



## **SUMMARY REPORT**

### **ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (ARF SOM)**

Bangkok, 31 May 2019

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Meeting was held in Bangkok on 31 May 2019 and chaired by H.E. Busaya Mathelin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Meeting was attended by all ARF Participants as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

2. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

3. The Meeting adopted the Tentative Programme of Activities, which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORT OF THE ARF DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE (DOD), 2 MAY 2019, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

4. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the ARF DOD which was organised along two sessions, namely on maritime security capabilities and confidence building as well as on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) cooperation and cases. The Dialogue recognised that maritime security is an essential factor in regional peace and security as well as economic development and underlined the significance of practical cooperation to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges at sea, including through information sharing, coordinated patrols, maritime exercises, as well as capacity building on the implementation of relevant laws

of the sea. The Dialogue noted the various HADR efforts carried out by ARF Participants in post-disaster situation and exchanged views on the role of military as the first responders in emergency situations. The Dialogue also emphasised the importance of civil-military coordination and the role of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), especially in managing assistance from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and in streamlining coordination and implementation of the 2020 ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme. The draft Summary Report of the ARF DOD appears as **ANNEX 4**.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY (ISG ON CBMs AND PD), 3 MAY 2019, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

5. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD which reviewed the implementation of Track 1 activities under the Inter-Sessional Year 2018-2019 and the respective Work Plans. The ISG also deliberated on proposed activities for the Inter-Sessional Year (ISY) 2019-2020 such as workshops and initiatives, as well as discussed the co-chairmanship of annually-convened ARF meetings. The ISG exchanged views on regional and international security issues, including the situation in the South China Sea and the developments in the Korean Peninsula, the threats of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as cyber security issues. The Meeting noted that inputs and comments to the draft Summary Report of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD were to be submitted to the Co-Chairs by 5 June 2019. The draft Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 5**.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ARF SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE (ASPC), 23 MAY 2019, THAILAND**

6. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 16<sup>th</sup> ASPC, which discussed a number of security issues of common interest, including maritime security, transnational crime and border management, countering terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism, cyber security, and HADR. The Conference also emphasised the significance of comprehensive security in support of advancing partnership for sustainable security, in line with the theme of Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: REVIEW OF ARF CBMs AND PD MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR INTER-SESSIONAL YEAR 2018-2019**

**6.1. Review of ARF CBMs and PD Activities and Progress of Implementation of the ARF Work Plans**

**6.1.1. 11<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) and ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2018-2020, 14-15 March 2019, Viet Nam**

7. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS, co-chaired by Viet Nam, Australia and the European Union (EU), which discussed and exchanged views on traditional and non-traditional maritime security issues, including the increasing naval presence at sea, illegal ship-to-ship transfer, transnational crimes at sea, Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing, and marine environmental protection. The ISM was also updated on the various maritime cooperation in ASEAN carried out by 12 sectoral bodies across all three ASEAN Community Pillars and noted the complexities and cross-cutting nature of maritime issues. To avoid duplication of efforts, the 11<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS underlined the need to streamline and synergise these mechanisms. The Meeting noted that the EU would host the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS in Spain in 2020. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS appears as **ANNEX 6**.

**6.1.2. 16<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) and ARF Work Plan for Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019-2021, 21-22 March 2019, Indonesia**

8. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 16<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC, co-chaired by Indonesia and Russia. The ISM reviewed the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2015-2017 and discussed measures to strengthen regional cooperation to prevent and counter violent extremism, as well as to address other challenges such as illicit drug trafficking, firearms, wildlife and timber, irregular migration, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and the return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). The Meeting endorsed the draft ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2019-2021 and further noted the suggestion to extend the term of chairmanship of this ISM to two years, or depending on the number of the co-chairs. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC and the draft Work Plan appear as **ANNEX 7 and 8, respectively**.

**6.1.3. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ISM on ICTs Security) and ARF Work plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs, 28-29 March 2019, Singapore**

9. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF ISM on ICTs Security, co-chaired by Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan, which agreed to further course two proposed initiatives, namely the establishment of the ARF Points of Contact (POC) Directory on ICTs Security (co-led by Malaysia and Australia) and the Protection of ICT-Enabled Critical Infrastructure (co-led by Singapore and the EU). The Meeting also noted the implementation of the following three initiatives adopted by the 25<sup>th</sup> ARF in Singapore in August 2018: (i) Sharing of Information on National Laws, Policies, Best Practices and Strategies as well as Rules and Regulations; (ii) Awareness-Raising and Information Sharing on Emergency Responses to Security Incidents in the Use of ICTs; and (iii) ARF Workshop on Principles of Building Security in the Use of ICTs in the National Context, which is scheduled to be held in Singapore on 25-26 June 2019. The Meeting noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISM on ICTs Security would be held in Japan in the Q2 of 2020. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF ISM on ICTs Security appears as **ANNEX 9**.

