



**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY**

Ottawa, Canada, 11-12 May 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Ma. Hellen De La Vega, Director General and Acting SOM Leader of the Philippines, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Ms. Heidi Hulan, Director General, International Security Policy Bureau, Global Affairs Canada.
2. All ARF participants except Bangladesh, DPRK, Mongolia, PNG, and Sri Lanka were present. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of participants appears in **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOMING REMARKS

3. Mr. Mark Gwozdecky, Assistant Deputy Minister, International Security and Political Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, delivered the welcoming remarks and reiterated that Canada remains committed to contribute towards the development of the ARF. Noting the complexity of current security challenges, he noted that the ARF continues to be an important platform for confidence building among its diverse members and has contributed to the peace and security in the region. He further looked forward to the constructive dialogue which would further strengthen cooperation in the ARF.

AGENDA ITEM 2: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

4. Ms. Heidi Hulan welcomed all participants and noted that the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD provide a platform for consolidation and coordination of activities, which are crucial for the development of the ARF in the wider regional security architecture.

She further expressed hope that the Meeting would provide an opportunity to strengthen confidence building and looked forward to fruitful discussions.

5. In her opening remarks, H.E. Ma. Hellen De La Vega, reiterated that the ARF plays a critical role in facilitating constructive dialogue to address pressing international security and political issues. Further, she highlighted that the region continues to face numerous transnational threats and against this backdrop, there is a need to strengthen cooperation and collective efforts in ensuring that the ARF process continue to move forward from Confidence Building Measures towards the development of Preventive Diplomacy mechanisms and ultimately the elaboration of approaches to Conflict Resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. The Meeting adopted the agenda which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

7. The Meeting noted the Administrative Arrangements which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 28TH, 29TH, AND 30TH ASEAN SUMMITS, THE 23RD ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM AND OTHER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

a. 28th, 29th and 30th ASEAN Summits

8. The Meeting noted the briefing by Lao PDR on the outcomes of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits which were convened back-to-back in September 2016. The Meeting took note of the adoption of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 as part of the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The Meeting also took note of the signing of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, which reiterated ASEAN's commitment in responding to disasters in and out of the region.

9. The Philippines briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 30th ASEAN Summit convened in April 2017 under the theme "Partnering for Change and Engaging the

World". At this Summit, the Leaders signed the Declaration on the Role of the Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and adopted the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Vision 2025. Further, to enhance maritime connectivity in ASEAN, the Davao–General Santos and Bitung ASEAN Roll-on Roll-off (RORO) Sea Linkage Route was launched on 30 April 2017 by the President of the Philippines and the President of Indonesia. In addition, Leaders also tasked the ASEAN Labour Ministers to finalise the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, which will be signed at the 31st ASEAN Summit in November 2017. The Leaders also looked forward to the completion of a framework of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) by middle of this year and to expedite ASEAN's economic integration agenda including the conclusion of the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). With regard to the threat of transnational crimes, Leaders called for strengthened cooperation to address issues relating to piracy, illicit drugs, cyber security, among others. On countering violent extremism, the Leaders were of the view that ASEAN need to work harder to counter terrorist narratives and that prevention of violent extremism may be carried out through interfaith dialogues and strengthening engagement with the youth.

10. The Chairman's Statements of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and the Chairman's Statement of the 30th ASEAN Summit appear as **ANNEX 4** and **ANNEX 5**, respectively.

b. 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum

11. Lao PDR briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 23rd ARF held on 26 July 2016, including the adoption of three ARF Statements, namely the ARF Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in the Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals, ARF Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies and the ARF Ministerial Statement on Recent Tragic Terrorist Attacks. It was also noted that the proposed ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing will be further revisited at a later stage. Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the 22 Track I Activities implemented in the inter-sessional year 2015-2016 and adopted 23 activities under the List of Track I Activities for the inter-sessional year 2016-2017. With regard to the proposed establishment of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ISM on ICTs Security), Ministers tasked the ARF officials to continue consultations on this matter. In addition, Ministers also endorsed the recommendation on the continuation of convening one ARF ISG on CBMs and PD per inter-sessional year. The Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ARF appears as **ANNEX 6**.

