ASEAN Regional Forum

Work Plan for Counter Terrorism

and Transnational Crime

2014-2015

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Context

Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) issues continue to represent some of the most pressing and potentially useful areas for cooperation in the ARF region. In part due to the dialogue within ARF, there is a growing regional consensus on the nature of these threats. A large number of international and regional efforts exist towards combating these threats. ARF needs to make concrete progress on those areas where it can bring the most added values.

ARF has dealt with a wide range of CTTC issues including maritime security, illicit drugs, terrorism, counter radicalization and cyber security. A more focused and coordinated strategy is needed.

The Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement which was adopted at the 17th ARF in July 2010 contains policy guidance for the ARF to develop and implement concrete and practical actions, including work plans under ARF's areas of cooperation. Under the ARF counterterrorism and transnational crime framework, the Hanoi Plan of Action aims to develop a network for regional law enforcement and military agencies to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region.

The 11th ISM-CTTC in 2013 agreed that the Work Plan will continue to be updated to reflect forthcoming inter-sessional calendars. It also agreed on a longer timeframe for the implementation of activities. It further agreed the Work Plan's priority areas could be better aligned with that of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), namely: terrorism; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; arms smuggling; sea piracy; money laundering; international economic crime; and cybercrime.

Objective

This Work Plan updates and revises the 2012 – 2013 CTTC Work Plan for the 2014-2015 period by drawing on experiences of ARF participants and receiving guidance from ARF documents including the "ARF Cooperation Framework on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime," a comprehensive document prepared by the ARF Unit based on previous ARF goals, commitments, and efforts in the CTTC field. The Work Plan also draws from a needs assessment of the conclusions from the various ISM-CTTC meetings.

The key objective is to maintain a CTTC Work Plan which aims to develop regional capacity to respond to terrorism and transnational crime threats, in line with the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement.

The Work Plan creates a vetted, coordinated, and long-term strategy that:

• Helps ARF participants meet their CTTC-related national, regional, and international commitments;

• focuses ARF's efforts towards concrete, capacity-building efforts, technical support and information exchange;

• complements existing initiatives; and

• simplifies and consolidates ARF CTTC-related activities to reduce burden.

Framework

The Work Plan identifies the *Priority Areas* for ARF's CTTC efforts. While there are other important aspects of international CTTC cooperation, ARF should focus its own work on the areas where it could bring the most added value given its geographic focus, participation, or past work. In other words, ARF does not need to "do everything," in this vast field during the short term, but rather "do some things very well." CTTC-related efforts in other fields can continue, but progress in initial Priority Areas can serve as models for other CTTC-related areas in the future. Each Priority Area is followed by a brief, but broad explanation of the *scope* of efforts that will be taken under ARF.

Reaching a general consensus at the ISM-CTTC annual meeting will be important to ensure that Ministers receive a Work Plan draft endorsed by an ARF meeting of CTTC experts. In this sense, the annual ISM-CTTC will serve as a coordinating body for ARF's CTTC work among CTTC experts. However, ultimate approval will rest with the ISG, SOM, and Ministerial process.

Leadership, Management, and Funding Structure

Lead Countries will be responsible for coordinating and presenting the input provided by ARF participants in their respective Priority Area, proposing their own projects, coordinating the work of their Priority Area, and seeking out funding and hosts for projects in the Priority Area. All ARF participants are encouraged to input appropriate projects to the respective Priority Areas, and submit proposals for activities ahead of the ISG or SOM of the current inter-sessional year for endorsement and implementation in the next inter-sessional year. Every Lead Country and *Co-Sponsor* should set a voluntary goal for introducing and contributing towards one project per year within the framework of the Priority Area during their two-year tenure. Modalities for filling these leadership positions are laid out below in the Timeline, which remains flexible as needed. (Note: Future Lead Countries and Co-Sponsors will be decided in this same manner as laid out in the Timeline.) Lead Countries will be composed of one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN country, supported by the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. The positions for ASEAN Lead Countries of the ARF CTTC Work Plan will be filled by the relevant ASEAN Lead Shepherd under the ASEAN framework of cooperation in order to improve coordination between ARF and ASEAN efforts. Lead Countries will be responsible for briefly updating each ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG), Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), and annual ISM-CTTC meeting on recent and future progress in their Priority Area. The ARF SOM will monitor the effectiveness of the activities based on reports given by the Lead Countries.