**6.1.4. 18<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) and ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2018-2020, 2-3 April 2019, Lao PDR**

10. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 18<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR, co-chaired by Lao PDR, Canada and China. The ISM discussed the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2018-2021 and exchanged views on the following sessions: (i) lessons learned and best practices on emergency management and preparedness among ARF Participants; (ii) ways and measures to improve cooperation on disaster relief in order to enhance capacity building; (iii) best practices in enhancing civil-military coordination in disaster response; (iv) ARF Participants' national experiences in coordination with external parties for humanitarian assistance; and (v) best practices in post-disaster responses, including in recovery and reconstruction. On the way forward, the Meeting also noted the necessity to further discuss HADR efforts in archipelagic nations. The Meeting noted that the 19<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR would be convened in China in the first half of 2020. The Co-Chairs Summary Report of the 18<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR appears as **ANNEX 10**.

**6.1.5. 11<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) and ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, 8-9 April 2019, Indonesia**

11. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD, co-chaired by Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Meeting discussed measures

to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology and regional cooperation in nuclear energy, including updates on the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), as well as updates on Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the preparation for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference 2020. The ISM also exchanged views on recent development, prospects, as well as non-proliferation challenges in the region, including on the recent progress in the Korean Peninsula and the Iranian nuclear issue. The Meeting noted that the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on NPD would be convened in Japan in the first half of 2020 with disarmament as the main theme. The draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 11**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: CONSIDERATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF ARF CBMs AND PD INITIATIVES**

### **7.1. List of Track I Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2019-2020**

#### **7.1.1. Concept Paper of the Guideline for Preventing and Managing Incidents between Maritime Law Enforcement Units**

12. The Meeting noted that the proposal, co-sponsored by Viet Nam, Australia and the EU, aimed to establish an online working group comprising representatives from the ARF Participating Countries to develop non-binding and voluntary Guideline for Preventing and Managing Incidents between Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) units. The Meeting took note the view of one ARF Participant that internal consultation was still taking place and therefore would have to reserve its position, and view of another ARF Participant that taking into account the sensitivity of MLE issues, the development and implementation of such guidelines in the ARF is still premature. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 12**.

#### **7.1.2. 3<sup>rd</sup> ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional MLE Cooperation**

13. The Meeting noted that Viet Nam, Australia and the EU proposed to convene the third iteration of the Workshop, which would focus on areas discussed at the first two workshops, including ways to address land-sea nexus and harness new technologies to assist MLE agency operations. Taking note of the similarities between the proposed Workshop and the proposed Guidelines for Preventing and Managing Incidents between MLE Units, one ARF Participant suggested to combine the two proposals into one activity to avoid duplication of efforts, while another ARF Participant expressed their support, on the account that all reference to the Guidelines be deleted from the Concept Paper of the Workshop. The Meeting noted the Co-Chairs'

suggestion to review the concept paper and provided in-principle endorsement. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 13.**

#### **7.1.3. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Workshop on Implementing UNCLOS to Address Emerging Maritime Issues**

14. The Meeting noted that the Workshop, co-chaired by Viet Nam and the EU, would further discuss the implementation of UNCLOS provisions and associated frameworks, as well as identify specific regulatory gaps in the region with a focus on maritime security and environmental cooperation. One ARF Participant informed the Meeting that they had provided inputs to the Concept Paper, and if taken into account, would give in-principle support to the proposal. The Meeting noted that Canada would also co-chair this activity. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 14.**

#### **7.1.4. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Workshop on Maritime Domain Awareness**

15. The Meeting noted the proposal from Viet Nam and Japan to hold the second iteration of the Workshop in Japan in February 2020. The Meeting noted that the discussion would build upon the outcomes of the first Workshop in 2018 and aimed to enhance ARF Participants' understanding of MDA capabilities to address existing and emerging maritime challenges. The Concept Paper of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 15.**