c. 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD)

12. Singapore briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the 5th AMMD held in October 2016 including on the launch of the green-and-white ribbon as a symbol against drug abuse. The 5th AMMD also adopted the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 together with the tag-line “Securing ASEAN Communities Against Illicit Drugs”. Further to this, Member States also pledged to remain resilient and committed to protect people and communities from the dangers of illicit drugs and agreed to maintain ASEAN centrality and solidarity through participation at international meetings such as the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The 6th AMMD will be hosted by Vietnam in 2018.

d. 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)

13. The Meeting took note of Indonesia’s briefing on the outcomes of the 4th AMMDM and the notable achievements including the signing of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region. Further, the host country agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) was also signed in 2016. In addition, the AMMDM adopted the Concept Note on Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN, the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) Chapter VI, the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), the ASEAN Joint Statement for the World Humanitarian Summit and the Joint Statement of the AMMDM for the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

AGENDA ITEM 6: BRIEFING ON THE ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

14. The Meeting took note of ASEAN Secretariat’s briefing on implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint (APSC) 2025 whereby 218 out of 290 action lines have been addressed. The Meeting further noted that challenges to the full and effective implementation of the Blueprint 2025 include ensuring coordination amongst the various sectoral bodies and ways to increase people’s awareness and participation in ASEAN’s integration and community-building efforts.

15. ASEAN remains committed to maintaining a region free of nuclear weapons

and other weapons of mass destruction and the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission continues its efforts to ensure effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty and resolve issues related to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol of the Treaty by the Nuclear Weapon States. The Meeting also noted the positive progress in the development of a COC framework with intensive consultations among ASEAN Member States and China.

16. On transnational crimes, the Meeting noted that the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) will be convened annually from this year and that the new ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime will be adopted at the next AMMTC in 2017. The Meeting further noted the recent entry into force of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in the six Member States that have ratified it (Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar and the Philippines), the establishment of a Trust Fund to assist victims of trafficking and irregular migration, the adoption of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs, the plan to develop an ASEAN Position Statement on zero-tolerance policy against drugs in 2019 as well as the development of Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States and an ASEAN common visa.

17. The Meeting was further briefed on the latest development in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) including the scheduled launching of Phase 1 of the ADMM Direct Communications Link, the establishment of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine, the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR, and the finalisation of the Standard Operating Procedure for the Multinational Coordination Centre. Under the ambit of the ADMM-Plus, the Meeting noted that cyber security has been included as a priority area of cooperation and that four field exercises in the areas of maritime security, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counterterrorism have been conducted in 2016. Further, it was noted that the ARF remains a key regional security mechanism to promote confidence-building and preventive diplomacy and implementation of its priority areas' work plans and efforts to streamline its work processes is ongoing.

18. The Meeting further noted Cambodia's briefing on the development of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC). Cambodia informed the Meeting that two Steering Committee Meetings have been held and an ad-interim Executive Director has been appointed to undertake the day-to-day operations of the Centre. Further, Cambodia has committed to provide funding support for the first two years of the centre's operation and invited other ARF participating countries to support the full operationalisation of the ARMAC.

AGENDA ITEM 7: FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE ARF

a. Implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision 2020

19. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the update of the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (POA) to Implement the ARF Vision 2020. It was noted that the overall implementation rate of the POA now stands at 58.1%, with forty-three action lines implemented while thirty-one action lines are still pending. The Meeting further noted that all action lines related to disaster relief, preventive diplomacy and the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) have been implemented and that on average, 15 activities to implement the POA are held annually. The Matrix of Status of Implementation of the POA appears as **ANNEX 7**.

b. Proposed ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies

20. The Meeting noted Japan's briefing on the proposal to establish the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security). The Meeting recognized challenges to cyber security as an issue that transcended transnational crimes and would need to be addressed through joint efforts. The Meeting further took note of the support for Singapore's interest in Co-Chairing the ISM with Malaysia and Japan upon its establishment.

