



**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING**  
**Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 10 June 2015**

**Introduction**

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) was held in Kuching, Malaysia, on 10 June 2015. H.E. Datuk Othman Hashim, ARF SOM Leader of Malaysia and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, chaired the Meeting.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF participants and the ASEAN Secretariat. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

**Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda**

3. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

**Agenda Item 2: Business Arrangements**

4. The Meeting adopted the Tentative Programme of Activities which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

**Agenda Item 3: Report of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD)**

5. Mr. Ahmad Nadzri bin Mohd Hassan, Undersecretary, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Defence of Malaysia as Chair of the ARF DOD, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF DOD that was convened in Kuching, Malaysia, on 8 June 2015. He highlighted that the Dialogue discussed the issues revolving the roles of the militaries in the face of extremism and in peacekeeping operations. The Chair's Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 4**.

**Agenda Item 4: Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC)**

Mrs. Suriani binti Ahmad, Deputy Secretary-General (Policy) of the Ministry of Defence of Malaysia, Chair of the ASPC, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASPC that was convened in Kuching, Malaysia, on 9 June 2015. The Conference exchanged views on regional and international security issues of common concern and addressed the issue of the roles of the military in addressing non-traditional security threats. The Chair's Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 5**.

**Agenda Item 5: Exchange of Views on Regional and International Issues**

6. The Meeting noted the significance of the year 2015 which marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the establishment of the United Nations. In the years since then, countries have become more interconnected and interdependent, and the Asia-Pacific region has established a solid foundation for economic stability and prosperity. Globalisation has enabled the region to become the new growth engine of the global economy. The Meeting also observed that recent developments, globally and regionally, have had profound implications for the region and demonstrate the need to strengthened cooperation both in the security and economic realms.

7. The Meeting exchanged views on the regional security architecture and recognised that the ARF has played a significant role in building confidence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Meeting noted the importance of a regional security architecture that is comprehensive, open, inclusive, transparent and sustainable as well as create opportunities for common cooperation for the benefit of all. The Meeting noted a proposition to develop a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable regional security architecture that incorporates the open and inclusive characteristics of the region and focus on disaster relief, counter-terrorism, transnational crime, maritime security, security of and in the use of ICTs and other non-traditional security issues to peace and stability in the region. Several participants observed that rivalries between major powers in the past have resulted in decades of conflict between countries in the region and continue to affect inter-state relations to this day. One participant suggested that the concept of military alliances would no longer be compatible in this new security architecture and that Asian problems should be resolved in an Asian way without external interference. Several participants also observed that it is the current network of alliances and partnerships that has enabled the region to grow and prosper. The Meeting noted the success of multilateral cooperation including within the ARF. The Meeting viewed that all ARF participants should maintain positive and constructive engagements in the region and work together in enhancing the frameworks for regional security and economic prosperity.

8. The Meeting exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea. The Meeting was of the view that peaceful negotiation and consultation are fundamental approaches to the current disputes in accordance with international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the consultations towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). The Meeting noted that cooperative projects of ASEAN Member States and China to implement the DOC are an integral part of the process and should continue. Several participants expressed concerns on the land reclamation and construction projects on several maritime features in the South China Sea. On this note, the Meeting urged all parties to refrain from further actions and activities that could lead to miscalculations and escalation of tensions, adhere to the international laws and principles and respect the rights of all states to the freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce, trade and over flight. Several participants encouraged more practical actions to demonstrate the commitment of the parties in

## FINAL

implementing the DOC including the early harvest measures. The Meeting shared the view on the importance of preservation of peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting called for renewed dialogue between concerned parties and stressed the need to avoid any actions may lead to escalation of tension. The Meeting expressed concern over the repeated missile tests and continued development of nuclear programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and reiterated calls for DPRK to fully comply with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Meeting supported efforts for the peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and the reunification of the two Koreas including through the continuation of the inter-Korean talks and cooperation. The Meeting also welcomed the consultations by five members of the Six-Party Talks in the attempt to restart the Six-Party Talks which would pave the way for the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Several participants highlighted the United Nations "Needs and Priorities – DPRK 2015" report on the humanitarian and human rights situation in the DPRK and as well as the Report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK; and urged the DPRK to respect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of its citizens. The Meeting also took note of the view that the ARF could play an important role in providing the venue for concerned parties to meet and conduct an exchange of views, for example on the side-lines of ARF meetings. On a related note, the Meeting observed that the security situation in the Korean Peninsula is also closely related with the security situation in Northeast Asia.

