

Executive Summary

Implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)

The Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025), hereinafter referred as HPOA II, was adopted by the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in September 2020.

Similar to its first iteration, the HPOA II is intended as an effort to implement the ARF Vision Statement which serves as a policy guidance for the ARF to develop and implement concrete measures and activities until 2025. The Ministers also mandated the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat to prepare an annual progress report on the implementation of the HPOA II.

Based on the assessment, the current overall implementation rate is 11.2% with 12 action lines implemented and 95 action lines pending, excluding Section IV on Review and Implementation.

The implementation rate of Section I on Areas of Cooperation is 13.1%, Section II on CBMs and PD is 28% and Section III on Institutional Enhancement is 0%. The implementation rate is understandably low in the first year of the HPOA II. Progress was also hampered by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The breakdown of implementation under each section is as follows:

Section I: Areas of Cooperation

Disaster Relief: 7 pending

Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime: 2 action lines implemented, 19 pending

Maritime Security: 2 action lines implemented, 10 pending

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: 1 action line implemented, 12 pending

Security of and in the Use of ICTs: 4 action lines implemented, 6 pending

Defence Cooperation: 6 pending

Peacekeeping Operations: 1 action line implemented, 6 pending

Section II: Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Preventive Diplomacy:

2 action lines implemented, 7 pending.

Section III: Institutional Enhancement: 22 pending.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In line with Section IV of the HPOA II, several short-term recommendations are submitted for the consideration of the ARF SOM:

- a. ARF Participants may wish to consider providing information and input on the progress of implementation of each section. The Co-Chairs of respective ISMs and other meetings could facilitate in reviewing the input and brief the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD on the progress. The ARF Unit could be tasked to assist the ARF Chair in including the consolidated information in the progress report to the ARF SOM and Ministers.
- b. All action lines under Section III on Institutional Enhancement have yet to be implemented. ARF Participants may wish to consider implementing the action lines under this section as well as several of the more straightforward action lines. Some examples include:
 - 1.6.1. Strengthen the effectiveness of the Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) by developing a Terms of Reference (TOR) of the DOD.
 - 3.3.2. Consider elevating the ARF Unit into a division of the ASEAN Secretariat through the increase of the number of officials working in the ARF Unit.
 - 3.3.4. Hold regular discussions to review the capacity of the ARF Unit and where appropriate, seek out additional resources from ARF Participants, and plan appropriate resource assistance to the ARF Unit.
 - 3.3.5. Support the officials from the ARF Unit to update the directory list of ARF Focal Points and EEPs regularly.
 - 3.5.2. Encourage ARF Participants to contribute to the ARF Fund and propose concrete activities or projects to further enhance the ARF's capacity.
 - 3.5.3. Review the TOR of the ARF Fund to ensure effective utilisation of the Fund.

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