

**Speech by Lt. Gen. Tran Viet Tan -Vice Minister of Public Security
At the 10th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and
Transnational Crimes**

- *Distinguished Senior Officials, Delegates and Guests!*
- *Representatives of Diplomatic Missions!*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Vietnam has the pleasure, together with Canada, to co-organize the tenth ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes. This is the second time we host this significant event, after the first two years ago. We consider it a great honor to be entrusted by ARF member countries, when Vietnam once again has the opportunity to demonstrate itself as an active member of ASEAN and a reliable partner. On behalf of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, I would like to express our warmest welcome and best wishes to all of you present here.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Our meeting is taking place in complicated regional and international situation. The global economic crisis, the public debt crisis in eurozone and political instability in North Africa and the Middle East have brought about negative impacts on national security and social orders of every country. At the same time, we have seen an increase in terrorist activities and transnational crimes, particularly narcotic, human trafficking, high-tech and maritime crimes. In this context, cooperation among ARF members fortunately has improved and recorded many encouraging achievements, making contribution to building confidence and enhancing cooperation among all concerned parties in dealing with regional and global matters.

We understand that terrorism and transnational crimes pose severe threats to peace, stability and development of every country and the world. Maritime security continues to be major concerns of various countries whose national interests and future are connected with the ocean. The recent situation in important shipping lines in the Gulf of Eden, Malacca Straits and East Vietnam Sea requires stronger coordinated efforts by both regional countries and concerned partners. Moreover, the majority of ARF countries either have ocean coasts or national interests connected with international shipping lines. Therefore, international cooperation in combating terrorism and transnational crimes is not only the responsibility of one single country or the ASEAN. We need to further expand cooperation with various partners outside ASEAN to share responsibilities for regional security.

In recent years, with efforts by ARF member countries, many mechanisms, initiatives, programs and projects for cooperation in combating terrorism and transnational crimes have been approved and comprehensively implemented in and outside the ASEAN. Particularly the efforts to cope with non-traditional security issues such as natural disasters, climate change, maritime security and safety, terrorism, transnational crimes, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament. So, it is important to heighten the role of ARF in combating terrorism and transnational crimes.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Together with expansion of globalization and international integration, the fast development of science and technology has resulted in the emergence of new transnational crimes, bearing unpredictable consequences to our region. Combating terrorism, transnational crimes and ensuring peace, stability, maritime security and safety in the East Vietnam Sea has become the common interest of the ARF. Therefore, I call for distinguished delegates to support the efforts to increase mutual confidence and cooperation for peace, stability, maritime security and safety in the East Vietnam Sea. I call for your support for stronger implementation of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the East Vietnam Sea (or DOC) and ASEAN-China plans of action to respect and fully implement the DOC. I call for your support for further negotiations on building the Code of Conduct of Parties in the East Vietnam Sea based on international laws, especially the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. At the same time, on the basis of reviewing implementation of ARF action plan on counter-terrorism and transnational crimes, we need to figure out challenges in coping with these threats and identify good cooperation models and experience that can be shared among ARF countries so as to build suitable strategies for combating terrorism and transnational crimes in the future.

The full attendance of ARF member countries in this meeting shows our determination to enhance cooperation in the fight against crimes so as to build peace, stability and sustainable development in the region and the world. I believe that with the atmosphere of openness and responsibility in this meeting, many effective initiatives shall be made. The cooperation mechanism between ARF members' law enforcement agencies shall be gradually strengthened to meet national and regional demands.

On this occasion, I wish you good health, happiness and interesting business trip in Hoi An City. May our meeting be a great success.

Thank you./.