Department of State provided more than \$22 million to support health and protection programs for conflict-affected Pakistanis. USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$14 million in FY 2015 for emergency relief in Pakistan, a participant in ARF since 2004. Furthermore, USAID/OFDA provided \$5.7 million of funding for Responding to Pakistan’s Internally Displaced (RAPID)—a response fund used countrywide to respond to disaster and conflict-related displacement. USAID/OFDA supported livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to drought and flood-affected people. USAID/OFDA also provided logistics, shelter, and WASH assistance to IDPs and refugee returnee populations.

In Myanmar, USAID/FFP supports WFP to distribute locally and regionally purchased food to approximately one quarter of the more than 200,000 conflict-displaced persons and other vulnerable communities in Rakhine, Kachin, and Northern Shan States. USAID/FFP’s support through WFP includes targeted distribution of fortified blended foods to children under five and pregnant and lactating women. The Food Security Sector intends to provide food or cash assistance to 306,000 people in 2015, including 97,000 IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan and 209,000 conflict-affected people in Rakhine. In 2015 and 2016, USAID/FFP contributed \$18 million to WFP to support food assistance activities benefiting IDPs and vulnerable communities – including those affected by the August 2015 floods in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan.

Since 2013, USAID/OFDA had provided technical support to the Government of Myanmar’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to improve center operations disaster response coordination and assist the Government of Myanmar’s leadership with implementing a national disaster management system, which officially began operations in 2015. As a result, Myanmar’s EOC has improved the quality and speed of disaster response in the country. When flooding and landslides struck Myanmar in July 2015, EOC staff implemented its newly developed disaster management system for the first time. The EOC enabled 24-hour emergency assistance, facilitated greater inter-governmental coordination than in any previous disaster, produced comprehensive and transparent situation reports, and expedited travel authorizations that afforded relief actors unprecedented humanitarian access. Additionally, the EOC pioneered the coordination of Myanmar government activities with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance (ASEAN AHA Centre), the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and UN agencies.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of future disasters on vulnerable populations, the United States also supports various disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs aimed at saving lives; protecting livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure before, during, and after a disaster; and increasing community resilience to natural hazards. The United States supports a number of regional and country-specific DRR programs. The U.S. Department of State and USAID/OFDA collaborate on the support the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the ASEAN AHA Centre by adding functionalities to



the disaster monitoring and response system. Through the early warning system, ASEAN member states share information and support decision-making processes on policymaking, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities. Instruction on the implementation of the incident command system by the United States Forest Service strengthens the decision-making capabilities of partner countries. Supported by USAID Regional Advisors in the Regional Development Mission for Asia, located in Bangkok, Thailand, this training focuses on building regional capacity through train-the-trainer courses that will continue through 2016. In 2016, regional DRR support will continue to help develop ASEAN-wide training standards and curriculum for disaster management training and convene a working group for disaster management training.

The United States sponsors and/or participates in numerous HA/DR-related exercises with regional partners every year, including the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise, EAS HADR Exercise, the ADMM-Plus HADR and Military Medicine Exercise (AHMX), exercise Cobra Gold with Thailand, exercise Balikatan with the Philippines, Gema Bhakti with Indonesia, and Angkor Opening with Cambodia. In addition, the United States sponsored Disaster Relief Exercise and Exchanges (DREEs) such as the Lower Mekong Initiative, which works to enhance multi-lateral coordination, communication, and cooperation among the United States, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam to ensure flood response readiness in the Lower Mekong region.