#### **7.1.5. 3<sup>rd</sup> ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety**

16. The Meeting noted that China proposed the third iteration of the Workshop in the second half of 2019. It was noted that the Workshop aimed to continue the exchange and cooperation among ARF Participants on enhancing efforts in ferry safety. The Meeting noted that Thailand would co-chair the activity. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 16.**

#### **7.1.6. ARF Workshop on Dispute Resolution and Law of the Sea**

17. The Meeting noted that the proposal by Australia and Timor-Leste aimed to examine various avenues for dispute resolution under international law and explore the lessons learned from the Timor-Leste and Australia conciliation, in reference to ANNEX V of the UNCLOS. The Meeting noted that Malaysia would be the ASEAN Co-Chair of the Workshop. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 17.**

#### **7.1.7. Concept Paper of the International Ship and Port Facility Code Training Series and Manual**

18. The Meeting noted that the proposal by the United States (U.S.) would consist of a three-part training series to increase understanding and implementation of the

requirements under the International Maritime Organization's Safety of Life at Sea Convention on International and Ship and Port Facility Code. The Meeting noted that the U.S. was seeking an ASEAN Co-Chair. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 18.**

#### **7.1.8. Concept Paper of the National Maritime Points of Contact Directory**

19. The Meeting noted that the U.S. proposed to convene a workshop to discuss the parameters of the directory, whose objective was to create a concrete voluntary network of maritime points of contact to promote actual information exchange and increase the interoperability of the ARF Participants. On a suggestion to further take into consideration the Priority Area 3 of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2018-2020 on Capacity Building and Enhancing Cooperation of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region, the U.S. informed the Meeting that they would collaborate with Malaysia and China as the Co-Leading countries of Priority Area 3 to further review the Concept Paper, which appears as **ANNEX 19.**

#### **7.1.9. Points of Contact Directory on Security of and in the Use of ICTs**

20. The Meeting took note that the proposal, co-sponsored by Malaysia and Australia, aimed to provide a platform for communication among ARF Participants in the event of ICTs security incidents. The Meeting further noted that the proposal had received support from all ARF Participants. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 20.**

#### **7.1.10. Protection of ICT-Enabled Critical Infrastructures**

21. The Meeting noted that the proposal, co-sponsored by Singapore and the EU, was meant to serve as a platform for ARF Participants to share information on the modalities and mechanisms in protecting the ICT-enabled critical national infrastructures. The Meeting also noted that at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF ISM on ICTs Security, one ARF Participant expressed discomfort in the use of the term CBM in the title of the proposal and that the concern had been addressed accordingly. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 21.**

#### **7.1.11. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing**

22. The Meeting took note that the U.S. proposed to hold the second iteration of the Workshop and was currently seeking an ASEAN Co-Chair. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 22.**

**7.1.12. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Enhancement Training on USAR Capacity Building and Comprehensive USAR Drill**

23. The Meeting noted China's proposal to hold an enhancement training to build USAR capabilities in the second half of 2019 and was seeking an ASEAN Co-Chair. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 23.**

**7.1.13. 3<sup>rd</sup> ARF Workshop on Urban Search and Rescue**

24. The Meeting noted that the proposal by China aimed to enhance exchanges of cooperation on USAR. The Meeting further noted that China was seeking an ASEAN Co-Chair. The Concept paper appears as **ANNEX 24.**

**7.1.14. ARF Workshop on Global Multi-Hazard Early Warning Capacity Development in Asian Region**

25. The Meeting noted China's proposal to convene a workshop which aimed to enhance the capabilities of ARF Participants in managing meteorological disasters and further noted that Myanmar would co-chair this activity. The Meeting noted Myanmar's request for the Workshop to be convened in the early half of October 2019. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 25.**

**7.1.15. ARF High-Level Symposium on Nuclear Security Capability Building**

26. The Meeting noted China's proposal to convene a high-level symposium which aimed to provide a platform for ARF Participants to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in nuclear security areas, as well as to identify common challenges and needs for sustainable development. One ARF Participant informed the Meeting that they would further review the Concept Paper and would reach out to the proponent for clarification. The Meeting further noted that Cambodia would co-chair the Symposium along with China. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 26.**

**7.1.16. ARF Table-Top Exercise on Response Capabilities to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents**

27. The Meeting noted the Philippines' proposal to convene a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) which aimed to enhance inter-operability and coordination among agencies as well as to identify priority actions to strengthen national capabilities in CBRN risk mitigation and response. The Meeting noted that the ROK would co-chair this activity and noted Russia's interest to also co-chair this activity. One ARF Participant informed the Meeting that they would need to further review the Concept Paper, which appears as **ANNEX 27.**



### **7.1.17. ARF Workshop on Women, Peace and Security**

28. The Meeting noted Canada's proposal to convene a workshop to strengthen existing regional coordination mechanisms and mainstream women, peace and security (WPS) agenda into its activities, in line with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. One ARF Participant suggested some amendments to the Concept Paper to align with the amendments proposed to the draft Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security at the ARF. The Meeting also noted that one ARF Participant expressed reservation on the proposed location of the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of the Workshop in New York. The Meeting also noted that Indonesia and Thailand would co-chair this activity. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 28**.

