

Assessment of terrorism and transnational crimes in ARF.

Canada recognizes that both TOC and IT are phenomena which transcend national and regional boundaries. While we are rightly concerned about events which take place within our boundaries, we must also recognize that events that take place far beyond these boundaries can also have a major impact on our security. As such, when we speak of an assessment of transnational crime and terrorism within the ARF region, we must also consider important international trends that originate beyond the region but may ultimately have a large effect on regional counter terrorism and anti-crime policies.

As a Pacific nation, with major trade and people linkages to Asia, Canada has a direct interest in regional stability and prosperity. Given Asia's growing economic and political influence, we can only expect that this interest will increase. We see this forum as a valuable tool in developing regional consensus on approaches to terrorism and crime that will help ensure continued security and prosperity.

From the perspective of international crime, Canada is concerned with the role of organized crime networks in illicit drugs, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, money laundering and cyber crime. In particular, I would like to highlight the links between crime networks in Canada and Asia in the production and distribution of illegal synthetic drugs. Regrettably, Canada has become an important source of drugs like methamphetamine and ecstasy for the region. While Canada is firmly committed to combating this problem, and has been successful in dismantling operations across Canada, we also need to work with Asian partners to address the challenge of the smuggling of precursor chemicals. We encourage all countries to develop and implement effective control measures.

Canada also faces a challenge with migrant smuggling originating in Asia. This has become a priority for Canada. We are appreciative of the high level of cooperation demonstrated in combating this crime by ASEAN member states. We will continue to engage with source and transit countries to exchange information and to disrupt future migrant smuggling operations.

From a terrorism perspective, Canada continues to condemn terrorism in all of its forms and follows with great interest the vigorous counter-terrorism efforts undertaken by many countries in the region. We look forward to hearing about the progress of these efforts today.

The recent death of UBL represents an important step in global counter terrorism, but we recognize that the threat is evolving not diminishing. From Canada's perspective, it is the threat from home-grown Islamist extremism that concerns us the most. We believe that instability in various areas including Afghanistan, North Africa and the Middle East fuels violent extremism in these regions and that a growing pool of individuals inspired by the jihadist narrative around the world creates serious security implications.

While it is important to counter violent extremism, it is vital that we do so in a way that respects human rights and freedom of expression. In Canada, we have found that the most effective way to mitigate the threat from home-grown extremists is through engagement with at-risk communities. By building trust and good working relationships between these communities and

our national security agencies, we have increased the ability and willingness of these communities to identify and intervene with individuals within the community that are showing signs of violent extremism.

Canada is also concerned that WMD are not acquired by terrorists and we support and implement the UNSC resolutions and are working towards implementation of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear terrorism . Canada is a major contributor to the Global Partnerships Program that seeks to reduce the likelihood that weapons and materials of mass destruction will be used in terrorist attacks. We work with a number of countries in the region to increase resilience to CBRNE attacks.

In closing, we note that both terrorism and trans-national organized crime remain serious problems both in the ARF region and globally. We believe that ARF is a valuable mechanism to allow us to pool our knowledge, experience and resources to mitigate against this threat.