

(Text Agreed by the ISM on Maritime Security, at its Third Tokyo Meeting on 14 Feb 2011)

ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security:

Context: Maritime security related issues represent some of the most pressing and potentially useful areas for cooperation in the ARF region. Due to the importance of shipping and seaborne trade in the ARF region some forms of cooperation have developed among relevant countries in the region, both bilaterally and through multilateral fora, with a view to combating and preventing maritime security-related threats. However, cooperation in some areas still falls short of that which is necessary.

The ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security was established by the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in July 2008. Based on the discussion in the first ARF ISM on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) in Surabaya in March 2009 which agreed to utilize the outcomes of the previous ARF discussions on maritime security, the second ARF ISM-MS in Auckland in March 2010 agreed to seek a mandate from the 17th ARF Ministerial meeting to develop an ARF Work Plan. As a result of the 17th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi in July 2010, the Ministers issued the following directive in the Chairman's Statement;

The Ministers stressed the need to build common perceptions on threats and challenges in maritime security. The Ministers appreciated the work of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) in promoting awareness and concrete cooperation on maritime security. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the ISM-MS to develop an ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security for consideration during the next inter-sessional year

Framework: Consistent with the long term goals of the ARF Vision Statement, the Work Plan should identify Priority Areas for ARF's maritime security efforts and distinguish the ARF's role in the context of other regional efforts. While there are other important aspects of international maritime security cooperation, ARF should focus its own work in the areas where it could bring the most added value given its geographic focus, participation, and past work, as well as the specific interests of its members.

Objectives: The key objective of developing a Maritime Security Work Plan is to create a long-term coordinated and comprehensive plan that would:

- prioritize the issues on which the ARF ISM-MS should concentrate its future effort;
- create a compilation of shared experiences and lessons learned;
- strengthen existing networks to share and exchange information/intelligence;
- assist in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional capacity building exercises and training related to maritime security;
- maintain and build on existing ARF government efforts in capacity-building endeavors, technical support and information exchange;
- complement and coordinate with existing regional and international agencies, arrangements and initiatives;
- Advance ARF Maritime Security efforts in a direction that contributes to the goals of the ARF Vision Statement endorsed by Ministers in July 2009.

A key issue is the extent to which the ARF ISM-MS should balance its work between conventional and non-traditional security issues. Non-traditional security issues are recognized as useful early building blocks which are conducive to the cultivation of mutual trust and consensus in the region. Potential measures of preventive diplomacy and confidence-building in the maritime domain are under development, including in other ARF fora, and shall have a place in the Work Plan.

Lead Countries: Lead Countries for each priority area (one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN) are responsible for coordinating and presenting input provided by ARF participants to their respective Priority Area, proposing projects, coordinating the work in their Priority Area, and seeking out funding and hosts for projects in need of assistance. Lead Countries would also be responsible for:

- Liaising with the ARF Unit on the coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements.
- Update the ARF Unit on Work Plan contributions every 6 months.
- Work with ARF Unit to ensure maximum synergies among projects, as

appropriate.

Relationship with Other Regional/International Efforts: There is an obvious need for the Work Plan to be complementary to and coordinated appropriately with relevant regional and global efforts on maritime security. These efforts include various regional and international organizations (see Annex). The following actions will be taken to ensure activities are complimentary to and in coordination with other regional and international efforts.

- The participation, as appropriate, of regional/international organizations in annual ISM-MS meetings. The ARF Unit and ISM-MS Co-chairs should also seek participation in relevant meetings of other forums.
- Consistent sharing of organization reports, strategies, and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations.
- Lead Countries, ARF Unit, and ISM-MS Co-Chairs should regularly consult with representatives of other fora both within and outside of their own governments.
- Publish the ARF MS Work Plan on ARF and ASEAN public websites.

Implementation Timeline:

April 2011: The Work Plan will be tabled at the ISG

ARF participants submit to the Co-Chairs their interests in serving as Lead Countries of the designated Priority Areas. Lead Countries will be announced in due course.

May 2011: The Work Plan will be tabled at the SOM

July 2011: The Work Plan will be adopted by the Ministerial Meeting

Priority Areas: The concept of maritime security is a vast and diverse one which spans conventional maritime security issues such as military threats and state sovereignty concerns to more non-traditional maritime security issues such as piracy, terrorism, natural disasters, climate change, smuggling of drugs, people and goods, search and rescue. Although maritime security has such diverse meaning, Priority Areas for this Work Plan should be workable and realistic and reviewed every 2 years for relevance. The followings are the Priority Areas for 2011-2013:

1. Information/intelligence exchange and sharing of best practices, including on naval operations.
2. Confidence Building Measures based on international and regional legal frameworks, arrangements and cooperation.
3. Capacity Building of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region.

Project Types: These projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular assistance needs and nature of the Priority Area. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of activities with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

1. ARF-wide or sub-regional training focused on improving law enforcement capacity, including inter-agency coordination;
2. Capacity-building workshops that share information on experiences on maritime security, bringing in government, private sector and other relevant experts, as agreed, to train and/or develop best practices;
3. Multilateral tabletop and/or field exercises that would test the implementation of international agreements, regional arrangements or modes of communication (including information-sharing) among ARF and sub-regional participants;
4. Studies on selected aspects of maritime security, in particular focussed on improved risk assessment and risk reduction.

Annex

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (particularly its regional seas programmes)

Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)

Shipping associations

Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)

Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre

The Singapore C2 Information Fusion Centre

ASEAN Maritime Forum

ADMM Plus