21. Further, some ARF members were of the view that the proposed ISM on ICTs Security and its subsequent activities should be in line with the ARF Work Plan on the Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies. It was recommended that as the ARF moved ahead with its efforts to tackle cyber security issues, care should be given to ensure complementarity among these efforts. Recognising the merit of the proposal, the Chair urged the concerned Parties to continue with their consultations on the proposal with a view to finding a way forward for potential Ministerial endorsement this year at the 24th ARF in August.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OUTCOMES OF ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS AND OTHER MEETINGS

a. 16th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR), Bangkok,

3 April 2017

22. The Meeting took note of the briefing on the outcomes of the 16th ARF ISM on DR, co-chaired by Thailand and ROK, which emphasised the need for an assessment for better coordination in HADR and building synergies between international and regional frameworks. In addition, it was noted that future ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (DiREx) could focus on testing civil-military cooperation and coordination aspects of the SASOP and that there should be an alignment between the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2016-2020 as well as the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 16th ARF ISM on DR appears as **ANNEX 8**.

b. 15th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), Semarang, 6-7 April 2017

23. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the 15th ARF ISM on CTTC co-chaired by Indonesia and India, including the need to work together in order to address the changing nature of terrorism and violent extremism such as the issue of returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), terrorist financing and the use of internet and social media as tools of propaganda and recruitment. Recognising the nexus between maritime activities and crimes at sea, stronger coordination between the ARF ISM on CTTC and ARF ISM on MS is needed. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 15th ARF ISM on CTTC appears as **ANNEX 9**.

c. 9th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS), Tokyo, 8-9 February 2017

24. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 9th ARF ISM on MS co-chaired by Philippines, Japan and the United States. It was highlighted that in addressing challenges in the maritime domain, there is a need to enhance regional and international cooperation, ensure that cooperation is based on regional ownership (RUS) and responsibility, ensuring compliance with international law including UNCLOS, and to enhance cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 9th ARF ISM on MS appears as **ANNEX 10**.

d. 9th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD), Auckland, 8-9 March 2017

25. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the 9th ARF ISM on NPD which was co-chaired by Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand. The 9th ARF ISM on NPD focused

on issues such as recent developments in non-proliferation and disarmament, prospects for the new NPT review cycle and UNGA nuclear prohibition negotiations, outcomes of the Study Group on WMD Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Asia Pacific, nuclear, chemical and biological WMD Non-Proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear technology, and international mechanisms to prevent and counter WMD proliferation. The ISM on NPD noted the recommendation of CSCAP to continue including the issue of chemical and biological weapons in future agendas of the ARF ISM on NPD and exchange views on ways to move forward with cooperation on this issue. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 9th ARF ISM on NPD appears as **ANNEX 11**.

e. 11th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting, Canberra, 28 February-1 March 2017

26. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 11th ARF EEPs co-chaired by Vietnam and Australia including the three key recommendations of the EEPs including to consider the findings of the EEPs Working Group on Preventing and Managing Maritime Incidents, to establish an on-line EEPs working group to examine possible cyber confidence building measures, and to adopt the proposed voluntary ARF Directory of Cyber Points of Contact to facilitate communication among regional cyber officials. The Meeting noted that the next EEPs Meeting will be co-chaired by Vietnam and Japan and is scheduled to be held in February 2018 in Vietnam. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 11th ARF EEPs appears as **ANNEX 12**.

AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATES ON THE PREPARATION FOR ARF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL YEAR 2016-2017

a. ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments

27. Philippines briefed the Meeting that the Workshop will be co-chaired with India and is scheduled to be held on 11-12 July 2017 tentatively in Bacolod. The invitation package will be conveyed in due course.

b. ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy and Early Warning Systems

28. The Meeting noted that Myanmar, the EU and the US will co-chair the Seminar which is scheduled to be held in Yangon on 19-21 June 2017. The Seminar will focus on early warning systems as concrete measures to enhance the PD process. The invitation package will be circulated in due course.

c. ARF Training Programme on Disaster Loss Assessment and Reconstruction

29. The Meeting took note that the Training Programme, scheduled to be held in July 2017, will focus on capacity building on disaster loss assessment and reconstruction and will be co-chaired by Lao PDR and China.

