

**SUMMARY REPORT  
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING  
Yangon, Myanmar, 9 June 2014**

**Introduction**

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) was held in Yangon, Myanmar, on 9 June 2014. H. E. U Aung Lynn, ARF SOM Leader of Myanmar and Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 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 Arrangement**

4. The Meeting adopted the Administrative Arrangements which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

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

5. Col. Aung Myint Oo, representing the Chair of the ARF DOD, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF DOD that was convened in Yangon, Myanmar, on 7 June 2014. The Chair's Report appears as **ANNEX 4**.

6. The Meeting was informed that the Dialogue focused on the role of Armed Forces in tackling Non-Traditional Security Challenges and in promoting human security. The Meeting was further informed of the initiatives of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) to establish direct communication links between ASEAN Militaries and the ASEAN Military Medicine Coordination Centre (AMCC) in near future

**Agenda Item 4: Report of the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC)**

7. Col. Nyein Chan, Director-General of International and Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, representing the Chair of the ASPC, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASPC that was convened in Yangon, Myanmar, on 8 June 2014. The Chair's Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 5**.

8. The Meeting was informed that the 11<sup>th</sup> ASPC served as a venue to engage and explore future cooperation on a range of aspects to ensure security of the region. The Conference stressed the need to strengthen cooperation to build mutual trust and confidence in order to promote regional security.

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

9. At the outset, the Meeting expressed condolence and sympathy to the Government and people of Pakistan for the recent terrorist attack in Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, Pakistan on 9 June 2014, which claimed the lives of five peoples and wounded 23. The meeting condemned acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation and stressed the need to enhance joint efforts in combating terrorism.

10. The Meeting took note of recent encouraging developments in the region. The Meeting commended the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and Moro Islamic Liberation Front on 27 March 2014, which was achieved with the assistance of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Meeting also welcomed the recent milestone Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia concerning the delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Boundary. The Meeting also thanked all ARF participants who contributed to the search and rescue efforts of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

11. The Chair informed the Meeting of the ongoing efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015. A peaceful and stable ASEAN region has enabled ASEAN Member States to strengthen their respective economic development to achieve the objectives of the ASEAN Community.

12. In general, the Meeting viewed that the current geo-economic landscape has enabled greater cooperation among countries which in turn led to peace and stability. The meeting agreed on the importance of managing relationships in the region so as to maintain a peaceful security environment. The Meeting was of the view that the current security architecture generally serves the need of the region. Some participants suggested an evolutionary approach to the regional security architecture while some others suggested a desire to review the regional security architecture taking into consideration of inclusivity, comprehensiveness and sustainability.

13. The Meeting deliberated on the role of the ARF as a multilateral security forum in enhancing confidence among the ARF participants through dialogue and cooperation. The Meeting attached great importance to ASEAN's central role in guiding the Forum. The ARF has been successful in bringing diverse parties together to promote confidence and build trust. For the ARF to maintain its relevance as a multilateral security forum, it needs to manage existing and emerging regional security concerns. Given the wide range of issues involved, the ARF needs to strengthen its efforts and focus on the issues that are most relevant to its mandate, capabilities and membership. The Meeting also emphasised that the ARF should retain its flexibility in keeping abreast with emerging security issues while pursuing the work on preventive diplomacy. On this note, the Meeting emphasised on the need to exert greater effort to move the ARF process forward from stage 1 on promotion of confidence-building measures (CBMs) to stage 2 on preventive

diplomacy. The ARF can continue conducting activities on CBMs while also focusing on the implementation of its preventive diplomacy agenda.

14. The Meeting underscored the need for ASEAN to ensure the effectiveness of the forum by exercising its leadership role and strengthening coordination in its engagement with its Dialogue Partners and other partners in the region, particularly amidst the emerging multilateral fora in the present regional architecture. Greater complementarities and synergy between the ARF and other fora were also suggested. In this context, the Forum needs to enhance its cooperation and coordination with other existing mechanisms such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)/ADMM-Plus, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs), as well as track II institutions such as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) and ASEAN Institute for Strategic and International Studies(ASEAN-ISIS).

15. The Meeting exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea and underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability, unimpeded international and lawful trade, freedom of navigation and over-flight in the South China Sea in accordance with international law. Several participants expressed concerns over recent activities. The Meeting stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. In this context, the Meeting encouraged that all parties to create a conducive atmosphere for the full and effective implementation of the DOC and continued consultation for the conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea(COC). The Meeting noted the Statement by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the Current Developments in the South China Sea issued on 10 May 2014, the Chair's Statement of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit as well as the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015 issued on 11 May 2014.

16. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of managing peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and called for denuclearisation of the Korea Peninsula in a complete and verifiable manner through dialogue. The Meeting emphasized the importance to implement the obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the need for the necessary conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. The meeting noted the inter-Korean family reunions which took place in February 2014. The meeting also discussed on settling pending issues between Japan and DPRK which is aimed at normalising the bilateral relations according to the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration.

17. The Meeting exchanged views on non-traditional security issues including terrorism, disaster management, climate change, environmental security, border security, people smuggling, piracy, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Meeting agreed to give more emphasis on counter-radicalisation efforts to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism by taking such measures as denying illicit sources of income from drug trafficking and money laundering. The Meeting reiterated its support to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as a common platform for disaster mitigation and response in the region and call for continue support for the ASEAN Coordinating

Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). In the wake of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370, the Meeting acknowledged the importance of cooperation in conducting joint search and rescue operations.

18. The Meeting also exchanged views on the current developments in Afghanistan, Middle East and Ukraine. The Meeting expressed support for dialogue and trust-building efforts as a means to resolve existing or potential conflicts in these countries. The Meeting was also briefed on the latest developments in Thailand and expressed support for the efforts towards democracy in the country. The Meeting closely followed the developments in Ukraine and noted that the people of Ukraine should be allowed to resolve their domestic political differences amongst themselves, free from outside interferences. Some Participants welcomed the recent elections in Ukraine.

**Agenda Item 6: Report of the ARF ISG on Confidence-Building Measures Preventive Diplomacy, 8-9 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium**

19. Myanmar and the European Union as Co-Chairs of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD briefed on the outcomes of the meeting which was convened in Brussels on 8-9 April 2014. The outcomes of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue which was convened prior to the ISG were also reported. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD appears as **ANNEX 6**.

20. The meeting was informed that the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD had a very stimulating exchange of views on matters of regional and global relevance and reaffirmed the crucial role played by the ARF as a leading framework for consultations and cooperation in the Asia Pacific. It is also informed that the ISG had discussed the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action and to promote cooperation between ARF and ADMM Plus.

**Agenda Item 7: Review of the CBMs and PD Activities (Post ISG on CBMs and PD)**

**7.1 Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), 14-16 April 2014, Bali, Indonesia**

21. Indonesia and New Zealand briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC which was convened in Bali on 14-16 April 2014. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 7**. It is informed that the meeting discussed to improve the Work Plan to be more action oriented.

22. The Meeting welcomed the offers from Thailand and China to co-chair the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC for the inter-sessional year 2014-2015.

## **7.2 Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on Maritime Security (ISM on MS), 22-23 May 2014, Bali, Indonesia**

23. Indonesia, Republic of Korea and United States briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS which was held in Bali on 22-23 May 2014. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 8**. The Report states that the 6<sup>th</sup> ISM on MS discussed the challenges on "maritime safety in the region, , "maritime search and rescue", as well as "combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing". It also records that the 6<sup>th</sup> ISM on MS discussed the development of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2014-2015, as future guidelines of the ARF in the field of maritime security, and exchanged views on current developments on maritime security.

24. The Meeting welcomed the Philippines, Japan and the United States as upcoming Co-chairs of the ARF ISM on MS for the inter-sessional years 2014-2017. The meeting also welcomed that Malaysia and Japan would conduct the "ARF Seminar on Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia" during the ARF Inter-sessional year 2014-2015 in Tokyo, Japan.

## **7.3 Report of the ARF Workshop on Consular Contingency Planning and Crisis Management, 20-21 May 2014, Bali, Indonesia**

25. Indonesia and Australia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Consular Contingency Planning and Crisis Management which took place in Bali on 20-21 May 2014. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 9**. The Report States that the workshop discussed key elements and benefits of consular contingency planning and ways to strengthen consular crisis coordination linkages as well as underlined the need to share experiences on this new area of cooperation.

## **7.4 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Seminar on UNCLOS, 28-29 May 2014, Manila, Philippines**

26. The Philippines and Australia briefed the Meeting on outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Seminar on UNCLOS which was held in Manila on 28-29 May 2014. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 10**. The meeting was informed that the Seminar facilitated discussion by experts on maritime boundaries, rule of law and to exploration of ways to manage emerging maritime security issues and to help advance the ARF process from CBMs to PD.