Co-Sponsors have no limiting factors on either the number of co-sponsors or membership criteria. Co-Sponsors shall submit project proposals and advise Lead Countries on the development of their Priority Area. Lead Countries and Co-sponsors are highly encouraged to actively coordinate outside of ARF plenary meetings in order to manage their Priority Area's efforts.

ISM-CTTC Co-Chairs should also be consulted in the development of Priority Area projects. ISM-CTTC Co-Chairs should seek to create an ISM-CTTC agenda and meeting conducive to substantive discussion of and overall guidance to the Work Plan. As the Work Plan progresses in its early stages, ARF should revisit the role of the ISM-CTTC Co-Chairs, perhaps to increase their coordination role and serve as co-chairs for a set period of time.

An essential element of this Work Plan includes expanding the mandate for the ARF Unit towards this effort. In order to effectively implement the Work Plan and specific projects, the ARF Unit will need to play an increasingly important role. The ARF Unit will need to:

• provide administrative and technical support to ISM-CTTC and appropriate project meetings.

• liaise regularly with Lead Countries to ensure adequate coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements.

• serve as a depository of incoming project proposals for countries.

• update the ARF, perhaps quarterly as appropriate, on Work Plan contributions.

• as directed by Lead Countries and in consultation with the ARF Chair, coordinate the implementation of certain projects including financial coordination of ARF contributions, contract services, and, if and as appropriate, project monitoring and evaluation.

• coordinate, as appropriate, with training centers and other regional and international organizations.

Projects will be funded by sponsoring ARF members unless noted otherwise. If necessary, sponsoring nations may seek assistance from donor nations or outside organizations.

Relationship to Other Regional/International Efforts

ASEAN as well as other relevant organizations have similar work plans which could serve as useful models for ARF. The participation of some of these institutional representatives, as well as briefings on the ARF work plan in separate, but related areas in ARF CTTC-related meetings would ensure complementarity with the Work Plan's efforts.

<u>Timeline:</u>

April 2014:   the 12[th]ARF ISM on CTTC shall revise the Work Plan for 2014-2015.

       ISM-CTTC Co-chairs distribute ad referendum their recommendations for the revised Work Plan. If no objections to the Chair's recommendations are raised within 10 days, the Chair's recommendations will stand and be submitted to the Senior Officials' Meeting and subsequently to the 21st Ministerial Meeting for endorsement.

June 2014:   Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) participants endorse ad referendum the revised Work Plan for 2014-2015.

       Interested ARF Participating Countries register their interest to become lead country for priority areas under the Work Plan.

       [Note: The proposed priority areas and expansion of priority area will be reflected in the Work Plan when at least one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN Member State have agreed to co-lead the priority areas before the Work Plan is submitted for the Ministers' endorsement.]

August 2014 (tbc): Ministers approve the revised ARF CTTC Work Plan for 2014-2015.

Priority Areas

CTTC Priority Areas should seek to strike a balance between Counter Terrorism (CT) and Transnational Crime (TC) threats. ARF participants may want to begin such cooperation in only a few Priority Areas. ARF can build success off these and then venture into new CTTC-related Priority Areas in future inter-sessional years. Other work in the CTTC field may be done by ARF outside of these Priority Areas. However, comprehensive cooperation in a new area should be reflected in an updated Work Plan.

A Priority Area is an area of increased focus toward some of ARF's CTTC-related efforts. Under the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2014-2015, the ARF will continue to focus on the four priority areas underlined in the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2011-2012:

(i)   illicit drugs;
(ii)   chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN);
(iii)   cyber security and [terrorist misuse of ICTs] [terrorist use of the internet] [cyber-terrorism]; and
(iv)   counter radicalization;

It should be noted that in the 2009-2010 Work Plan, the scope of the earlier priority area in bio-terrorism and bio-security was expanded to cover CBRN matters, and the counter-radicalisation priority area was introduced under this Work Plan. Two other new priority areas were proposed, namely (i) terrorist financing; and (ii) trafficking in persons.

The ARF SOM in Yangon, Myanmar, on 9 June 2014, welcomed the offers from Indonesia and the European Union to co-lead the priority area "trafficking in persons". Since the lead countries for trafficking in persons have been identified and as agreed by the 10th ISM on CTTC, this new priority area would be added to the Work Plan. This is pending further discussions at the 13th ISM on CTTC in 2015.