d. ARF Workshop on National Earthquake Disaster Response and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Capacity Building

30. China informed the Meeting that the Workshop will be held in July 2017 in Beijing and co-chaired with Myanmar. The Workshop will focus on national and international emergency response and rescue as well as national USAR capacity building. The invitation package will be circulated in due course.

e. ARF Workshop on Legislative and Non-Legislative Challenges to Countering On-line Extremist Messaging

31. The Meeting noted that the Workshop is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 19-20 July and will be co-chaired by Malaysia and Australia. The Workshop will provide a platform for participants to exchange views and share best practices in addressing and countering on-line extremist messaging. The invitation package will be circulated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CONSIDERATION OF CBM AND PD INITIATIVES

a. Draft ARF Statement on Addressing Drug Issues

32. The Meeting noted China's briefing on the proposed draft ARF Statement on Addressing Drug Issues. Noting the importance of addressing illicit drug trafficking and manufacturing, the Meeting was of the view that more time is needed to study the draft and agreed to further provide comments and inputs to the draft. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 13**.

b. Draft ARF Statement to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

33. The Meeting noted the update on the draft ARF Statement, co-sponsored by Indonesia, the US and Timor Leste, which has taken into consideration past inputs

and comments of ARF Participants. Further, the updated draft Statement will be circulated to all ARF Participants for further comments. The Meeting also took note of Canada's interest to co-sponsor this Statement. The updated draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 14**.

c. Proposed ARF workshops on Aviation Security and Information Sharing

34. The Meeting noted the US briefing on the series of ARF Workshops which aims to increase cooperation among law enforcement agencies and enhance border control cooperation. The US is currently discussing to identify an ASEAN co-chair. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 15**.

d. Proposed ARF Workshop on Raising Awareness and Promoting Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation

35. The Meeting noted that the Workshop aims to build on the nexus of CBRN weapons and Foreign Terrorist Fighters, promote public safety and to provide a platform for exchange of best practices and sharing of information. The US is seeking an ASEAN co-chair. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 16**.

e. Proposed ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety

36. China briefed the Meeting on the proposed ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety which aims to enhance capacity building and encourage ferry safety in the ARF. China is currently seeking an ASEAN Co-Chair and the concept note appears as **ANNEX 17**.

f. Proposed ARF workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact

37. Malaysia, Australia and the United States proposed to hold a Workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact (SPOC) with the objective to further develop the SPOC framework to support maritime domain awareness and maritime security operations. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 18**.

g. Proposed ARF Workshop on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security

38. The Meeting noted the US proposal to hold a two-day workshop in collaboration with the Asia Foundation and will be co-chaired with Thailand. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 19**.

h. Proposed ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Maritime Data Analysis to

Combat Transnational Organized Crime

39. The Meeting noted the US proposal to hold a workshop with the aim to equip participants with concrete analytical tools to prevent and identify illegal activities in the maritime domain. The US is currently seeking an ASEAN co-chair. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 20**.

i. Proposed ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation

40. Vietnam, Australia and the EU are proposing to hold a Workshop to take stock of existing maritime law enforcement cooperation in the region and promote synergy with other related mechanisms. The Workshop is scheduled to be held in Vietnam at the end of 2017 or early 2018. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 21**.

j. Proposed ARF Workshop on Peacekeeping Operations: Cooperation in Capacity building and Developing Partnership with the UN

41. Vietnam briefed the Meeting on the proposed workshop which aims to promote sharing of information and best practices in peacekeeping. The workshop is scheduled to be held in October 2017. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 22**.

k. Draft concept paper on ARF Advanced Training on Urban Search and Rescue Capacity Building

42. China informed the Meeting on the plan to conduct a training to allow countries to share experiences in USAR capacity building. China is currently looking for an ASEAN co-chair and the concept note appears as **ANNEX 23**.

l. Draft concept paper on ARF Workshop on Typhoon Disaster Risk Reduction and Damage Mitigation

43. The Meeting noted China's proposal to conduct the workshop to promote exchange of experiences in typhoon disaster risk reduction and is currently seeking an ASEAN co-chair. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 24**.

m. Draft concept paper on the Second ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue

44. China briefed the Meeting on the objectives of the workshop including to enhance understanding and share experiences in responding to urban emergencies.