### **7.1.18. Concept Paper of the First Workshop of Awareness-Raising and Information Sharing on Emergency Responses to Security Incidents in the Use of ICTs**

29. The Meeting took note that Cambodia, Singapore and China proposed to convene a Workshop to increase ARF Participants' capacity in addressing ICTs- related challenges. The Meeting noted that the Workshop would be convened in early 2020. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 29**.

### **7.1.19. Preventive Diplomacy in Conflict Mitigation**

30. The Meeting noted that the proposal, co-chaired by Canada and the U.S, was previously tabled at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD under the title "Preventive Diplomacy in Election Monitoring". Due to the significant changes to the title and content of the Concept Paper, some ARF Participants were of the view that the proposal should be regarded as a new proposal and therefore would need to be further examined. The Meeting noted that Indonesia would co-chair this activity. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 30**.

### **7.1.20. Concept Note on the Workshop on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Online**

31. The Meeting noted New Zealand's proposal to convene a Workshop on countering online violent extremism, which was in line with Priority Area 3 in the draft ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2019-2021. One ARF Participant informed that it would need to further review the Concept Paper. The Meeting noted that Malaysia and Indonesia would co-chair this activity. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 31**.

32. The Meeting noted that all proposed activities that had received endorsement from the ARF SOM would be included in the List of ARF Track 1 Activities for ISY 2019-2020, while proposals which have yet to receive consensus would need to

be finalised with complete ASEAN and non-ASEAN co-chairs by 3 July 2019. The Meeting further noted that the proposals which are yet to be finalised by 3 July 2019 would not be included in the List of ARF Track 1 Activities for the ISY 2019-2020.

## **7.2. Co-Chairs of ARF Meetings and Activities for the Next Inter-Sessional Year**

### **7.2.1. ARF ISG on CBMs and PD**

33. The Meeting noted that Viet Nam would co-chair the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in the ISY 2019-2020 with the United States.

### **7.2.2. 17<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

34. The Meeting noted that Malaysia, the EU and New Zealand would co-chair the 17<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC. Given that the co-chairmanship term of the ARF ISM on CTTC only applies for one year, the meeting took note of the possibility of extending the term of co-chairmanship beyond one-year period, depending on the number of the Co-Chairs.

### **7.2.3. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREX)**

35. No ARF Participant expressed interest in co-chairing the ARF DiREx in 2020.

### **7.2.4. 23<sup>rd</sup> ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM)**

36. The Meeting noted that Singapore would co-chair the 23<sup>rd</sup> ARF HDUCIM with Pakistan in Singapore on 11-14 November 2019.

### **7.2.5. 14<sup>th</sup> ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting**

37. The Meeting noted that Myanmar and China would co-chair the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting in Myanmar in the first quarter of 2020.

### **7.2.6. 8<sup>th</sup> ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting**

38. The Meeting noted Indonesia's interest to co-chair the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting in 2020 and that Indonesia was seeking a non-ASEAN Co-Chair.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: STRENGTHENING THE ARF PROCESS AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE ARF**

### **8.1. Update on the Implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPoA) to Implement the ARF Vision Statement**

39. The Meeting noted the progress on the implementation of the HPoA to implement the ARF Vision Statement which currently stands at 60.8% with 45 action lines implemented and 29 action lines pending. The Meeting noted that 74.5% of Section I on ARF Priority Areas, 55% on Section II on CBMs and PD, and 27% on Section III on Institutional Enhancement had been successfully implemented. The HPoA and its Matrix on the Status of Implementation appear as **ANNEX 32 and 33, respectively.**

40. With the ARF Vision Statement 2020 entering its final year, the Meeting noted the necessity for a comprehensive review of the HPoA and to initiate discussions on the future of the ARF beyond 2020. Such review could be undertaken by examining and identifying, among others, best practices and lessons learned from the current HPoA as well as new priority areas in the subsequent action plan. In its capacity as the ARF Chair in 2020, Viet Nam informed the Meeting that it would take the lead in developing the new PoA as well as look into the possibility of restructuring the ARF process.

