



## CO-CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT

### 12<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

3-4 June 2021, Video Conference

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The 12<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) was Co-Chaired by Mr Rolliansyah Soemirat, Director for International Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Mr Kozo Honsei, Ambassador, Director-General, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mr Il Park, Director-General, Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Meeting was attended by all ARF Participants except Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Papua New Guinea. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The List of Participants and the Agenda appear as **ANNEX 1** and **ANNEX 2**, respectively.

#### AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

3. In their opening remarks, the Co-Chairs welcomed all ARF Participants to the virtual Meeting and encouraged active participation in the discussions on the topics of Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Recalling the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 5 March 2020, the Co-Chairs highlighted the need for concerted efforts to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime. Whilst noting considerable

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advancements had been made in the pillars of non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Co-Chairs were of the view that more attention could be given to the issue of disarmament. It was noted that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which have been ratified by all ASEAN Member States, has yet to enter into force as eight remaining Annex 2 States have not signed or ratified it. The Co-Chairs expressed hope that the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT would produce significant outcomes, also in the pillar of nuclear disarmament.

4. Recalling the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons' (TPNW) on 22 January 2021, one of the Co-Chairs underscored that it serves as a significant step towards achieving a complete, irreversible, verifiable and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons. Underlining the role of the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as well as the ARF's vital role in initiating recommendations, policy guidance and norm-setting, one of the Co-Chairs noted that the ARF could further encourage Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) and Non-Nuclear-Weapon States (NNWS) to work constructively towards ensuring the early accession of the NWS to the Protocol to the Treaty as stipulated in the Hanoi Plan of Action II (HPOA II). On this note, the Co-Chairs encouraged all ARF Participants to continue its confidence building efforts and cooperation towards achieving regional stability, especially in consideration of the rapid development of technological innovations extending into outer space, cyberspace and autonomous weapons.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: DISARMAMENT**

5. The Meeting noted Australia's presentation on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Nuclear Risk Reduction, which was co-chaired with the Philippines on 18-19 November 2020. It was noted that the Workshop provided an opportunity for the ARF Participants to shape the debate in disarmament forums and work towards an agreement on practical steps to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons use. The Workshop consisted of four main sessions: (i) a United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) presentation on understanding nuclear risks; (ii) national interventions in response to UNIDIR's presentation; (iii) a UNIDIR presentation on nuclear risk reduction and disarmament; and (iv) possible ARF recommendations on risk reduction pathways.

6. The Meeting noted the Workshop's recommendations as follows:

- a. Reducing doctrinal use, e.g. reaffirmation of the Reagan-Gorbachev statement that a "nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought", the adoption of

NWS of no first use policies and negative security assurances, intensified dialogues among NWS and between NWS and NNWS on risk perceptions, nuclear doctrines and force postures, transparency in nuclear doctrines and building on the network of nuclear-free zones;

- b. Reducing escalatory use, e.g. engagement with leaders in the issue of nuclear risk reduction, sustained efforts to enhance transparency on nuclear arsenals, pursuit of early conflict prevention and resolution concerning nuclear threats, enhanced military to military contacts and the establishment of crisis-proof communication lines and risk reduction centres, notification and data exchange agreements, effective use of multilateral arms control forums—including the UN disarmament machinery and regional dialogues such as the ARF, enhanced dialogues on strategic issues between major nuclear powers and reductions in the operational status of nuclear weapons systems; and
- c. Reducing unauthorised use and accidental use, e.g. enhancing nuclear security and export controls to minimise risks of radiological incidents including through regional mechanisms, further investigations of operational uncertainties, pathways of nuclear use, sharing of best practices and de-escalation pathways, prevention of unintended accidental use, minimising vulnerabilities related to potentially disruptive new technologies and cyber capacities and declaratory restraint and efforts to reduce perceived ambiguity and entanglement between nuclear and conventional weapons.

7. ARF Participants exchanged views on disarmament and recognised the vast progress made in non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy but concurrently acknowledged that much still needs to be done on the nuclear disarmament front. It was noted that the ARF could further encourage its Participants to continue deliberations on concrete and practical regional responses to address challenges in disarmament as stipulated in the HPOA II and promote cooperation between NWS and NNWS through dialogues and confidence-building measures (CBMs). Furthermore, ARF Participants welcomed the progress of ASEAN-led mechanisms in upholding disarmament efforts in the region, such as the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and the SEANWFZ Treaty, as well as commended the recent initiatives in the ARF such as through the ARF Workshop on Nuclear Risk Reduction.

