CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY

3RD ARF OPEN ENDED STUDY GROUP
ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONFLICT STEMMING FROM THE USE OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

SINGAPORE, 29 JANUARY 2019

INTRODUCTION

1.   Further to the 2nd ARF Open Ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (Study Group), co-chaired by Malaysia, Japan and Singapore in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 23 April 2018, the 3rd Study Group was co-chaired by Singapore, Japan and Malaysia in Singapore on 29 January 2019.

2.   The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sithuraj Ponraj, Director of International Cyber Policy Office, Cyber Security Agency, Singapore; Mr. Isamu Yamaguchi, Director of Space and Cyber Policy Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; and Ms. Shariffah Rashidah Syed Othman, Director of Cyber Security Policy and International Cooperation, National Cyber Security Agency, Malaysia.

3.   All ARF Participants, with the exception of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea, were present. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of participants appears in **ANNEX 1.**

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

4.   Mr. Sithuraj Ponraj welcomed all ARF participants to the Study Group in Singapore. He noted that the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security) had made progress last year. He looked forward to the fruitful discussions at the Study Group meeting.

5.   In his opening remarks, Mr. Isamu Yamaguchi expressed that he was honoured to be co-chairing the Study Group with Singapore and Malaysia. The ARF ISM on ICTs Security had achieved concrete results the year before with the adoption of three proposals. The new

era which embraces new technologies such as the 5G, IoT and Big Data are highly dependent on ICTs and that international organisations and forums are deeply involved in the discussions of ICTs. Mr Yamaguchi said that the ARF should achieve more tangible outcomes like its counterpart, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He opined that the Study Group was a good platform to achieve such outcomes.

6.   Ms. Shariffah Rashidah echoed Singapore and Japan to welcome all ARF participants. She mentioned on the new development in the last United Nations General Assembly, which resulted to the establishment of a new cycle of GGE and Open-Ended Working Group to discuss on cyber matters. The ARF ISM on ICTs Security will be one of the significant platforms in providing constructive inputs and demonstrate how CBMs can promote trust and assurance among States to help in reducing the risk of conflict by increasing predictability and reducing misperception. She expressed her confidence that the ISM could do better to implement and institutionalise the adoption of the ARF Workplan. The issue of cybersecurity was discussed everywhere, inclusive of national security platforms and Digital Economy discussions. She emphasised the importance of ARF participants working together to instil confidence between states in cyber space. She opined that it would be a great success if the ARF participants were engaged in fruitful discussion to promote open communications.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

7.   The meeting adopted the agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2.**

AGENDA ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ON OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS UNDER ARF WORK PLAN ON SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF ICTs

8.   The first outstanding proposal – CBM #1: Establishment of ARF Points of Contact Directory on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) was discussed in this agenda item. The co-leads of the proposal, Australia and Malaysia made introductory remarks on the proposal. Malaysia gave a brief history of the original proposal and the various steps taken to revised it. Australia shared that the co-leads had administered a pilot test of the directory on the countries that had provided Points of Contacts (POCs) and had received a 100% participation rate. Australia added that the co-leads would be conducting another test of the directory prior to the next OESG and invited the remaining countries to join.

9.   The revised proposal on CBM #1 was noted by the ARF participants. The ARF participants who had yet to provide the names and contact details of their POCs for the first pilot test directory said that they would do so soon and expressed interest to join the second pilot test. Russia expressed that they would be providing their inputs on some technical aspects

of the proposal to the co-leads via email.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS UNDER ARF WORK PLAN ON SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF ICTs

10.   The next outstanding proposal was the Protection of Critical Infrastructures. The co-leads of the proposal, the EU and Singapore made introductory remarks on the proposal. The EU introduced its new department in its Jakarta office which looked after security issues, including the ARF ISM on ICTs Security. Singapore shared that it had taken in all the comments and inputs of the ARF Participants and had re-worked the proposal. The consultation part (previously known as 3B) had been set aside to focus solely on the exchanges of best practices. The co-leads would also like to bring in different perspectives into the workshop such as the study conducted by Thailand on Critical Information Infrastructure under ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC). The workshop was targeted to be conducted in the 2019-2020 Inter-Sessional year.