### **8.2. Recommendations by ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs)**

41. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting held in Chiba, Japan, on 25-27 February 2019 co-chaired by Myanmar and Japan. The briefing highlighted the two key recommendations put forth by the EEPs, namely: (i) on the occasion of the ARF's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for the ARF Ministers to renew and refresh the ARF and consider embracing a wider and more inclusive security cooperation while continuing to focus on CBMs, PD, and Approaches to Conflict Resolution; and (ii) to establish a Virtual Working Group to further examine and make recommendation regarding the EEPs' future focus, role and relevance as well as to prepare recommendation for a review of the ARF EEPs' Terms of Reference (TOR) and its guidelines of operations.

42. One ARF Participant expressed support towards the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting and was of the view that such recommendations would enable the ARF to engage in wider and more inclusive security cooperation, wherein the progress of the ARF would not only be measured or limited by the three-stages of the ARF. Meanwhile, another ARF Participant was of the view that the recommendations might not be feasible to be taken up by Track 1 and suggested to continue and carry over the discussion to the next inter-sessional year. Taking into account the divergent views, the Meeting noted that the recommendations would not be submitted to the

26<sup>th</sup> ARF. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> ARF EEPs Meeting appears as **ANNEX 34.**

### **8.3. Proposal to Streamline the ARF SOM**

43. The Meeting took note of the proposal to streamline the ARF reporting process at the ARF SOM, with the aim to shorten the duration of the ARF SOM and reduce duplication between the ARF SOM and the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD. The proposal suggested for each of the ARF meetings' reports be delivered by the Co-Chairs of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD instead of the Co-Chairs of the respective ISMs. Several ARF Participants expressed support towards this proposal, bearing in mind that it would provide ARF SOM leaders more time to focus their discussion on regional security issues and prepare for the ARF Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting further noted the suggestion for the Co-Chairs' Summary Reports of all ISMs and the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD to be finalised before the ARF SOM. The Meeting also noted the suggestion to the co-chairs of the ISMs to spread out the timing of the ISMs to provide ample time for ARF Participants to implement their respective Work Plans. In moving forward, one ARF Participant was of the view that there might be a necessity to review the whole ARF process in the spirit of streamlining and strengthening the Forum beyond the ARF SOM, which could also contribute to the development of the ARF Vision Statement and the HPoA beyond 2020. Emphasising on ASEAN Centrality, it is encouraged that ASEAN Member States contribute to the discussion and that such a proposal would be tabled at the ASEAN SOM in Bangkok in June 2019. The proposal to streamline the ARF SOM appears as **ANNEX 35.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

44. The Meeting exchanged views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and stressed the importance of maintaining momentum in peaceful dialogue, following the US-DPRK Summit, the Inter-Korean Summits and the DPRK-Russia Summit, which would contribute to peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. Some ARF Participants called for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting underscored the importance of implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. One ARF Participant also raised humanitarian concerns.

45. The Meeting condemned the acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and expressed condolences on the shooting incident in Christchurch, New Zealand and the horrific bombing in Sri Lanka. The Meeting underlined the importance of addressing the root causes of terrorism, including through developing a holistic approach and the strengthening of law enforcement and domestic policies, as

well as bilateral, regional and multilateral practical cooperation. Recalling the UNSCR 2396 on the emerging threat of FTFs, the Meeting encouraged timely information sharing and intelligence exchange as well as practical cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of ARF Participants to identify the risks posed by FTFs and preventing them from planning, directing, conducting, recruiting, as well as inspiring others to commit terrorist attacks.

46. The Meeting recalled the 2018 ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cyber Security Cooperation and the 2012 ARF Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security. The Meeting highlighted the growing significance of cyber security as a key enabler for economic prosperity and technological development and the need to ensure free, open and secure cyber space. The Meeting further highlighted the misuse of social media and cyber space which contributed to the spread of violent extremism and underlined the importance of increasing cyber awareness among youths. The Meeting emphasised promoting moderation, religious tolerance, preventing terrorist propaganda and racial profiling.

