

**10TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING
ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
QUANG NAM, VIET NAM, 16-17MARCH 2012**

**Introductory Remarks
David Hamilton, Co-Chair (CANADA)**

I would first like to extend my appreciation to the Government of Vietnam for hosting and co-chairing this year's inter-sessional meeting on trans-national crime and terrorism. I note that this session follows immediately the Workshop on Proxy Actors in Cyberspace at this same hotel, so I thank our Vietnamese hosts for their diligence and hospitality in ensuring the success of two important events and for making such a large contribution to the work of our group. I would also like to thank His Excellency Deputy Minister Tran for coming to Danang and welcoming us at the reception last night and opening our proceedings this morning.

It is a great honour for Canada to have the opportunity to co-chair the CTTC and we welcome the opportunity to partner with Vietnam. Canada places great importance on its relationship with ASEAN. This year marks the 35th anniversary of our relations with ASEAN and we consider the ARF to be a valuable forum for dialogue on security issues. Canada is fortunate to have so many important friendships in the region and our ever-growing linkages in the region remind us that our collective security and economic prosperity can be threatened by the forces of terrorism and international crime. I thank each delegation for making the journey to Vietnam to be part of this meeting. We all face many demands on our time and resources, so we your presence demonstrates the importance you place on this grouping and on this topic.

Both transnational organized crime and terrorism are serious and growing security threats that transcend boundaries. Criminal organizations and terrorists do not respect international boundaries so it is clear that the response to counter these threats must emphasize cooperation and the sharing of information and best practices among states while protecting human rights, fair treatment, rule of law and due process. A wide range of international conventions and protocols have been developed to establish a framework of standards to promote cooperation among states and establish standards of behavior and it is important that all states ratify and fully implement these instruments as soon as possible. At the same time, many regional organizations, including ARF, have taken steps to increase regional coordination of efforts to combat crime and terrorism and these efforts have a valuable role in ensuring a strong universal response to these threats.

The Hanoi Plan of Action was adopted by Ministers in 2010 as a means to implement the ARF Vision statement. It is worth reviewing the guidance that the document provides us. The objectives with respect to crime and terrorism are as follows:

“By 2020, ARF will develop an effective network for regional law enforcement and military agencies to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to the threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region.”

The Action Plan contains concrete steps that states can take to further this objective, including ratification and implementation of relevant conventions and treaties, the development of national strategies and legal frameworks, promotion of cyber security, information sharing, best practices in law enforcement and technical cooperation and working to address conditions conducive to terrorism and crime and building a culture of peace and tolerance.

Our work at this meeting and in the period leading up to the next meeting should be measured against these objectives. I look forward during the meeting, to hearing about initiatives that have and will move these objectives forward.

We are looking forward to an interesting and productive meeting today and tomorrow and I thought it might be useful to go over the agenda so that we can have a shared understanding of the objectives. We have first asked Cambodia as Chair of ASEAN for 2012 to speak to us about ASEAN's priorities for the year. It is always valuable to begin a meeting with a clear understanding of high level objectives that can help guide our work.

We will then turn to a discussion of maritime security as it pertains to terrorism and trans-national crime. We selected this topic not to duplicate the important work of the ISM on Maritime Security but rather to bring the work of these two related groups closer together. Since we have gathered in this room, a collection of experts on crime and terrorism, we propose to gather the main concerns and the best practices from this group and share them with our colleagues from the maritime security group. In so doing, we hope to be able to enhance their knowledge of the specific threats and practices that are of concern to this group.

While we are encouraging all states to speak to the subject of maritime security, if your states have other crime and terrorism concerns that they wish to share with the group, we encourage you to use this session to do so.

We have also invited speakers from the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore and from the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam to come and speak to us about crime and terrorism in the maritime domain. We describe them both as expert speakers, but our interest in their presentations is more in the different perspective that they can bring to the issue as academics, free of the need to speak directly from a national perspective. It is our hope that these unique perspectives will enhance the national statements and broaden our perspective.

At the end of the day, we will turn to a review of the implementation of the CTTC work plan. We will call on the states responsible for each of the working groups to provide an update on activities of the past year and plans for the following year. Each of these four areas has been confirmed as a priority for ARF and we look forward to an active discussion about how these topics can be further explored and advanced.

On Saturday morning, the co-chairs will present a summary report on the discussion on maritime security. It is our intention to present the key points of the previous day's discussion, which will serve as

the basis for the eventual written report to the Maritime Security group. There will be an opportunity for states to intervene to ensure that the summary is complete and accurate.

As we head towards the conclusion of the meeting, we will look for updates on several related initiatives from the states leading these processes so that we can better understand how the CTTC can work more effectively within the network of regional and multilateral mechanisms. We have identified the Maritime Security WG, the South East Asia WG of the Global Counter-terrorism Forum and the UN Global CT Strategy as mechanisms of particular relevance to this one. If other states are prepared to intervene on other related initiatives, we would welcome this.

This would lead into a discussion of the future direction of the CTTC. This would be a good opportunity to suggest adjustments to the priority areas and discuss initiatives that have been raised previously but have not yet been approved as priorities. The Philippines have asked to speak on Trafficking in Persons and the Russians on Countering Terrorism Financing. We anticipate that the discussion of future directions could lead to recommendations to SOM for eventual additions, deletions or modifications from the existing list of priorities. For our priorities to remain relevant, it is important that they be refreshed regularly and I encourage everyone to give this topic particular thought.

Finally, the United States has asked for an opportunity to discuss its proposal for an ARF trans-national Information-sharing Centre and the Russians have asked to update the group on its proposed statement on cyber security. If other states have specific issues that they wish to add to the agenda, please let the co-chairs know and we will ensure that time is allotted.

Once again, i thank everyone for their attendance at this year's ISM on CTTC and I look forward t everyone' active participation as we address important security issues.