China is seeking an ASEAN co-chair. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 25**.

n. ARF Project on PD: Skills for ASEAN toward Effective Peacebuilding

45. The Meeting noted the proposal by the US to hold a follow-on to deepen and enhance concepts of early warning introduced in the ARF Seminar on PD, Mediation and Early Warning Systems, in Yangon. The US is currently looking for an ASEAN co-chair. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 26**.

AGENDA ITEM 11: CO-CHAIRS OF ARF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL YEAR

46. The Meeting noted that the ARF ISM on MS 2018-2020 will be co-chaired by Vietnam, Australia and the EU and is scheduled to be held in Australia in 2018 while Vietnam will host the 11th ARF ISM on MS in 2019 and the EU will host the 12th ARF ISM on MS in 2020. Further, it was noted that the 12th EEPs is scheduled to be held in February 2018 and co-chaired by Vietnam and Japan, while the 17th ARF ISM on DR will be hosted by ROK in 2018.

a. ARF ISG on CBMs and PD

47. Singapore as the incoming ARF Chair in 2018 informed the Meeting that it will co-chair the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD with New Zealand and that the Meeting will be hosted in New Zealand.

b. 16th ARF ISM CTTC

48. The Co-Chairs encouraged ARF participants to consider co-chairing the 16th ARF ISM on CTTC.

c. 10th ARF ISM on NPD

49. The Meeting noted Indonesia's and ROK's interest to co-chair the ARF ISM on NPD with Japan.

d. ARF DiREx

50. The Co-Chairs emphasised the need to consider discussing the frequency of the ARF DiREx in future Meetings.

e. 21st HDUCIM

51. The Meeting noted that the 21st ARF HDUCIM will be hosted in the Philippines and that information on the non-ASEAN co-chair will be updated in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 12: PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARF WORK PLANS

a. ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy

52. The Meeting noted the update on the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on PD including the recently concluded activities such as the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues and the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy in a Post-Conflict Environment.

b. ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

53. The Meeting took note of the convening of recent activities including the ARF Workshop on Mainstreaming the prevention of violent extremism in the ARF region, ARF Workshop on Medium- to Long-Term Support for Victims of Terrorism, Workshop on Concept Development of the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC) and the ARF Workshop on Trafficking in Persons. Further, the Meeting noted that there are several actions that have yet to be implemented and noted the suggestion to reflect these in the next Work Plan.

c. ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

54. The Meeting took note that the Work Plan has been updated to reflect the completion of two activities and one deletion on priority area three. Further, a proposal from Australia has been added to include a capacity building workshop on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The updated Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 27**.

d. ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security

55. The Meeting was briefed on the update of implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security and noted that the three topics continue to represent the priority areas. It was further reiterated that there is a need to ensure that the development of a new Work Plan should take into consideration initiatives undertaken in other relevant forums to avoid duplication of efforts.

e. ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017

56. The Meeting noted the development and update on the implementation of the Work Plan. The Meeting further acknowledged that activities conducted under the auspices of the ARF ISM on DR are aligned with the priority areas of the Work Plan.

f. ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies

57. The Meeting noted that the Work Plan is the basic document in which all ICT activities in the ARF should be built upon. Further, it was noted that the Work Plan was to be reviewed within three years of its adoption but as there is still little progress in the implementation, more active efforts could be taken towards its implementation. The Meeting also took note that the establishment of an open-ended study group would allow for easier implementation of the Work Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 13: REPORT OF THE ARF DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE

58. The Meeting noted the Report of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) which was held on 10 May 2017 in Ottawa. The Dialogue discussed three issues namely, (1) developing and maintaining maritime domain awareness, (2) approaches to peacekeeping and peace support operations, and (3) armed forces and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The Report of the ARF DOD appears as **ANNEX 28**.