9. The Meeting condemned the violent and barbaric acts of the so-called Islamic State (IS) and other extremist organisations. The Meeting called for concerted efforts to counter this emerging threat. The Meeting noted ASEAN's strong support for UNSC Resolutions 2170, 2178 and 2199 and recalled the issuance of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria on 26 September 2014. The Meeting recognised that military power is insufficient to counter extremist ideology and its strategy of utilising the internet and social media to spread its extremist propaganda and recruit supporters. The Meeting encouraged the strengthening of soft power approaches to counter this message of extremism and expressed support for the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates, adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015, which provides the guidelines for an alternative approach to countering extremism. The Meeting also called for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Syria which has not only claimed civilian lives but also contributed to the growth of IS and other extremist organisations.

10. The Meeting observed that non-traditional security remains a serious concern for countries in the region. The issues of terrorism, natural disasters, climate change, food security, energy security, irregular migration by sea and the humanitarian impacts of the migration, trafficking in persons and communicable diseases were raised by participants. The Meeting expressed condolences to the victims of the recent earthquakes in Nepal and Mt. Kinabalu, Malaysia and of the typhoon in Vanuatu. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance provided by ARF participants to the affected countries and peoples as well as the various ARF activities and initiatives on non-traditional security issues of common concerns. International cooperation and partnership, addressing the root causes of

## FINAL

the issues and adherence to international principles and laws were notably the effective approaches to deal with these threats.

11. The Meeting discussed the humanitarian crisis emanating from the irregular movement of people in South and Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean which has caused loss of lives at sea and supported the core efforts to address this issue, namely: focus on saving lives of migrants in situations of crisis at sea; working through international mechanisms to provide resettlement for migrants; aggressively pursuing trafficking and smuggling networks; and address the root causes and vulnerabilities among populations in the region which could lead to illegal migration, which may include conflict in the country of origin and the criminal activities of migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks. The Meeting underlined that the burden of finding solutions to this issue should be shared by the international community. Several participants noted that the protection of migrants should also be extended on land once they reach their destination. The Meeting recalled the on-going work of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and expressed appreciation for the trilateral meeting between Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand on 20 May 2015, and the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean on 29 May 2015 in Bangkok, which discussed the plight of irregular migrants in the Indian Ocean. As one of the outcomes of this meeting, the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) will be convened in Kuala Lumpur on 2 July 2015 to further discuss and look for ways to address this issue.

12. The Meeting noted several comments on the on-going nuclear negotiations between E3/EU+3 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States plus Germany) and Iran, the reconstruction and reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan, the civil conflict in Yemen and the recent developments in Ukraine including the investigation and legal process as follow-up to the downing of Malaysia Airlines MH17 in July 2014. The Meeting reiterated calls for the cessation of hostilities and the peaceful resolution to conflicts. On non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Meeting noted Russia's readiness to sign the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty.

13. The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's role in providing platforms for constructive engagement between countries in the Asia Pacific region. Amidst the proliferation of security mechanisms, ASEAN should continue to play a central role in creating venues for dialogue and cooperation in the region. The Meeting reaffirmed the value of the ARF in promoting dialogue and cooperation on traditional and non-traditional security issues in the region. The Meeting recalled the progress of ARF cooperation over the years and encouraged ARF participants to continue to support the three stages of the ARF evolutionary process, namely promotion of confidence building measures, development of preventive diplomacy mechanisms and development of conflict resolution mechanisms. The large number of ARF activities for the next inter-sessional year demonstrated the ARF's contributions in addressing regional and international security issues.

14. The Meeting was updated on the progress of the preparation for Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN's membership. Supports from several ARF

participants to this endeavour were noted. The Meeting also welcomed the positive outcomes of the recent elections in the Bougainville region of Papua New Guinea.

15. The Meeting noted the offer from China to contribute an additional US\$ 50,000 to the ARF Fund to support a study on regional security architecture to be undertaken by independent experts from Indonesia, Canada, China and Russia.

