

Concept Paper

ARF Workshop on Peacekeeping Operations: Cooperation in capacity building and developing partnership with the UN

I. Background:

Since its inception in 1993, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has been a primary forum for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific region. Through promoting confidence building, preventive diplomacy and practical cooperation to address emerging security threats, the ARF has actively contributed to maintaining regional peace and security. Among others, cooperation in the field of Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) has always been one of the important priorities of the ARF, as reflected in the Hanoi Plan of Action (2010).

Over the years, ARF participating countries have increasingly participated in UN PKOs and other PKOs around the world. Together, we have contributed significantly to UN PKOs, accounting for 80% of the budget and 36% of the troops. ARF participating countries' efforts have helped brought peace and security, contributed to resolutions of intra and inter-national conflicts, protected civilians who are victims of war/conflicts, and launched post-war reconstruction efforts.

Experience and contribution to UN PKOs of ARF participating countries are diverse. Many countries have a long history and are always among the top contributors while others have just begun to engage in UN PKOs. Thus, there exist opportunities for ARF participating countries to learn from one another in PKOs.

Meanwhile, violent conflicts continue to proliferate, posing challenges to current peace-keeping operation capacity in terms of number, complexity and intensity. As many UN reports have found, there is a greater need for PKOs to be undertaken with a holistic approach. Though conflict management is still vital, it is no longer impactful enough. Therefore, it is also important to expand the role of conflict prevention and mediation capacities of PKOs.

II. Objectives:

In this context, Viet Nam proposes to host and co-chair an ARF Workshop on Peacekeeping Operation: Cooperation in capacity building and developing partnership with the UN. The key objectives of the event are as follows:

- Sharing the evaluation of performance, best practices and experiences of ARF participating countries in UN PKOs over the past years;

- Improving understanding of the UN Charter and humanitarian laws in the course of UN Peacekeeping Missions, such as relevant Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), Rules of Engagements (ROE) and regulations;
- Sharing pre-deployment training best practices, including building “soft skills” capacity required in the current PKOs environment such as analysis and mediation skills;
- Exploring future capacity building cooperation among ARF participating countries such as information and experience sharing, cooperation in training, exchange of experts, and technical assistance; and
- Promoting cooperation and coordination with relevant United Nations agencies to effectively improve peacekeeping operation capability.

III. Co-chairs:

Viet Nam will host the event and invite other ARF participating countries to co-chair the Workshop.

IV. Participants:

Representatives of ARF participating countries; experts from partner countries, UN and other international organizations.

V. Time and venue:

The Workshop is expected to take place for 2 days in November 2017 in Ha Noi./.