

Opening Remarks

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Mr. Park Chul-Min, Deputy Director General for the International Organizations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Michael Fuchs, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the United States.

Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you,

First and foremost, allow me to thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for the excellent arrangement of this 5th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security. I would like to join my colleagues, in welcoming all participants to this important forum and on behalf of the Indonesian delegation allow me to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us.

Allow me also to express my particular pleasure and honor to co-chair our two-day meeting with Mr. Park Chul-Min, from the Republic of Korea and Mr. Fuchs from the United States. It is a privilege for me to once again co-chair this important meeting together with you since our meeting in San Francisco, June last year.

Distinguished delegates,

We are fully aware that our region faces numerous threats and challenges which have increasingly grown from traditional security to non-traditional security issues, including in maritime domain. These challenges and threats affect not only one particular country, but all countries in the region.

Since we commenced the 1st ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in 2009 in Surabaya, Indonesia, until the conduct of the 4th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in San Francisco, last year, we have engaged in various deliberations on wide spectrum of issues related to maritime security and came up with a good number of decisions and recommendations.

The ARF Work Plan of Preventive Diplomacy, adopted in 2011, as a platform for ARF towards a more action oriented forum also highlighted the need for ARF to bolster its cooperation to help to prevent disputes and conflict from arising in the region. The ARF, to be true to its objective, can also serve as an early warning system for any potential threat to peace and stability in the region.

Mindful of this condition and cross cutting issues amongst four main areas of cooperation under the ARF, such as the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes and Maritime Security, there is a need to have a snapshot of existing cooperation and initiatives, as a basis to develop a more coherent, coordinated and effective cooperation in the region.

The interlinkages of cooperation between transnational crime and maritime security in the region, manifested in the issues such as trafficking in persons, drugs trafficking, illegal fishing and other crimes conducted at sea, constitute a challenge for the ARF to make it a more responsive to regional dynamics and concerns. Although ARF is not a decision making forum, ARF could still play an important role to develop recommendations, policy guidance and norms-setting.

Distinguished delegates,

In the maritime security domain, the Ha Noi Plan of Action and the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security have identified measures to develop concrete and effective regional responses to maritime security challenge based on three priority areas namely; sharing of information and best practices; CBMs; and capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies.

What we are discussing in terms of policy issues, best practices, cooperative activities and lessons learned under the ARF can be further developed, strengthened and implemented under other relevant ASEAN-led processes.

With the view of optimizing the role of ARF in norms setting in maritime domain, various activities implementing the ARF Work Plan on Maritime

Security have been carried out. Yet there are still many more to do including the review of the work plan itself.

To finish my remarks, I encourage all participants to share their thoughts and experiences to meet our two-day meeting's objectives.

Thank you.