AGENDA ITEM 14: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

59. The Meeting exchanged views on current regional and international issues and expressed grave concern over the recent ballistic missile launches by the DPRK. The Meeting reiterated the importance of fully implementing relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and urged DPRK to refrain from provocative actions that could escalate tensions and disrupt peace and stability in the region. Some ARF members also raised humanitarian concerns, including the abductions issue. The Meeting further urged the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs and for the matter to be resolved through dialogue and expressed support for the peaceful resolution of the on-going tensions in the Korean Peninsula.

60. Noting that peace and stability are crucial in ensuring robust economic development in the region, the Meeting noted that strong political will are needed in order to peacefully resolve differences. The Meeting reiterated Member State's commitment to the maintenance of a rules-based international maritime order, as well as to the peaceful resolution of maritime and territorial disputes in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting also took note of concerns expressed by a number of ARF Participants over recent developments and escalation of activities in the South China Sea and emphasized the importance of promoting freedom of navigation and overflight, exercising self-restraint, and peacefully resolving disputes without resorting to the threat or use of force, and fully and effectively implementing the DOC. Some ARF members emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint by claimants and all other states, in the conduct of all activities that could further complicate the situation. Multiple ARF members noted the progress of consultations among ASEAN Member States and China on the South China Sea and looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC.

61. On responding to the unprecedented rise of terrorism and radicalism, the threat of returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters and the Islamic State, as well as the increasing threat on maritime security, the Meeting noted that the ARF should continue to strengthen cooperation and increase dialogue to share best practices and lessons learned in addressing such threats. The Meeting agreed that addressing threats to peace and stability in the region is the primary responsibility of the regional community and that the ARF will remain a key player in building peace and security in the region.

62. The European Union briefed the meeting on the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, as well as the situation in Syria and Ukraine.

AGENDA ITEM 15: OTHER MATTERS

a. ARF Annual Security Outlook

63. The Philippines briefed the Meeting on the submissions of the ARF ASO and acknowledged ARF Participants which have submitted their contributions. Further, the Philippines informed the Meeting that the deadline for submissions have been extended until 18 May 2017.

b. Dates and Venue of the ARF SOM

64. The Philippines informed the Meeting that the ARF SOM will be held on 24 May 2017 in Manila at the Marriott Hotel. It was noted that the invitation letter, agenda and tentative programme of activities for the ARF SOM have been circulated to all ARF participants.

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

65. In her closing remarks, H.E. Ma. Hellen De La Vega highlighted the need for ARF to continue strengthening confidence building and cooperation to effectively address current security challenges. Further, she expressed confidence that the ARF will continue to always resolve disagreements in a peaceful manner and to ensure peace and stability in the region. She concluded her remarks by expressing her appreciation to Canada for the effective Co-Chairmanship of this ARF ISG on CBMs and PD.

66. Ms. Heidi Hulan thanked all Participants for the fruitful discussion and extended special thanks to the Philippines for the successful Co-Chairmanship. Further, she expressed confidence that the ARF will continue to play a key role in addressing regional security issues and reiterated the commitment to collectively work together in addressing these challenges.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

67. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their effective leadership and fruitful discussion. The Meeting extended their appreciation to the Government of Canada for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to all ARF participants and the ASEAN Secretariat for its continued support.

ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

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

No	Key Decisions/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	Identification of Co-Chairs for the next cycle of ARF ISM on CTTC	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	ARF Chair and ARF Participants
2.	Seek interest of ARF participating countries to Co-	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	ARF Chair and ARF Participants

	Chair the ARF DiREx		
3.	Update the proposal for the establishment of an ARF ISM on ICTs Security based on consultation with ARF Participants	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	Malaysia and Japan
4.	To develop the List of Track I Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2017-2018	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	ARF Chair
5.	Identification of Co-Chairs to proposed ARF activities for 2017-2018	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	ARF Chair and proponents of concepts
6.	Update draft ARF Statement on Addressing the Drug Problem based on comments and inputs of ARF Participants	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	China
7.	Update draft ARF Statement on IUU Fishing based on comments and inputs of ARF Participants	Before 24 th ARF in August 2017	Indonesia, Timor Leste and United States

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