The Pacific Partnership and Pacific Angel missions enhance regional disaster

preparedness capabilities. Pacific Partnership and Pacific Angel strengthen relationships between civilian and military specialists from countries in the region to cooperate on medical and engineering projects and practice disaster response procedures. The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force respectively recognize the effectiveness of establishing relationships and training before disasters. In 2015, the U.S. Hospital Ship Mercy conducting the Pacific Partnership mission visited Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Vietnam. Pacific Angel missions were conducted in Taglibaran, Philippines; Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam; and Goroko, Papua New Guinea providing humanitarian assistance; medical, optometry, and veterinary care; as well as engineering programs and other exchanges. Pacific Partnership and Pacific Angel missions also improve the ability of providers and subject matter experts from the United States working side-by-side with counterparts from other countries to prepare for and better respond to disasters, such as pandemic illness, typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis. In 2015, Pacific Partnership supporting partners included Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Canada, Timor-Leste, Fiji, and France. Non-governmental organizations participating in Pacific Partnership include Project Hope, Operation Smile, Latter Day Saints Charities, University of California San Diego, University of Hawaii, Project Handclasp, and World Vets. Pacific Angel missions involve military personnel from New Zealand, Australia, France, the Philippines, Indonesia and Tonga. These two humanitarian missions underscore the United States' efforts in the Pacific region to provide assistance and enhance disaster relief capacity.



Lastly, the United States is the permanent Secretariat of the Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS). PASOLS provides a congress for senior logisticians to exchange and discuss best practices and lessons learned, review regional issues and initiatives, and exchange information that strengthen cooperation throughout the region. The majority of ARF participants attend the annual PASOLS Seminar. Heads and representatives of military logistics organizations from 28 countries took part in the 2015 PASOLS conference, including Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United States. PASOLS aims to promote open dialogue for military logistics chiefs in the Asia-Pacific region to further build Supply Chain networks and enhance cooperation towards a more consolidated response to common security challenges, particularly peacekeeping missions. PASOLS' regional presence and logistics focus is an ideal platform for ARF Participants to continue dialogue and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration of disaster response efforts.

#### **v. Maritime Security**

The Asia-Pacific region and its maritime waterways are critical to U.S. security. Together with our interagency colleagues and regional allies and partners, the United States strives to ensure that maritime Asia remains open, free, and secure in the decades ahead. To protect free and open access to maritime Asia, the United States focuses on three objectives: safeguarding the freedom of the seas, deterring conflict and coercion, and promoting adherence to international law and standards.

The United States has, throughout its history, advocated for the freedom of the seas and sky. We believe that freedom of the seas includes more than the mere freedom of commercial vessels to transit through international waterways. It also includes all of the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea and airspace for military ships and aircraft. The United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, as U.S. forces currently do all around the world.

For 70 years, U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region has played a vital role in undergirding regional peace, stability, and security. We note several trends, including rapid military modernization, growing resource demands, and territorial and maritime disputes, which have the potential to create instability in this region. Many countries across the region are significantly enhancing their naval and maritime law enforcement (MLE) capabilities. Although most nations are using these capabilities in a responsible manner, recent provocative actions have heightened tensions in the region and raised concerns. Actions such as the use of MLE vessels to coerce rival claimants, and unsafe air and maritime behavior raise the risk of miscalculation or conflict.

The tensions arising from maritime and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific are deeply concerning to the United States. Both the East China Sea and South China Sea are vital thoroughfares for global commerce and energy. Well over half the world's merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea, and over 15 million million barrels of oil per day transited the Strait of Malacca last year, with most of it continuing onward through the East China Sea to three of to three of the world's largest





economies – Japan, the Republic of Korea, and China. A miscalculation of an intended action or incident could touch off an escalatory cycle. Escalatory actions, such as the landing of military and civilian aircraft at a disputed claim, greatly increase the possibility of these miscalculations and further destabilize the region. Additionally, confrontations between fishermen and even law enforcement patrols are not unusual in these waters. Through all of this, it is important to lower tensions, turn down the rhetoric, and exercise caution and restraint in these sensitive areas. In the South China Sea, we encourage ASEAN and China to develop a comprehensive and effective Code of Conduct and press for further clarification of claims in a manner consistent with international law. In the East China Sea, we remain concerned about the degradation in China-Japan maritime security relations. We support calls for diplomacy and crisis management procedures in order to avoid a miscalculation or a dangerous incident.