47. Some ARF Participants noted that this situation in the South China Sea had been relatively peaceful and stable over the past year due to joint efforts by various parties. Some ARF Participants expressed concerns about recent developments in the South China Sea, and urged all parties to refrain from actions that would escalate tensions. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, without the use or threat to use force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting underscored the importance of full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in its entirety. Some ARF Participants welcomed the ongoing negotiations of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, and expressed hope for the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct.

48. The Meeting received an informal briefing by one ARF Participant on the situation in Rakhine State, including Myanmar's progress on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Advisory Commission, bilateral consultation and cooperation with the United Nations and AHA Centre, extension of the MOU with UNDP and UNHCR. The Meeting acknowledged the progress in the Preliminary Needs Assessment of the AHA Centre, reflecting ASEAN's visible and enhanced role on this issue. The Meeting underscored the importance of facilitating the repatriation process, which should be in a safe, secure and dignified manner. Some ARF Participants emphasised the need to address the humanitarian situation and the root causes of the conflict in line with the report of the Advisory Commission.

49. The Meeting also touched upon other security issues, including the Indo-Pacific initiative, the Iranian nuclear issue, the rise of protectionism and growing trade disputes, as well as the situation in the Middle East.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: PREPARATION FOR THE 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM**

### **10.1. Draft Provisional Agenda of the 26<sup>th</sup> ARF**

50. The Meeting noted that the 26<sup>th</sup> ARF would be convened in Bangkok, in the afternoon of 2 August 2019.

### **10.2. Tentative Programme of Activities of the 26<sup>th</sup> ARF**

51. The Meeting noted that the Tentative Programme of Activities and the Provisional Agenda of the 26<sup>th</sup> ARF would be circulated to all ARF Participants in due course.

### **10.3. Outcome Documents for the 26<sup>th</sup> ARF**

#### **10.3.1. Draft ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Aviation Partnership: Soaring Ahead Together**

52. The Meeting was updated on the draft Statement, co-sponsored by Brunei Darussalam and the United States, which aimed to promote aviation safety and security as well as strengthen information sharing to guard against the cross-border movement of terrorists. The Meeting expressed in-principle support on the draft Statement whilst noting that further inputs to the draft may be submitted to the Co-Sponsors and that the draft should be finalised by 19 July 2019. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 36**.

#### **10.3.2. Draft Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security at the ARF**

53. The Meeting noted that the draft Statement, co-sponsored by Canada, Indonesia, the EU, New Zealand and Thailand, and the ROK, aimed to strengthen the implementation of the WPS agenda through training and information sharing among ARF Participants. The Meeting noted that further inputs would be provided to the draft Statement and that the draft should be finalised by 19 July 2019. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 37**.

### **10.3.3. Draft ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism**

54. The Meeting was briefed on the draft Statement which aimed to promote cooperation and information sharing on preventive actions, including disrupting and preventing the financing of terrorisms, as well as implementing risk assessment on the returning and relocating FTFs and their family member in accordance with existing international law. The Meeting took note that Australia and New Zealand would co-sponsor the draft Statement with Indonesia. One ARF Participant was of the view that the term ‘violent extremism’ might not be applicable to the practical actions proposed in the draft Statement and that further inputs and comments to the draft will be submitted to the Co-Sponsors. The Meeting also noted that the draft Statement should be finalised by 19 July 2019. The draft Statement appears as **ANNEX 38**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS**

### **11.1. ARF Annual Security Outlook 2018**

55. The Meeting noted that the 2019 ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) would be issued at the 26<sup>th</sup> ARF and invited ARF Participants to submit their contributions to the Chair by 14 June 2019.

56. With regard to a proposal on the possibility of establishing an experts’ meeting to convene drafting sessions and discuss future proposed statements, some ARF Participants were of the view that it would perhaps be more efficient to utilise existing ARF mechanisms such as the ISMs and that additional drafting sessions/meetings on the sidelines of the relevant ISMs could be convened when and if necessary.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

57. The Chair expressed appreciation to all ARF Participants for the contribution and support extended to Thailand as the current Chair of the ARF and for the active and fruitful discussions at the Meeting.

**ISSUES REQUIRING FOLLOW-UP ACTION**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Key Decision/Issues</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Follow-up By</b>
1.	To complete the co-chairmanship and finalise pending Concept Papers of proposed activities for the ARF ISY 2019-2020.	3 July 2019	Proponents of the activities
2.	To finalise the draft Statements on Aviation Partnership, Women, Peace and Security, as well as Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism.	15 June 2019	Co-Sponsors of the draft Statements

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