8. The Meeting noted the engagements of the ARF Participants in international disarmament efforts through the Stockholm Initiative, Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND) Initiative and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI). It was noted that the Stockholm Initiative, which brings together 16

NNWS, has identified practical steppingstones towards nuclear disarmament that includes nuclear risks reduction, and that the initiative recently submitted a joint working paper entitled A Nuclear Risk Reduction Package to the upcoming 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. It was further noted that the CEND Initiative, which focuses on nuclear risk reduction in one of its sub-groups, also plays an essential role by bringing NWS and NNWS together to explore possible ways to stimulate an environment more conducive to nuclear disarmament, as guided by Article VI of the NPT, and for the NWS to find their mutual interest and advance their political will towards nuclear disarmament. The Meeting also noted that the NPDI which consists of 12 NNWS, is proposing the Landing-zone paper which will provide a good basis for a consensus document at the next NPT Review Conference. Participants welcomed the recent five-year extension by the United States and the Russian Federation of the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), expressing the hope that this bilateral progress would lead to the development of a broader framework of arms control that would involve other countries and cover a wider range of weapons systems.

9. Some Participants welcomed the entry into force of the TPNW, and expressed their support for its universalisation and implementation, noting that the Treaty provided a new legal framework for a nuclear-weapon-free world that regulates the prohibition, possession, development, production, transfer and acquisition of nuclear weapons. The Meeting further noted that some Participants are of the view that the TPNW is complementary and mutually reinforcing to the NPT and addresses the existing gap in the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons. Conversely, the Meeting also took note of some Participants' opinion that inquire the TPNW's effectivity, citing that the Treaty risks undermining deterrence relationships they may have that, in light of the international security environment, are still necessary for international peace and security and may reinforce divisions that hinder their ability to work together to address pressing proliferation and security challenges.

10. A number of Participants also raised their concerns on a reduction of transparency as well as modernisations and expansions of nuclear arsenals. In support of the implementation of Article VI of the NPT, they encouraged the development of dialogues on arms control in accordance with the obligation to negotiate in good faith. Furthermore, they expressed hope that parties would see arms control as a mechanism to reduce the risks and threat of a destabilising arms race in the region and not as an effort to weaken defences.

11. The Meeting took note that there may be merit in implementing fair and equal gender representation in nuclear disarmament, including in risk reduction initiatives.

Noting gender imbalance in many multilateral and international disarmament forums, some Participants were of the view that integrating inclusive and diverse gender perspectives in these forums could increase the effectiveness and sustainability of initiatives.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: NON-PROLIFERATION**

12. The Meeting noted the presentation from the US on strengthening the NPT regime, with a primary focus on the non-proliferation pillar. It was noted that in over fifty years since its entry into force, the NPT had provided the essential foundation for international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the technologies used for them, achieve progress on nuclear disarmament and cooperate on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The US highlighted that the continued vitality of this regime is core to collective national security interests and an essential foundation to regional stability around the world, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. *Vis-à-vis* the upcoming 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, the US was of the view that the overall goal is to achieve a positive outcome in which parties reaffirm their commitments to the NPT, recommit to preserving and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and recognise the enduring benefits of the NPT. The US remarked that effective nuclear security goes hand-in-hand with nuclear safety and non-proliferation and is essential for achieving the lasting benefits from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear science embodied within the NPT.

13. The Meeting reaffirmed that the NPT is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and the fundamental basis of realising the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Participants shared the view that the NPT should be placed at the epicentre of all diplomatic efforts in curbing nuclear proliferation. The Meeting also highlighted the importance of the SEANWFZ as the non-proliferation and disarmament instrument in the ASEAN region that is in line with Article VII of the NPT.

14. The Meeting expressed deep concerns regarding the development of DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes including recent ballistic missile launches in March 2021 and emphasised the urgency of achieving a complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all DPRK's WMD and ballistic missiles of all ranges and related programmes in accordance with all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The Meeting acknowledged that the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula remains one of the most prominent challenges in the region, and in order to attain it, the importance of full implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions was stressed and support for continued dialogue were expressed

15. The Meeting expressed support towards the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and commended the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for their monitoring and verification efforts of its implementation on the Iranian nuclear programme. The Meeting was pleased to note the significant progress shown at the Vienna talks on JCPOA between its state parties and the US that demonstrated the willingness of all sides to reach an agreement in the near future and the shared understanding of the irreplaceability of the Iranian nuclear deal.