**Agenda Item 6: Report of the ARF ISG on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy, 7-8 May 2015, Tokyo, Japan**

16. Japan briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD which was convened in Tokyo on 7-8 May 2015. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD appears as ANNEX 6.

**Agenda Item 7: Review of Outcome of the CBMs and PD Meetings / Initiatives for Inter-Sessional Year 2014-2015**

**7.1 Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, 14-15 May 2015, Nanning, China**

17. Thailand and China briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime which was convened in Nanning on 14-15 May 2015. The 13<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC discussed the recent developments on the regional situation on transnational crime, the impact of criminal use of ICTs, the cross-border movement of criminals as well as reviewed and updated the ARF Work Plan on CTTC for the implementation period of 2015-2017. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as ANNEX 7.

**7.2 Report of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises 2015, Kedah and Perlis, 24-28 May 2015**

18. Malaysia and China briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF DiREx) 2015 which was conducted in Kedah and Perlis, Malaysia on 24-28 May 2015. The ARF DiREx 2015 was comprised of Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR). It was underscored that the Exercise has been successful in testing and evaluating civilian and military coordination efforts during international response to natural disasters. The Meeting noted that the ARF DiREx 2015 was the first occasion where the ASEAN armband was worn by the ASEAN participants in the Exercise to indicate the togetherness of ASEAN in support of the realisation of the "One ASEAN, One Response" vision by 2020. The Meeting expressed appreciation to all ARF participants, the ASEAN Secretariat and all parties involved in the successful conduct of the Exercise. The briefing appears as ANNEX 8.

19. The Meeting encouraged the all ARF participants to nominate the next Co-Chairs for the ARF DiREx as early as possible. The Meeting also noted the suggestion that the participants of the next ARF DiREx could enhance coordination with their respective diplomatic missions and embassies as well as other stakeholders of HADR for future disaster responses. Furthermore, the Meeting noted suggestions that future disaster-related exercises should be mapped to enhance

## FINAL

synergy and coordination among HA/DR exercises conducted under the several regional frameworks as well as relevant parties. Such efforts should be coordinated with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the Joint Task Force to Promote Synergy among ASEAN-led Mechanisms on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (JTF on HADR).

### **Agenda Item 8: Updates on the Preparation of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings/ARF Activities in the Inter-Sessional Year 2014-2015**

#### **8.1 7<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Kuala Lumpur, 15-16 June 2015**

20. The Meeting noted the update on the preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 15-16 June 2015 and co-chaired by Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand. The Meeting noted that the 7<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD will discuss the outcomes of the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other issues related to non-proliferation.

21. The Meeting noted that several participants expressed the view that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons can only be achieved through the complete disarmament and dismantlement of existing stockpiles by all nuclear weapons states.

#### **8.2 ARF Track 1.5 Symposium on Preventive Diplomacy, Bangkok, 1-2 July 2015**

22. The Meeting noted the update on the preparations for the ARF Track 1.5 Symposium on Preventive Diplomacy to be held in Bangkok on 1-2 July 2015 and co-chaired by Thailand, New Zealand and the United States. The invitation package for the Symposium will be circulated to all ARF participants through the ARF Unit in due course.

#### **8.3 ARF Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism, Manila, 20-21 July 2015**

23. The Meeting noted the update on the preparations for the ARF Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism to be held in Manila on 20-21 July 2015 and co-chaired by The Philippines and the United States. The invitation package for this Workshop will be circulated to all ARF participants through the ARF Unit in due course

**8.4 ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building, Beijing, 29-30 July 2015**

24. The Meeting noted the update on the preparations for the ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building to be held in Beijing on 29-30 July 2015 and co-chaired by Malaysia and China. The invitation package for the Workshop will be circulated to all ARF participants through the ARF Unit in due course.

25. The Meeting took note of the request for a separate invitation package for issue-specific workshops or seminars to be addressed to relevant agencies at the national level of the ARF participants.

**Agenda Item 8: Consideration and Endorsement of the CBMs and PD Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2014-2015**

**9.1 List of ARF Track 1 Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2015/2016**

26. Malaysia updated the Meeting on the List of ARF Track 1 Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2015/2016 and encouraged ARF participants to consider co-chairing proposed activities which do not have complete co-chairmanship. As per previous practice, the Meeting agreed that only activities with complete co-chairmanship will be submitted to the ARF Ministers for approval.