Multilateral cooperation remains an important tool for ensuring stability and peace in the region. The 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC) provided a framework for reducing tensions in the region. However, engagement through that process has been inconsistent, and friction over disputed claims to South China Sea territory and maritime space has further increased in the last year. Although the United States takes no position on sovereignty over disputed land features, we have a stake in ensuring that claims are resolved peacefully and without conflict or coercion. To that end, we urge claimant countries to conform all of their

claims – land and maritime – to international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The United States supports the DoC and its collaborative diplomatic process by all claimants to resolve and peacefully manage their disputes. The United States encourages all parties to employ diplomatic and other peaceful avenues for resolving disagreements, including the use of arbitration, negotiation, multilateral fora, or other international mechanisms. We further believe the ARF can help put in-place supportive diplomatic structures that lower tensions and help claimant States manage these disputes peacefully. This forum needs to play an increasingly important role in reinforcing international law and practice building practical cooperation among member states.

The U.S. is not standing still in light of the challenges we face in the maritime domain. There should be no doubt that the United States will maintain the necessary military presence and capabilities to protect our interests and those of our allies and partners against potential threats in the maritime domain.

The U.S. Navy is pursuing a comprehensive strategy focused on four lines of effort:

1. Strengthen U.S. Naval capacity to ensure the United States can successfully deter conflict and coercion and respond decisively when needed.
  - The U.S. Navy is investing in new cutting-edge capabilities, deploying our finest maritime capabilities forward, and distributing these capabilities more widely across the region.



- The U.S. Navy will increase the size of Pacific Fleet's overseas assigned forces by approximately 30 percent over the next five years to maintain a higher tempo of routine and persistent maritime presence activities across the Pacific region.
2. Work together with our allies and partners from Northeast Asia to the Indian Ocean to build their maritime capacity.
- The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard are building greater interoperability and developing more integrated operations with our allies and partners.
  - The U.S. naval forces are increasing the size, frequency, and sophistication of their regional exercise program, with a particular focus on developing new exercises with Southeast Asian partners and expanding its multilateral exercise program.
  - The U.S. Navy is also implementing a new Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative that U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2015. The initiative will increase training and exercises, personnel support, and maritime domain awareness capabilities for our partners in Southeast Asia.
3. Leverage defense diplomacy to build greater transparency, reduce the risk of miscalculation or conflict, and promote shared maritime rules of the road.
- The U.S. Navy is actively seeking to mitigate risk in maritime Asia, both through bilateral efforts with China, as well as region-wide risk reduction measures.
  - Recently, the U.S. Navy and China's Ministry of National Defense concluded an historic Memorandum of Understanding on Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters. This MOU currently includes annexes on ship-to-ship and air-to-air encounters.
  - U.S. Navy and PLA Navy vessels have also successfully employed the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) during recent interactions, which reduce risk in the region and demonstrate cooperativeness on the seas.
4. Strengthen regional security institutions and encourage the development of an open and effective regional security architecture.
- The U.S. is enhancing its engagement in ASEAN-based institutions such as the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The U.S. promotes candid conversations about ongoing challenges in the maritime domain, and encourages greater information sharing and cooperative solutions.
- In addition to U.S. Navy and Coast Guard lines of efforts on the seas, the United States regularly conducts maritime exercises with regional partners to build confidence and to enhance regional maritime readiness. Cooperative activities such as the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) and the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise foster bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region. In August 2015, the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee participated in the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI) with the U.S. Coast Guard's 14<sup>th</sup> District in the western Pacific Ocean. OMSI is a



joint maritime security operation designed to enhance maritime domain awareness, increase law enforcement presence, and expand at-sea law enforcement capabilities throughout Oceania. During the exercise, sailors had the privilege of working side by side with an elite Coast Guard Law Enforcement team. The team provided invaluable training to Chafee's Visual Board Search and Seizure team to include tactical team movements, tactical combat casualty care, and safe boarding techniques. These are just a few of several engagements aimed to develop cooperation, promote common seafaring practices, and enhance mutual trust.

