

**Opening remarks by Mr. PARK Chulmin**  
**Deputy Director-General for International Organizations**  
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**Republic of Korea**

**The Fifth ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security**  
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Mr. Michael Fuchs, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State of the United States

Mr. Jose Tavares, Director for ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Distinguished participants,

I would like to extend my sincere welcome and gratitude to all representatives of ARF Participants and experts of international organization and members of academia for joining us today at the 5<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security.

As the Asia-Pacific region generates more than 30 percent of global exports, it is now an engine for global economy, and its economic and strategic importance is expected to further grow.

Furthermore, this region may be referred to as “a community of maritime nations” since most of the countries of the region are connected by sea and rely heavily on the Sea Lanes of Communication for their trade and logistics.

Accordingly, maritime security in the ARF region plays a key role in ensuring regional stability, economic development, and trade.

### **( Challenges and threats )**

We are faced with diverse challenges which undermine maritime security in the region. Firstly, maritime crimes including piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal fishing, and marine environment pollution continue to threaten safe navigation and can disrupt regional stability and security. It is noticeable that the number of piracy incidents is on the rise in Southeast Asia. According to the recent statistics of the ICC International Maritime Bureau, the worldwide piracy incidents reduced by 5 percent to 297 cases in 2012, but those in Southeast Asia increased by 23 percent to 104 cases.

Secondly, territorial and maritime disputes are serious destabilizing factors that can impede peace and security in the region. The amplifying public opinion and the widespread sentiments of nationalism make the situations more complex and complicated.

Thirdly, many countries of the region are working to strengthen their naval forces in order to cope with such challenges. According to the Military Balance 2013, the defense spending of the East Asian countries increased by 4.43 percent in 2012 and that of the Southeast Asian countries increased by 6.89 percent. Such situations may raise tension and the possibility of confrontation in the sea and consequently lead to insecurity in the region.

### **( ARF efforts for maritime security )**

Distinguished participants,

As a principal multilateral security mechanism involving all countries in East Asia, the ARF Process has contributed to building confidence and preventing conflicts from occurring in the region.

Since its establishment in 2009, the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security has generated a valuable opportunity for the ARF Participants to address comprehensive issues relating to maritime security and to deliberate correlated issues undertaken by other regional and international fora. The adoption of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security in 2011 provides the ARF Participants with strategic directions to enhance cooperation in the domain of maritime security.

**( Ways forward to strengthen maritime security )**

With these all in mind, I would like to briefly offer some thoughts on strengthening cooperation in this regard.

First, the ARF Participants should remain committed to the fundamental principles such as the freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with relevant international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It is also important for the ARF Participants to ratify and implement international conventions in the fields of maritime security and marine environment. The International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) is a comprehensive and useful guideline to secure ships, passengers, cargo and port facilities.

Second, we need to further strengthen international cooperation to fight piracy and other maritime crimes by sharing information and facilitating cooperation among law enforcement agencies. It is also crucial for the ARF Participants to work closely with the existing mechanisms including the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF), and others.

Third, the ARF Participants should make incessant and unswerving efforts to support capacity building on maritime security. Possible capacity building programs may include the sharing of best practices of domestic legal frameworks, the provision of training courses for law enforcement agencies, and the assistance for the establishment of information center on maritime security.

Last but not least, it is necessary for the ARF Participants to agree on and implement a set of confidence building measures (CBMs) in order to reduce the possibility of conflicts and to enhance transparency and openness in both civilian and military domains. In so doing, we should take into account the practicability, feasibility, implementability and verifiability of the CBMs. The CBMs would include the establishment of communication channels, and the sharing of information covering national strategy and policy on maritime security. The conduct of joint disaster relief exercises would be recommendable.

Through the implementation of CBMs, we are able to overcome common challenges and promote trust and cooperation in the ARF region.

**( Conclusion )**

Let me conclude by encouraging all participants to actively engage in this Meeting to make it most successful and fruitful event. I also hope that the outcomes of the two-day discussions will serve as valuable inputs to the ARF process, including the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum in Bandar Seri Begawan in June and the next Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security to be held in Indonesia.

Thank you. /End/