## **7.5 Implementation of the ARF Work Plans**

### **7.5.1 ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2014-2015 (ARF Work Plan on DR) (Myanmar, China and Japan)**

27. Myanmar, China and Japan briefed the Meeting on the review of the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on DR 2012-2014. The Meeting recalled outcomes of 13<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR held in Chengdu on 26-28 February 2014. The Meeting noted that Myanmar, China and Japan would continue working together to update the Work Plan. The Meeting took note that the desirability to create link

between the output of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 with the next ARF ISM on DR.

### **7.5.2 ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security (ARF Work Plan on MS) (*Indonesia, Republic of Korea and United States*)**

28. Indonesia, Republic of Korea and United States briefed the Meeting on the progress of implementation of the ARF Work Plan on MS. The Meeting noted the inputs from the 6<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS in Bali on 22-23 May 2014, among others for the current and upcoming Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on MS to work together to update the Work Plan for the next inter-sessional year, to consider maintaining the current priority areas of the Work Plan, and to identify the co-lead participants of the priority areas in the Work Plan. The meeting discussed the relevance of IUU fishing as a maritime security issues in the new Work Plan, due to its potential threat to maritime security. The meeting also noted the suggestions to include a new priority area of Search and Rescue in the new work plan which is to be developed by the current and incoming co-chairs and to be tabled at the ISG on CBM and PD to be held in the fourth quarter of 2014.

### **7.5.3 ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ARF Work Plan on NPD) (*Philippines, Australia and Japan*)**

29. The Philippines, Australia and Japan briefed the Meeting on the progress of implementation of the ARF Work Plan on NPD. The Meeting noted that the Work Plan will be further discussed to updated at the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD in Tokyo on 8-9 July 2014 and the following ISMs during. The Meeting encouraged ARF participants to propose activities to be implemented under the ambit of the Work Plan on NPD.

## **7.6 Next Co-Chairs for ARF ISG and ISM**

### **7.6.1 Co-Chairs of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD**

30. The Meeting welcomed Japan's offer to co-chair the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and the ARF DOD with Malaysia in the inter-sessional year 2014-2015. The Meeting noted that the next meetings of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will be held in Melaka, Malaysia, in November 2014 and in Japan in April 2015.

### **7.6.2 Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on NPD**

31. The Meeting welcomed the offers from Canada and New Zealand to co-chair the next ARF ISM on NPD in the inter-sessional year 2014-2015 with an ASEAN Member State. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN Member States to co-chair the meeting.

## **Agenda Item 8: Consideration and Endorsement of the new proposals of ARF Track I Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2014-2015**

32. The Meeting took note of the list of proposed ARF Track I activities for implementation in the inter-sessional year 2014-2015. The list is attached as **ANNEX 11.**

33. The Meeting considered the draft Concept Paper on the Experts' Study for the ARF on the Regional Security Order and Concept the in Asia Pacific (**ANNEX 12**) and noted requests from the United States for additional time to review the Paper. The Meeting welcomed Russia and India's offer by India, Singapore and Thailand to contribute experts for involvement the Study. The Meeting also noted the suggestion for the Study to be more inclusive and to involve the ARF EEPs , so as to capture a broader range of views, which would be necessary to maintain a balanced outcome with useful recommendations for consideration by the ARF ARF participants were invited to submit comments to the draft by the end of June 2014.

34. The Meeting agreed to endorse the sixteen new proposed Track I activities for the implementation in the inter-sessional year 2014-2015, which appear as **ANNEX 13.**

35. The Meeting took note of the preparation for the ARF Workshop on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response which will be held in Manila on 26-28 August 2014 and the 18<sup>th</sup> ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM) which will take place in Seoul on 22-25 September 2014.

36. The meeting welcomed the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Space Security Workshop which will be held on 9-10 October (tentative) in Tokyo co-hosted by Indonesia, the U.S and Japan.