Additionally, the United States participated in its first Governors' Council meeting with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) since becoming the organization's 20th contracting party (member). The United States is also working with regional partners to improve the safety and well-being of mariners through the Expanded ASEAN Seafarers Training on Counter-Piracy (EAST-CP) program. EAST-CP is a successor to a bilateral initiative between the United States and the Philippines to promote cooperation in the areas of training and education of seafarers, including issues related to post-captivity. The United States is enhancing the capacity of the coast guards, navies, and law enforcement and judicial sectors of partner nations to address not only piracy, but also the broad scope of illicit maritime activity ranging from illegal fishing to the trafficking of arms, narcotics, and people. Training and technical expertise is delivered through a variety of cooperative training programs supported by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Justice, and State, NOAA, the U.S.

Coast Guard, and USAID. The workshops incorporate the knowledge of technical experts in the maritime transport sector and regional survivors of piracy to address issues ranging from preparedness and survival, ransom negotiations, to post trauma care upon returning home. Along with piracy, the United States looks forward to supporting other seafarer training topics, such as environmental protection, which is under review by other countries in the EAST-CP program.

#### **IV. Role of the ARF**

##### **a) National Contributions to Enhancing the ARF and Regional Security**

The United States remains committed to building institutional capacity in the ARF and strengthening its role in the regional security architecture. Besides the many projects mentioned above, the United States seeks to increase the ARF's capacity to serve as a Preventive Diplomacy mechanism and action-oriented forum aimed to promote peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Demonstrating U.S. commitment to ASEAN and to the ARF, the United States established a U.S. Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta in 2011, and was the first ASEAN Dialogue Partner to create a dedicated mission to better assist and support this important security platform. The elevation of the U.S.-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership in 2015 and the Special U.S.-ASEAN Leaders Summit in California in 2016 further demonstrate the strong U.S. pledge to advancing engagement with ASEAN and the ARF. The United States will also continue to work with ASEAN to strengthen and build capacity in the ARF Unit – a critical element



of process sustainment and administrative protocol. A reinforced ARF Unit will benefit ASEAN members and all ARF dialogue partners as the engine of a credible and results-oriented organization.

## **b) Future of the ARF**

The ARF serves as a useful and increasingly capable venue for broad, multilateral cooperation, and dialogue on a number of security issues. The ARF's inclusiveness, maturing commitments, and growing experience position it to achieve success on a targeted agenda that addresses common issues of interest for all ARF participants. Since the ARF's inception in 1994, the confidence building measures that have characterized ARF engagement have facilitated greater trust and confidence among its participants. However, the ARF has had time to mature and its participants should take deliberate steps toward shaping the ARF into an institution that faces important security challenges head-on, with the capability to conduct Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution. Furthermore, the escalation in coercion and the use of force by ARF participant governments highlight the urgent need for the ARF to go beyond just providing confidence building measures. In this regard, the United States supports efforts to develop the ARF's Preventive Diplomacy capability together with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), which would move the ARF one-step closer toward its ultimate goal of becoming a regional Conflict Resolution body.

As stated in the opening paragraph, ASEAN centrality and leadership are critical to the future of the ARF. As ASEAN achieves greater integration, it will play an even more influential role in solving regional and global political-security issues. Although ASEAN already demonstrates leadership on many issues, such as pandemic disease, climate change, IUU fishing, foreign terrorist fighters, and peacekeeping operations, it will need to continue to shape the ARF into a robust institution capable of addressing many of the pressing security needs in the region.

It is important to highlight the context of the ARF as one element of a broader regional security architecture that includes the EAS, ADMM-Plus, and EAMF. The United States is committed to continuing its engagement to help shape a robust and coherent architecture in the Asia-Pacific region – including a central role for the ARF in promoting stability and prosperity – through a transparent and inclusive process. Developing rules-based frameworks for dialogue and cooperation will help maintain stability and economic growth while resolving disputes through diplomacy are especially important in a region facing territorial and maritime disputes, political transformation, political and civil unrest, the challenges of climate change, and natural disasters. The United States is committed to building on its active and enduring presence in the Asia-Pacific region and working with its partners to support the ARF as an effective mechanism for confronting transnational security issues troubling the region today.



