

**Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Situation by  
Brunei Darussalam**

**Suggested Intervention**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Brunei Darussalam attaches great importance, and give full support to the ARF process. The ARF, in our view, is an important multilateral political and security dialogue to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Defence in particular will do all it can to play a positive role in the whole ARF process, in order to enhance mutual understanding and trust, promote greater transparency as well as strengthen commitment among participants.

We especially encourage frank and open discussion on political and security matters, such as this kind of exchange we have today.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Security in our region usually is defines in two forms. One involves traditional security concerns, such as the territorial disputes that may produce conflict in the South China Sea, and the situation in the Korean Peninsula. The other seeks to address non-traditional security threats that challenge regional peace and security in the form of terrorism, transnational crimes, piracy, natural disasters and cyber attacks.

It is indeed worrying that we are still faced with these challenges, in particularly, on the fundamental issues confronting us, within and outside the region.

Having said the above, the situation remains favourable. I said this because the building blocks for peace in our region are strong. And we are here as part of it.

Our consistent message is expressed that regional mechanisms such as the ARF, ADMM, ADMM-Plus, AMF and EAMF provide a platform on which security needs for both traditional and non-traditional concerns can be assessed peacefully through dialogue, consultation and cooperation.

It is recognized that these regional mechanisms offer opportunities to develop practical cooperation both at the highest political level and among the defence establishments.

In this regards, Mr. Chairman, it is encouraging to note that the involvement of defence and military officials in the ARF have constructively contributed to the works and activities of the ARF in gradually moving it from simply discussion to practical cooperation. One case in point is the ARF cooperation on disaster relief.

On that note, we look forward for the next ARF DiREx in 2015 to be hosted by Malaysia and China.

It is our hope that future practical initiatives would enhance regional capacity and joint capabilities in addressing security and defence challenges of mutual interest by promoting capacity-building through greater engagements and interactions, enhancing interoperability through training and joint exercises, and establishing mechanisms for effective response.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the 2nd ADMM-Plus last year in Brunei Darussalam, the ADMM-Plus Defence Ministers have encouraged their defence and military establishments to establish practical measures that reduce vulnerability to miscalculations, and avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea.

In this connection, I am pleased to inform that the ASEAN Defence Ministers have adopted the Concept Paper on Establishing A Direct Communications Link in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Process their Eight Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw recently.

This initiative is aimed not only to prevent or refuse misunderstanding and misinterpretations, and therefore to prevent escalation; but also to promote quick-response cooperation in emergency situations.

The goal would not be to resolve underlying issues, but to effectively manage and contain tensions, and to provide channel for initial quick reaction and assistance in emergency situations.

Work will commence shortly in implementing this initiatives, and the ASEAN Defence Ministers have expressed their full support for the full implementation of the direct communications link at next year's ADMM in Malaysia.

Brunei Darussalam sees the values of having this meaningful practical initiative in preserving regional peace and security.

And we hope this direct communications link could be widened to include the Plus countries in the future.

Mr. Chairman, in the spirit of promoting synergy between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, allow me too to inform the Meeting about the Work Plan of the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security, which Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand is co-chairing the Experts' Working Group for the period of 2014-2017.

The new Work Plan basically builds on the excellent work and progress achieved over the previous three years under the co-chairmanship of Malaysia and Australia, and the discussions on future initiatives during the previous experts' meeting, as well as identifies potentials area for practical cooperation in maritime security.

Specially, the new Work Plan aims to further developing the Standard Operating Procedures of the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security for future iterations of its field training exercises; continue enhancing the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Community Information-Sharing Portal or AMSCIP by running on-line training packages; conducting the ADMM-Plus Future Leaders' Programme; and conducting passing exercises or PASSEX among the ADMM-Plus member countries.

The ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and the ADMM-Plus Counter Terrorism have also planned to hold a joint exercise to be held [sometime in the first quarter of 2016.] We are currently exploring the possibility of holding it within the waters of Singapore, Indonesia and East Malaysia, and to incorporate scenarios involving oil platforms, and Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Vessels.

Overall, through this new Work Plan, it is anticipated that there will be there greater information sharing and a continued integrated and collective effort to address shared maritime security challenges in the region.

Thank you.