## **Agenda Item 9: Consideration and Endorsement of the CBMs and PD Initiatives**

### **9.1 Draft ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2014-2015**

37. Indonesia and New Zealand briefed the Meeting on the draft ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2014-2015. In order to proceed with the submission of the draft to the Ministers, Indonesia and New Zealand proposed that the scope of priority area no. 3 of the draft Work Plan revert to the original formulation as expressed in the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2012-2013. The Meeting noted that the title and scope of priority area no. 3 of the Work Plan was also subject to further discussion, but would be agreed in time for the Work Plan to be submitted for adoption by the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF in August 2014. The European Union and Indonesia indicated their intention to co-lead on a new priority area on trafficking in persons. The Meeting noted the proposal by Indonesia and the European Union to co-lead a new priority area on trafficking in persons. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 14.**

## **9.2 Draft ARF Statement on Cooperation in Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Restoration from Offshore Oil Spill Incidents**

38. The Meeting noted the briefing by United States on the draft ARF Statement on Cooperation in Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Restoration from Offshore Oil Spill Incidents. The Meeting invited the ARF participants to submit additional comments to the United States by end of June 2014. The Meeting agreed to recommend the draft for adoption by the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 15.**

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

39. Malaysia, Australia and Russia updated the Meeting on the draft ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). The draft was the result of a comprehensive consultation process with ARF members which had taken all views into account. The Meeting invited the ARF participants to submit any remaining additional comments to Malaysia, Australia and Russia by the end of June 2014. The Meeting noted that the draft is still pending the ARF participants' consensus. The draft Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 16.**

## **9.4 Draft ARF Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation on Maritime Search and Rescue**

40. The Meeting noted the draft ARF Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation on Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue, proposed by China. The Meeting in principle supported the draft Statement and welcomed the offer from Russia to co-sponsor the draft Statement. ARF participants were invited to submit comments to China by the end of June 2014. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 17.**

## **Agenda Item 10: Future Direction of the ARF**

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

41. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the progress of implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (PoA). The briefing highlighted on the upcoming ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) to be co-chaired by Malaysia and China in Malaysia on 1-6 February 2015, the ongoing efforts to promote complementarity between the ARF DOD and the ADMM-Plus including through the publication of the joint calendar of the ARF and ADMM-Plus activities, the accreditation of 15 ambassadors of non-ASEAN ARF participants to ASEAN, the conduct of the ARF Roundtable on Preventive Diplomacy in Wellington on 20-21 March 2014 and its follow-up initiatives, the status of the ARF Secondment scheme, and the status of the ARF Fund.

42. The Meeting took note of the suggestion to continue adhering to principles of the ARF and strengthen its modalities and the need to consolidate and strengthen



the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement in 2015 and strengthen each of the action lines in the current Plan of Action.

43. The Meeting noted the proposals to exert greater effort towards complementarity between the ARF DOD and the ADMM-Plus beyond the on-going sharing of information. Some participants suggested for the ARF to consider further practical and action-oriented activities with common operational approaches, coordination mechanisms, and communication protocols as confidence-building measures and to reduce the risk of miscalculations.

44. The meeting also noted that the ARF should continue to focus on regional maritime security and safety and to maintain ASEAN centrality as ARF institutionalizes its cooperation in this area.

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

45. The Meeting noted the recommendations from the ARF EEPs which convened in Kuala Lumpur on 17-18 February 2014. The Meeting considered the proposals to assess the recommendations of the ARF EEPs, to ensure the participation of the ARF EEPs in the future meetings of the ARF EEPs taking into account that not all ARF participants attended the recent ARF EEPs, to allow the ARF EEPs to lead the discussion of the ARF EEPs meetings notwithstanding the presence of the ARF Track 1 officials, and to strengthen support and provide sufficient resources for the ARF EEPs.

## **Agenda Item 11: Preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum**

### **11.1 Draft Provisional Agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF**

46. Myanmar briefed the Meeting on the draft Provisional Agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF which appears as **ANNEX 18**. The Meeting noted that the Myanmar Chair will circulate the draft ARF Chairman's Statement in due course.

47. The Meeting considered the suggestion for the exchange of views to be conducted in the plenary session to ensure a broader dissemination of the Ministers' discussions and deliberations. The Meeting agreed to follow the ARF practice.

### **11.2 Tentative Programme of Activities of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF**

48. Myanmar briefed the Meeting on the Tentative Programme of Activities of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2014, which appears as **ANNEX 19**. The meeting was informed that the revised programme will be circulated in due course.

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

### **12.1 ARF Annual Security Outlook 2014**

49. Myanmar informed the Meeting that eleven participants have contributed to the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ARF ASO) 2014 thus far. Myanmar invited ARF participants to submit their contributions to the ARF ASO 2014for compilation and publication by the ARF Chair.

### **Acknowledgement**

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

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