27. The Meeting welcomed the nominations of The Philippines as Co-Chair of the ARF Workshop on Mongolia's Nuclear Free Status with Mongolia; and Australia as Co-Chair of the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting with Singapore.

28. The Meeting noted the suggestion for the current draft of the Concept Paper for the ARF Workshop on Increasing Regional Security by Improving Fisheries Management to be further revised before being submitted to the ARF Ministers for their approval due to differing views that fisheries management is not an issue of regional security.

29. The Meeting took note of Cambodia's interest to co-chair the ARF Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation with China to be held in December 2015.

30. The Meeting noted the suggestion that Co-Chairs of all the proposed activities should manage the schedule of their respective activity to ensure full participation and attendance of the ARF participants. The Meeting considered and endorsed the list of proposed CBMs and PD activities for implementation in the inter-sessional year 2015-2016 which is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

**9.2 Draft ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017**

31. The Meeting took note of the update on the progress of the draft ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017. The Meeting was informed that the draft Work Plan has incorporated inputs from the ARF participants and also reflected the result of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting in which the Ministers stressed the importance of

peaceful resolution of disputes and issues in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the UNCLOS.

32. The Meeting took note of the comments of one participant for the Work Plan not to address sensitive issues such as territorial disputes; that the current priority areas should be reinforced rather than restructured to the pillars; and the draft Work Plan should focus on confidence-building measures and less on preventive diplomacy.

33. The Meeting noted that the Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on MS should continue to work on the draft for submission to the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 10**. The Meeting also noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS will be held in the Philippines in the first half of 2016.

### **9.3 Draft ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017**

34. Myanmar, China and Japan updated the Meeting on the progress of the draft ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017. The Meeting noted that the draft Work Plan has been finalised at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in Tokyo on 8 May 2015. The Meeting agreed to recommend the draft for adoption by the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 11**.

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

35. Thailand and China updated the Meeting on the draft ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017. The Meeting noted that the ARF participants agreed to extend the implementation period of the Work Plan from 2015 to 2017 and to add trafficking in persons as a new priority area of the new Work Plan. The draft Work Plan has been updated and recirculated for further comments from the ARF participants.

36. On priority area no. 5 'trafficking in persons', the Meeting noted a query on the objective of addition of this priority area as a reinforcement to the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which has yet to be enforced in ASEAN. The Meeting noted the suggestion to revise the draft Work Plan to reflect the current status of this initiative.

37. The Meeting took note of the comment on the title of priority area no. 3 'cyber security and terrorist use of the internet and ICT' to be amended to 'security of and in the use of information and communication technologies' which is in line with the draft Work Plan of the same name. The Meeting also noted the suggestion for the Work Plan on CTTC to consider discussing the issues of state-sponsored terrorism, terrorist financing and money laundering.

38. The Meeting requested the Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on CTTC to continue working on the document for submission to 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 12**.



### **9.5 Draft ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies**

39. The Meeting took note of the briefing on the draft ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), which has been finalised at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in Tokyo on 8 May 2015. The Meeting agreed to recommend the draft for adoption by the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 13**.

### **9.6 Draft ARF Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation**

40. The United States briefed the Meeting on the draft ARF Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation, initiated by the United States. The Meeting noted the objectives of the draft Statement and the request for support from all ARF participants. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 14**.

41. The Meeting in principle welcomed the draft Statement and took note of requests from ARF participants for more time to review this draft Statement and consult with the respective national agencies. It was underscored that the draft Statement should be developed in line with existing arrangements such as the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region.

## **Agenda Item 10: Strengthening the ARF Process and Future Direction of the ARF**

### **10.1 Update on the Implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement**

42. The ASEAN Secretariat updated the Meeting on the progress of implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (PoA). The presentation highlighted the rate of the implementation of the PoA in the five years since its adoption in 2010. On average, 10-15 activities in the format of workshops, seminars, exercises and training courses are held annually. The presentation emphasised that the support and commitment to attend and participate in these activities should be maintained and strengthened in order for these activities to contribute to building confidence and capacity of the ARF participants.

43. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for preparing the Matrix of the Status of the Implementation of the PoA (**ANNEX 15**). The Meeting encouraged stronger commitment of the ARF participants to implement action lines of the PoA, particularly under Section III.

44. The Meeting noted the suggestion for a review the PoA and update the action lines to reflect the progress of the ARF. The Meeting welcomed Viet Nam's offer to work closely with the future ARF Chair to implement this suggestion.

## **10.2 Streamlining the ARF DOD and ARF ISG on CBMs and PD**

45. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the recommendations of the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs. One of the recommendations is to reduce the number of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD from two to one per year. While there was no consensus on the number of the ISG on CBMs and PD, the ARF DOD in Tokyo on 7 May 2015 had agreed to reduce the number of the ARF DOD from three to two per inter-sessional year.

46. The Meeting took note that the reduction of the number of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD was recommended for practical reasons. Should the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD be reduced to one meeting per year, the Meeting noted the suggestions to extend the convening of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD to two days to allow sufficient time for discussions as well as to have appropriate time allocation for the agenda item on exchange of views on regional and international issues. The ARF ISG on CBMs and PD should also be scheduled in a period that will allow sufficient time for ARF participants to review proposals for new activities before the ARF SOM

47. The Meeting took note of the non-paper on the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD submitted by the European Union (**ANNEX 16**) which proposed approaches to respond to the HLTF recommendation. Another suggestion was to allocate different sessions for each ARF ISG on CBMs and PD if it is convened twice in one inter-sessional year.

48. The Meeting agreed by consensus to conduct a trial run of convening one ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in the inter-sessional year 2015/2016 with the understanding that the number of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD could be returned to two per year should there be consensus from ARF participants.

## **10.3 Recommendations by the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs)**

49. The Meeting considered the recommendations from the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting which was convened in Helsinki on 12-13 March 2015. The Meeting noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting will be held in Singapore in the first quarter of 2016 and that the proposed Working Group will be convened the day before the plenary meeting of the ARF EEPs. The Meeting welcomed Australia to co-chair the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs with Singapore. The Meeting agreed to endorse the recommendations of the ARF EEPs and submit them to the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF.

50. With regard to the recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs, the Meeting responded that the recommendations should be implemented in stages considering the financial obligations that might arise and with the consent of the directly concerned participants on the basis of consensus. The implementation of these recommendations could begin from the development of the ARF EEPs mailing list. On the recommendation on tasking the ASEAN Secretariat to conduct stocktaking on maritime incidents, the Meeting suggested that the ARF EEPs provide further details including submitting a terms of reference or concept paper for this initiative. The Meeting suggested that the EEPs could focus their work on the identification of flash points in the region.

## **Agenda Item 11: Preparation for the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum**

### **11.1 Draft Provisional Agenda of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF**

51. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the draft Provisional Agenda of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF which will be held in Kuala Lumpur on 6 August 2015. The 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF will consist of retreat and plenary sessions. The draft Provisional Agenda appears as **ANNEX 17**.

52. In light of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the establishment of the United Nations, the Meeting took note of the suggestion by one participant for the Ministers to give significance to these two milestone events in the history through issuance of statement.

### **11.2 Tentative Programme of Activities of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF**

53. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the Tentative Programme of Activities of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF which appears as **ANNEX 18**.

54. The Meeting pointed out the short allocation of time for the exchange of views session of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF and noted the suggestion to focus the discussion on the issues related to the commemoration of the two historical events and the relevance of the ARF in this context. A suggestion on shortening the plenary session of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF to allow more time for the retreat session was noted.

## **Agenda Item 12: Other Matters**

### **12.1 ARF Annual Security Outlook 2015**

55. Malaysia informed the Meeting that several participants have contributed to the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ARF ASO) 2015 thus far. Based on the submission of the ARF ASO in previous years, it was noted that the rate of submission per inter-sessional year is 15-20 submissions. Malaysia expressed hope that more ARF participants would submit their contributions to the ARF ASO 2015. On this note, Malaysia invited all ARF participants to submit their ASO by 19 June 2015 for compilation and publication by the ARF Chair.

## **Acknowledgement**

56. All ARF participants expressed appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to them. The Meeting also commended Malaysia for its effective chairmanship and for the cordial and fruitful discussion.

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