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Exchange of Views

on Regional and International Security Situation

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Excellency

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank, Your Excellency Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to share my view around the key security and defence issues that I think are influencing the peace and stability in our region, as follow:

The nature of threats and security discourses are changing and expanding beyond state and military capabilities. In this changing security environment, non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, natural disaster, maritime security, transnational crime, and cyber security are on the rise. The situation on the Korean Peninsula is delicate and fragile, with tensions rising again. The counter-terrorism situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan remains grim. Some countries, in a period of political, economic and social transition, underwent domestic turbulence.

Security cooperation in the Asia Pacific region has been developing quite remarkably at different levels. However, the limited capacity of some ARF member states to adapt, socialize, and integrate themselves into such

dynamic and institutionalized security cooperation creates certain constraints and challenges. It is therefore necessary for us to narrow the security capacity gap within the region in order to encourage more equal and responsible participation of all of us. We should double our effort to strengthen security related institutions and human resource development on security issues. Capacity building process and be developed into the creation of a common security norm and identity within our region.

South China Sea

Rising tensions in the South China Sea remain the most pressing challenge to peace, security and stability in the region and its prospects for continued economic growth and development. In particular, there is a need for all parties concerned to stick to all peaceful means based on mutual trust and confidence in order to maintain peace and stability in South China Sea. All Parties concerned should continue the peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The momentum of continuous consultations and dialogue in view of seeking peaceful solutions and implementing the DoC through practical cooperation needs to be maintained. The South China Sea should be an area of cooperation and joint development rather than confrontation. Similarly, the tensions in the East China Sea have been rising due to the recent series of events. It is in the interest of all exercise restraint, avoid actions which might further raise tensions, and engage in dialogue to overcome difference.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

Recent event in the Aisa-Pacific region, including response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, the Fukushima disaster in Japan, widespread flooding in Cambodia and Thailand , and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, have all underscored the need for continued collaboration in disaster relief. The region has seen massive destructions and losses brought about by some of the biggest calamities ever recorded in humankind history. Some of them happened quite recently. For this reason, enhancing preparedness and emergency response is a must - this is an urgent imperative that ARF cannot fail to delay and realize. Natural disaster waits for no man. In order to save the people's life and prosperity, it is of utmost importance for ARF to be well prepared for possible natural disasters. Throughout the region, ARF has become increasingly active in disaster response, developing specialized policies and institutional capacity to manage disaster that cut across the borders.

Maritime Security

Recognizing the importance of strengthened capacity and cooperation in the maritime domain to address a range of security issues and interests in the region, Cambodia strongly supports continued engagement in maritime security. Since the identification of maritime security as one of ARF cooperation, Cambodia have worked to develop several projects to focus on issues such as enhanced information shairng and sharing of best practices, confidence building measures based on regional and international legal frameworks, and capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region.

Peacekeeping Operation

After the post-cold war, conflict between states is no longer the major threat to the peace and stability of the world; instead many threats mainly caused by non-traditional security challenges. "Military operations rather than war" is the fundamental principle of peacekeeping operation of Cambodia. In this regard, the world has entered a new paradigm in which the role of the military has been redefined and revised by not only have a role in war, but somehow the military is also played a role as a diplomat.

Over 20 years ago, UN peacekeeping forces were dispatched to Cambodia, but now Cambodia become a country that sends troops and expertise to join UN peacekeeping operations around the world. Peacekeeping operation is a string determination of the Royal Governemtn of Cambodia. It is part of enlarging international relations and cooperation even though Cambodia is still releasing itself from poverty. Since 2006, Cambodia has sent over 1800 peacekeeping troops to take part in UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Lebanon, Syria and Mali. Peacekeeping operation is the area of cooperation that Cambodia is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with other nations committed to building peace and stability around the world. In this context, Cambodia continues strongly committed to take part in the UN humanitarian works, building and maintaining peace in the world through contributing its peacekeeping troops to the UN PKO mission.

In this endeavor, Cambodia committed to play an active role in strengthening the momentum of practical cooperation and promoting closer cooperation within ARF Members.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Strengthening the effectiveness of regional security institutions can serve as the foundation for regional peace and stability.

Under the process of building peace and security in the region, we have increased engagement and roles of the military in disaster management, counter-terrorism and combating transnational crime, maritime security, and other related security issues. Furthermore, the practical cooperation we have successfully made so far in ARF framework is strategic avenue for confidence-building and collaboration in response to major security challenges in our region. We understand that no single country can deal with the threats alone. Thus, it is required us to work together as one to address all these threats.

Thank you.