

ANNEX C

SPEECH BY VIET NAM'S DELEGATION AT THE 7th ASPC OF ON "FURTHER EXPOILTING ARF POTENTIALS IN DEALING WITH NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE REGION"

***Fellow Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

As for now, I would like to move to the next agenda item, that is "*Further exploiting ARF potentials in dealing with non-traditional security challenges in the region*".

Since I have two roles at this meeting, as Chairman and Head of Viet Nam's delegation, may I have the honor now to present on behalf of the delegation about the position of Ministry of National Defence of Viet Nam on the current ARF defence- security cooperation and its suggestions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, ARF is a special forum with a diversified composition, distinctive from any other security architecture in the world. ARF member countries differ from each other in terms of political regime, development level, population, area and GDP. Different and varied as it is, the diversification in ARF has proved to be a cornerstone, a pillar sustaining the security architecture of the Asia-Pacific region. ARF is well known for its well-established connection with the international security as most of nuclear powers and all UN Permanent Security Members have the representation here. It also has the participation of the two important organizations in the world, namely the EU and ASEAN, plus a fact that it accounts for most of the world GDP and population.

While traditional security issues in the geographical ARF continue being under control thanks to the bilateral and multilateral cooperative efforts, non-traditional security threats are emerging with their complexity, volatility, transnational nature and an extensive region-crossing scale of influence. Though each nation, each region has come to term with particular types of non-traditional security which are different in terms of scale and extent of impact, we still share our common concern and charge of several issues, such as natural disaster, climate change, maritime security, terrorism, infectious epidemic, etc. In recent years, we have had to bear suffering from increasingly devastating consequences of tsunami, earthquake and pandemic, etc. Notably, the impact of climate change though yet being too harsh for the being time in the long term will be for sure far-reaching and resonating through generations.

Perceiving that these issues are beyond national capability and control, ARF has taken into consideration measures of cooperation to gather its member countries in a front to withstand common security challenges. Up to now, ARF has been maintaining a certain extent of defence-security cooperation through knowledge dissemination, exchange of view and search for collaboration in a

series of areas as non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons, maritime security, peacekeeping, transnational crimes and especially ARF coordinated joint exercises on HADR. However, the mode and scope of cooperation have limited to exchange of views, identification of problems, which are far from being practical and not yet going into substance of a specific matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that ARF member countries have great potential and capacity in dealing with non-traditional security challenges. The question now is how to direct and tap those assets at the right time, to the right place and right to the need of most countries. Despite the difference in capability of ARF countries, if there are appropriate forms of cooperation we can still complement and support each other well. Within ARF, there are countries that own high level of technology, there are those with powerful human resources and there are others who are rich in practical experience in weathering things like natural disasters. Hence, to gather and maximize strong points for a collective effort ARF countries have no better ways than pinpointing areas and measures of cooperation that are highly feasible and that best suits the reality and need of each and every member. During this process, perseverance and compromise are needed together with a good gradation of work, starting from the easy to the more difficult. And from what seems to be small but concrete cooperative activities, sustaining trust and confidence will develop, providing firm foundations for the next steps of preventive diplomacy.

We have every reason to believe that all ARF members have need and willingness to collaborate with other members in dealing with the common of non-traditional security. In the absence of cooperation and collaboration of concerned parties, a single country or a region alone will find it hard to manage these transnational problems. What about the defence sector in ARF? I am convinced that there is a large scope of defence cooperation in ARF and what matters now is how to identify the truly practical aspect where we could mobilize and gather countries together irrespective of their own peculiarities. In this regard, we are thinking of search and rescue, HADR, post-disaster reconstruction, fighting transnational crimes and terrorism, preserving maritime security and disease prevention and control.

The observed reality throughout the time tells us that defence and military forces have a vital role to play in handling cases of large scale emergency. Defence establishments are well known to have good equipment and facilities, well-trained personnel and a high mobility and maneuverability. However, problems that we are confronted with are across territorial and national boundaries and naturally armed forces throughout the region need also to cooperate and that is a matter of urgency, in line with the international trend of peace and cooperation. In my opinion, we can think of the following measures to strengthen our military-to-military cooperation:

First, we should increase information-sharing activities with focus on exchange of intelligence for anti-terrorism and combating transnational crimes

like drug smuggling, person trafficking, illegal transportation and trade of arms and munitions.

Second, we can assist and collaborate with each other in capacity building, experience and expertise sharing via seminars/workshops held at various levels.

Third, it is necessary to boost cooperation in military training and education of so that best skills and practices in search and rescue, HADR, post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and epidemic prevention and control, etc. should be disseminated and propagated.

Fourth, ARF militaries can increase the exchange of delegation and activities of cultural exchange among officers to concretize mutual trust and confidence, building firm foundation for cooperation to proceed to joint military operations in response to the regional commons of non-traditional security.

Fifth, interaction and linkage of Track II among ARF defence and security institutions should be further strengthened so that we can facilitate scholars and researchers of the field in exchanging and sharing their academic work and studies into regional security with proposals and suggestions of defence policies and defence cooperation among ARF countries.

Last but not least, table-top and command and control joint exercises for ARF militaries should be encouraged to enhance the capacity of combat readiness and rapid reaction for our militaries in contingency situations, especially when natural disasters occur in a large area and incur severe human and property consequences to one or more nations.

***Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Together with globalization and international integration, our economy and security become more deeply interdependent and intertwined. In dealing with non-traditional and transnational security threats, no countries or regions alone can single-handedly come up with effective solutions. Defence-security cooperation, thus, is a key to maintaining peace and stability, benefiting not only national but also regional interest for all.

Viet Nam upholds the policy of extensive defence cooperation with countries in the world, regarding non-traditional security issues, contributing to preserving a peaceful and stable environment facilitating the economic development and improvement of living standards. With regard to ARF chairmanship, Viet Nam is committed to fulfilling its duties, closely cooperating with other member countries to ensure ARF continues to be a worthwhile forum for regional security, strengthening multilateral cooperation in a more practical and substantive way.

Thank you very much.