As the terrorist financing will remain a sub-topic of discussion for future ISM CTTC meetings, the ARF participants are encouraged to consider their availability to volunteer as co-leads of this new priority area.

Project Types

These capacity-building projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular assistance needs and nature of the Priority Area. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of events with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Voluntary Training Courses* from regional training centres (SEARCCT, JCLEC, ILEA, etc.) to provide capacity building in the Priority Area. The proposers of the project, Co-Sponsors, or Lead Countries should consider contributing funds to the training courses. While all ARF participants would be invited to send technical experts to such a course (self-funded), in coordination with the centre, sponsors of the training course may plan to fund some participants from interested countries.

- *Capacity-Building Workshops* that share information on experiences and bring in government, private sector, and other relevant experts to brief, train, and/or develop best practices.

- *ARF Pilot Projects* that utilize funding given to the ARF Fund for a submitted technical assistance or capacity-building project(s) in one or more ARF countries. The ARF Pilot Project should be within the scope of ARF's Priority Areas and could be implemented by qualified government agencies in cooperation with private sector agencies.

- *Multilateral Tabletop or Field Exercises* that would test the implementation of international agreements, regional arrangements, or modes of communication, voluntary intelligence sharing and coordination among interested ARF and sub-regional participants.

Future exercises should take into account not only the capacity-building and technical support needs, but also modes of communication and information-sharing among exercise participants.

Each year at the annual ISM-CTTC, the Work Plan will be reviewed in depth to ensure continued relevance, add additional follow-on activities, and revised if necessary. Major changes to the ARF CTTC Work Plan, such as the addition or subtraction of Priority Areas, should be approved by Ministers each year. Thus, the ARF CTTC Work Plan will be considered a living document. As agreed at the 9th ARF ISM-CTTC

priority areas should be dropped if no ASEAN and non-ASEAN ARF Participants comes forward to lead said priority area.

The extensive involvement of all ARF participants is encouraged and the Work Plan will not impose mandatory obligations upon any participants without its consent.

This concept paper and the structures it establishes may be revised in accordance with ARF procedures, in particular during the early stages of the Work Plan's implementation.

Priority Area

Implementation Annex

Priority Area #1 Illicit Drugs (2014-2015)

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Scope: ARF should target the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, including synthetic drugs and their precursors, enhance law enforcement capacity in affected countries, address border deficiencies, support the development of national legislations, implement best practice measures, and increase coordination among law enforcement and forensic entities in ARF countries. In particular, ARF should seek to apply national precursor controls with uniform effectiveness throughout the world, as a means of avoiding the displacement of diversion points across national borders.

Lead Countries: Thailand and New Zealand

Co-Sponsors: no limit or designation

Proposed Projects:

1. *ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Cooperation to Address Challenges Posed by Illicit Drugs* (proposed by Thailand and New Zealand) 8-9 September 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.

2. *Concept Development Workshop on ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC)* (proposed by the Thailand and United States) 10-11 September 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.

3. *ARF Workshop on Precursor Chemicals and Synthetic Drugs* (proposed by Thailand and Canada) early 2015 (TBC)

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Seminar on Narcotics Control, September 17-19, 2007 in China.

- ARF Statement Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of the Diversion of Precursors into Illicit Drug Manufacture.

Priority Area #2: **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) (2014-2015)**

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Scope: The enactment and implementation of necessary national measures.

This includes increase protection of dangerous biological materials, technology, and expertise. Increased protection of dangerous biological materials, technology, and expertise will build the capacities of ARF participants to prevent, or respond to, acts of bio-terrorism. The dual-use nature of biological science, for both peaceful and non-peaceful purposes must be addressed to both prevent bio-terrorism and continue biological science development for peaceful purposes. This will also build safe, secure, and sustainable capacity to combat infectious diseases, thereby meshing international security and public health priorities. Efforts should be in support of the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention, the Seventh Review Conference, and related commitments, and be consistent with international law. Following the 9th ARF ISM CTTC, the priority area will be expanded to also cover the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) aspect.

Lead Countries: Philippines, United States

Co-Sponsors: Philippines, European Union and United States

Proposed Projects:

1. ARF Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response (proposed by Philippines and the United States) 26-28 August 2014, Manila (TBC)

2. ARF Workshop on "Raising awareness and promoting cooperation on CBRN risk mitigation" (proposed by the EU and the Philippines), Metro Manila, spring 2015.

Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Biological Threat Reduction Workshop by Philippines and United States, June 2009 in Manila, Philippines

2. ARF Workshop on Bio-risk Management by Philippines, United States and Australia, September 2010 in Manila, Philippines

3. ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance: Enhancing Public and Veterinary Health Networks to Combat Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism by Philippines, United States and Australia, September 2011 in Manila, Philippines

4. ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event by Philippines, United States and Australia, September 2012 in Manila Philippines

5. Workshop on Countering Illicit Trafficking of CBRN Materials by Canada and Philippines, November 2013 in Manila, Philippines

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Statement on Cooperative Counter-Terrorist Action on Border Security, Phnom Penh, June 17, 2003

- ARF Workshop on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, San Francisco, February 14, 2007

- ARF Statement on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, Manila, August 2, 2007

- ASEAN Working Group on Bio-Terrorism Prevention

- ARF Best Practices for Implementation of a Bio risk Management System; ARF Best Practices for the Implementation of Disease Surveillance; ARF Best Practices for Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event (by United States, Australia and Philippines)

Priority Area #3 Cyber Security and [Terrorist Misuse of ICTs] [Terrorist Use of the Internet] [Cyber-Terrorism] (2014-2015)
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Scope: [Cyber security and prevention of cyber terrorism with a view to enhance the response capacity and technological infrastructure of ARF participants to deter and prevent the misuse of the internet by terrorists or terrorist groups, including recruitment, campaign, and financial transfers.]

Lead Countries: Malaysia, Russia, Australia

Co-Sponsors: Vietnam, United States

Note: At the 19thASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 12 July 2012, ARF Ministers adopted an "ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security". Ministers also agreed to task their relevant Senior Officials to develop an ARF work plan related to cyber security. The work plan is currently under development.

Proposed Projects:

1. [Draft ARF Work Plan on Security in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTS)] ["Draft Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) with a view to implementing the statement by Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security".] (prepared by Malaysia, Australia, Russia)

2. *ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building* (proposed by China; ASEAN partner to be advised), Beijing, second half of 2014

3. Seminar on Operationalizing CBMs in the ARF (proposed by Singapore and United States), Singapore

Implemented Projects:

1. "*ARF Seminar on Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace*" by Republic of Korea and Malaysia: 11-12 September 2012, Seoul, Republic of Korea

2. "*ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response*" by Australia and Singapore: 6-7 September 2012, Singapore

3. "Proxy Actors in Cyberspace" by United States and Vietnam: 14-15 March 2012, Hoi An, Vietnam

4. *ARF Cyber Security Workshop on Measures to Enhance Cyber Security-Legal and Cultural Aspects* by China and Malaysia, 11-12 September 2013, Beijing, China

5. *"ARF Workshop on Cyber Confidence Building Measures"* by Australia and Malaysia, 25-26 March 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 12 July 2012

- ARF Cybercrime Capacity-Building Conference by United States and Viet Nam, held in Brunei, April 2010

- ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts on Cyber security and Cyber terrorism

- The 1st - 4th ARF Seminars on Cyber Terrorism, 2004-2007 (13-15 November 2004, Busan, Republic of Korea, 3-5 October 2005, Philippines, 6-8 September 2006, New Delhi, India, 16-19 October 2007, Jeju, Republic of Korea)

- ARF Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space, Kuala Lumpur, 28 July 2006

Priority Area #4 Counter Radicalization (2014-2015)
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Scope: The priority area "Counter radicalization" is aimed at implementing comprehensive approach tackling the spread of violent extremist ideologies especially among the youth, which possibly lead to terrorist attacks, while, taking into account the frequently changing modus operandi of extremist groups.

Among others, under this priority area, ARF participating countries may explore cooperative activities/projects in identifying the spread of radical ideologies through various channels such as the internet, religious centres, schools, including institutes of higher education, community social and sports organizations, as well as by inmates in detention centres.

Lead Countries: Malaysia, Japan

Co-Sponsors: tbc

Proposed Projects:
1. Expert Workshop on Counter Radicalization (proposed by Malaysia and Japan), Malaysia, first half of 2015

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:
- Symposium on the Dynamics of Youth and Terrorism, Kuala Lumpur, 8-11May 2011
- ARF-related Workshop on Countering Radicalization, Tokyo, 4-5 February 2013