11.   Participants expressed in-principle support for the revised proposal but requested for the co-leads to circulate the soft copy of the proposal before the next Study Group so that they could consult their ICT experts and provide further inputs.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ADOPTED PROPOSALS UNDER ARF WORK PLAN ON SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF ICTs

12.   The participants discussed concrete steps for the implementation of the following adopted proposals:

   i.   CBM #2: Sharing of Information on National Laws, Policies, Best Practices and Strategies as well as Rules and Regulations
  ii.   CBM #4: Awareness-Raising and Information Sharing on Emergency Responses to Security Incidents in the Use of ICTs
 iii.   Workshop on Principles of Building Security in The Use of ICTs in the National Context

<u>CBM #2: Sharing of Information on National Laws, Policies, Best Practices and Strategies as well as Rules and Regulations</u>

13.   The co-leads for the adopted proposal, Japan and the Philippines, made introductory remarks. The sharing session was proposed to be implemented during the next Study Group or Inter Sessional Meeting. Each country would be given the opportunity to present for 10 to

15 minutes on its national law, policies, best practices and strategies as well as rules and regulations related to security of and in the use of ICTs.

14.   The ARF participants generally supported the implementation plan. There was also feedback that the co-leads might consider to come up with a timeline for each country to present and to have a repository/ database for the presentations. Further feedbacks include the provision of a frame for what should be presented and the dissemination of more information on the presentation in a timely manner so that each country would have ample time to prepare.

CBM #4: Awareness-Raising and Information Sharing on Emergency Responses to Security Incidents in The Use of ICTs

15.   The co-leads for the adopted proposal, Cambodia, China and Singapore, made introductory remarks. China shared that they had organised similar workshops under its ASEAN-China initiatives. Cambodia and Singapore provided a re-cap on the scope of the adopted proposal.

16.   ASEAN Secretariat commented that even though the proposal had been adopted, there was a need to put up another proposal to organise a workshop under the adopted proposal. She further advised that the proposal to organise a workshop in the 2019-2020 Inter Sessional Year should be discussed at the next ARF ISM on ICTs Security and be tabled at the Inter Sessional Group (ISG) Meeting.

Workshop on Principles of Building Security in the Use of ICTs in the National Context

17.   The co-leads for the adopted proposal, shared that the workshop would likely be conducted in June 2019 and that experts from the ARF participating countries as well as from the Organisation of American States (OAS) would be invited to share their expertise with the workshop participants. More details on the workshop would be disseminated soon.

18.   The ARF participants were generally supportive of the implementation plan of the workshop and looked forward to receiving further details soon.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The following topics were considered:

Definitions of CBMs

19.   ASEAN Secretariat shared that the three key aspects of the ARF were the promotion

of CBMs, the development of preventive diplomacy and the development of conflict resolution. Everything under the ambit of the ARF was considered to be a CBM.

20. Russia commented that CBM was a wider concept and one workshop could not be considered as a CBM. The idea of a glossary of CBMs was proposed as there was not a clear definition of CBMs.

21. ASEAN Secretariat commented that for the ISM to create a glossary, the same procedure would have to be followed, which was to discuss the glossary at ISM, then tabled at the ISG Meeting, followed by the Senior Officials Meeting and then to the Ministerial Meeting. She further shared that having a glossary on CBMs might affect the entire ARF structure.

22. Some ARF participants noted that having a glossary was helpful but it might delay the process of implementing the proposals which were actionable items. Some ARF participants supported the use of the basic ARF idea of CBMs.

Promoting the ARF participants to submit new proposals to be discussed during the ARF ISM on ICTs Security

23. Japan expressed its tentative idea to put up a proposal to implement of voluntary and non-binding norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States in the use of information and communications technologies in the past UNGGE.

Recent developments on the UNGGE and OEWG

24. Australia and Russia shared with the participating countries the history of the UNGGE as well as the recently adopted OEWG. Russia also shared the proposal and implementation plan of the OEWG.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

25. In his closing remarks, Mr. Yamaguchi thanked all ARF Participants for the fruitful discussions on the various topics. He looked forward to the next discussion session during the 4th Study Group.

26. In her closing remarks, Ms. Rashidah also expressed her gratitude to the ARF Participating Countries present expressed hoped to see the participating countries once again at the 4th Study Group.

27.   Mr. Ponraj expressed his pleasure to have so many experts discussing the issues at hand and that Singapore was happy to facilitate the discussions. He looked forward to further discussions during the next Study Group

[End]