

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
The ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting
on Counter-Terrorism & Transnational Crime Workstream
2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

1. Due to the on-going COVID-19 crisis, New Zealand, Malaysia and the EU were unfortunately unable to convene the 17th ARF Inter-sessional Meeting (ISM) on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) during the 2019-2020 inter-sessional year. Pending an ISM, the Co-Chairs have in the interim put in place electronic measures, as suggested by the ARF SOM Chair on 23 March, to ensure that the operations and activities of the ARF's CTTC workstream can continue.

I. CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARF ISM ON CTTC

1. Extension of the current Co-Chairmanship

2. Taking into consideration the impact and disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on this year's planned activities, and in order to ensure that we are able to maintain good momentum in the implementation of the ARF Work Plan for Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019-2021, New Zealand, Malaysia and the EU notified ARF participants on 6 June 2020 of their intention to extend their tenure as Co-Chairs by one year, until the intersessional year 2022-2023.

3. As no ARF participant raised any objections to this proposal, the Co-Chairs will seek the formal endorsement of this proposal at the ARF ISG on CBMs & PD and ARF SOM, before formal adoption at the 27th ARF Ministerial Meeting.

II. ARF WORK PLAN ON CTTC

1. Extension of the current work plan

4. The current ARF CTTC work plan (attached as **Annex 1**) is for a three-year period from 2019 to 2021. However, owing to COVID-19 disruptions, activities proposed under the work plan that were meant to take place during the 2019-2020 ISY have not been able to be held. In keeping with the proposal to extend the term of the co-chairmanship of the ARF ISM on CTTC by one year, the Co-Chairs propose to likewise extend the implementation period of the work plan by one year from 2019-2021 to 2019-2022 and would welcome feedback on this proposal.

5. The Co-Chairs will continue to implement the ARF Work Plan on CTTC through until the conclusion of their tenures as Co-Chairs.

II. CTTC TRACK 1 ACTIVITIES FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL YEAR 2019-2020

1. Postponed activities

6. Three approved activities had been scheduled to take place in the 2019-2020 ISY in support of the ARF's CTTC Work Plan as follows:

(i) *The 2nd ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing - co-*

chaired by The Philippines, Australia and the United States. The concept note for this activity is attached as **Annex 2**

(ii) *ARF Workshop on Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet* - co-chaired by Malaysia, Indonesia and New Zealand. The concept note for this activity is attached as **Annex 3**.

(iii) *ARF Table-Top Exercise on Response Capabilities to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents* - co-chaired by The Philippines and the ROK. The concept note for this activity is attached as **Annex 8**.

7. All of the above activities were postponed by the respective Co-Chairs due to the difficulty of trying to schedule these meetings in the present constrained COVID-19 environment.

2. Activities to be carried over to 2020-2021 ISY

8. As per the guidelines issued by the ARF SOM Chair on 23 March, the above three pending activities for the current ISY will be carried over to the next ISY.

9. The relevant co-chairs will update ARF participants on arrangements for these activities in due course.

III. PROPOSALS FOR THE 27th ARF MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. Proposed workshops and activities

10. ARF Participants have put forward two proposals for activities for the 2020-2021 intersessional year for consideration at the up-coming 27th ARF Ministerial Meeting – concept papers for proposed initiatives are attached. ARF participants are invited to provide comments on, and inputs to, concept papers directly to proponents for each proposal.

(i) *Concept note proposing training on “Developing Exercises to Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism” by the US and other co-sponsors tbc.* The concept paper is attached as **Annex 4**.

(ii) *Concept note for a “Workshop on building regional public-private partnership to prevent terrorist and violent extremist exploitation of the Internet” by Australia and other co-sponsors tbc.* The concept paper is attached as **Annex 5**.

2. Proposed ministerial statements

11. Indonesia has proposed an *ARF Statement on the Treatment of Children Recruited and Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups*. The draft statement is attached as **Annex 6**. Comments and inputs to the draft statement are sought by the proponents directly through to arf.indonesia@kemlu.go.id.

12. The EU has proposed an *ARF Statement on Countering Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism*. The draft statement is attached as **Annex 7**. ARF participants are invited to indicate their interest in co-sponsoring the draft statement and to provide inputs and comments to the proponent directly by email to ARF-TEAM@eeas.europa.eu.