## VIETNAM



### I. Overview of the Regional Security Environment

Although peace, cooperation and development remain the major trends, Asia - Pacific is now facing increasingly complicated risks and challenges that no single country would be able to handle on its own. Remarkable manifestations of these include: (i) the growing competition among major powers in the region; (ii) the tendency of escalated tensions and the risk of military conflicts stemming from unilateral actions that are incompliant with international law and norms as well as regional commitments and posing a threat to the legitimate interests of the concerned nations; (iii) the growing threats of terrorism and other non-traditional security challenges such as transnational crimes, piracy, and the increasingly unpredictable and complicated natural disasters.

The recent developments in the South China Sea have raised deep concerns. The acts of reconstructing and building-up to change the status quo in some islands and features in the Sprattlys, reinforcing claims, and increasing militarization, patrols, control, and military exercises at sea to show off military power and threaten other countries have undermined trust and confidence and threatened regional peace, stability, and maritime and airspace security and safety.

### II. National Security and Defense Policy of Viet Nam

a) National Security and Defense Policy of Viet Nam

Viet Nam attaches great importance to the maintenance of a peaceful and stable environment for socio-economic development. Viet Nam's defense policy is consistent with its national foreign policy of "independence, self-reliance, multilateralization and diversification; being a friend and credible partner of all nations as well as a responsible member in the international community". With a national defense policy of peace and self-defense, Viet Nam never allies with any country against others.

Viet Nam advocates the gradual modernization of the Viet Nam People's Army (VPA) in commensurate with its economic development, enhancement of its national defense capability and maintenance of its military power, which would sufficiently serves its self-defense purpose. Viet Nam opposes any arms race in the region and all over the world.

b) Defense expenditure and background information

- **Defense expenditure:** Viet Nam has allocated a necessary portion of the State budget for defense requirements in general and for equipment and armory demands in particular. At present, the annual defense expenditure is about 1.3 billion USD, accounting for approximately 2.1 percent of its GDP.

- **Personnel of the VPA:** the total active military manpower of the VPA is about 450,000, including Regular Force, Local Force and Militia Force. Viet Nam is in the process of streamlining these Forces to meet practical requirements and national demands.





### **III. Contributions of Viet Nam to Regional Security**

Pursuant to the foreign policy of “independence, self-reliance, multilateralization and diversification; being a friend and credible partner of all nations as well as a responsible member in the international community”, the VPA has always been proactively and responsibly taking part in international and regional cooperation to address common security challenges.

Within the frameworks of ASEAN-led mechanisms, Viet Nam has contributed to strengthening ASEAN unity and solidarity and enhancing its centrality; and has fully observed and complied with regional agreements and commitments, especially those made within the ADMM, ADMM Plus and ARF frameworks. Viet Nam welcomes initiatives that would contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of the region. For practical security cooperation, Viet Nam has taken part in all regional activities. Among others, Viet Nam has contributed forces and assets to two recent ADMM Plus Field Training Exercises (FTXs), namely the Humanitarian Mine Action and Peacekeeping Operations FTX in India in March 2016 and the Maritime Security and Counter-terrorism FTX in Singapore and Brunei in May 2016, and has sent a hospital ship to the 2016 Multilateral Naval Exercise (KOMODO-2016) in Indonesia.

Up to now, there have been 10 staff officers of VPA joining in the UN Peacekeeping Forces in several countries in Africa. In addition, Viet Nam has been actively preparing its military medicine unit for a level-two field hospital and an engineering company to be deployed at the UN’s request. Viet Nam is also an active member of many other multilateral frameworks such as the International Committee on Military Medicine (ICMM) and the International Military Sports Council (CISM)/.