16. The Meeting was updated on Participants' export control efforts and noted the importance of export control as an effective tool in countering the proliferation of WMD. The Meeting also acknowledged the positive role of multilateral export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA).

17. The Meeting highlighted the importance of regional safeguards implementation and strengthening the safeguards regime globally, including universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol (AP) and the revised Small Quantity Protocols (SQP). The meeting acknowledged that combination of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and an AP are a de facto safeguards agreement and welcomed the recent activities of the AP Friends for universalization of the AP and the revised SQP. In this context, the Meeting noted the efforts of The Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN), which was established in 2009, to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation throughout the region while ensuring they are conducted to IAEA standards.

18. The Meeting welcomed the positive engagements from all UN members, including all ARF Participants, in implementing the UNSC resolution 1540 and its subsequent resolutions to strengthen the collective effort to address the spread of WMD to non-state actors. Given the specificity of the 1540 regime in only addressing non-state actors, the Meeting took note of the view that this regime should be appropriately placed and should not be used to address more considerable on-proliferation challenges that are supposed to be addressed by other existing international treaties or conventions. It was further emphasised that the collective effort to address the various challenges connected to the threat of WMD proliferation could only be achieved if all existing mechanisms are placed appropriately while simultaneously implementing them.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY**

19. The Meeting noted the presentation from the IAEA Secretariat on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in Asia and the Pacific—Supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. The presentation illustrated three main points: (i) the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and technology’s critical contributions to the socio-economic development of IAEA Member States, (ii) the effective transference of safe and secure applications of nuclear technology through IAEA Technical Cooperation mechanisms, and (iii) the importance of strategic manpower development for the sustainable impact of nuclear technology to development.

20. The Meeting was briefed on the TCP’s 2020-2021 cycle budget allocation for Asia and the Pacific, which covers various developmental areas: food and agriculture (26%), health and nutrition (23%), safety and security (15%), industrial applications/radiation technology (13%), nuclear knowledge development and management (9%), water and the environment (9%), and energy (5%). The Meeting noted that the more significant portion of the focus is within the food and agriculture sector, aiming to enhance food availability and productivity through technical cooperation projects by improving (i) crop and plant varieties using induced mutation breeding, (ii) livestock reproduction and nutrition, (iii) control of animal and plant pests and diseases, (iv) soil and water management, and (v) food safety. The Meeting noted IAEA’s December 2020 publication of “Social and Economic Impact Assessment on Mutation Breeding in Crops of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) Programme in Asia and the Pacific”, reflecting the quantified social and economic impacts of plant mutation breeding projects under the RCA programme. For example, it was noted that new mutant varieties of crops induce greater yield productivity, with a thirty-three per cent increase in total production over their respective control crops.

21. The Meeting noted that the effectiveness of the TCP rests on the delivery mechanisms that promote various collaborative arrangements, such as the south-south cooperation, triangular cooperation and sub-regional approach, via the undertaking of regional and interregional projects that address common issues. The Meeting noted the triangular cooperation between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam to support short and long-term education and training programmes, sharing expertise and technical facilities. The Meeting was also briefed on the developments of current cooperation between IAEA and ASEAN on regional projects, including: (i) NUTEC Plastics for plastic life cycle management, (ii) preservation and conservation of cultural heritage, (iii) improvement of agricultural productivity and (iv) emergency

preparedness as well as the inter-regional project that is ZODIAC (Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action).

22. The IAEA highlighted that the availability of skilled staff is a cornerstone of the sustainability of nuclear applications in the nuclear energy sector. The Meeting noted that the IAEA had undertaken projects in the area of human resources development, such as the 2012 technical cooperation project workshop, to spark students' interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in Asia and the Pacific region. This initiative led to a four-year programme from 2018-2021 to institutionalise, expand and sustain nuclear science and technology (NST) information, education and communication in secondary school education, and enhanced NST experience in schools in illustrating concepts such as gamma meter and cloud chambers, *inter alia*.

23. The Meeting took note of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2021 SDG progress report and acknowledged that more efforts are needed in the Asia-Pacific region as the region is not on track to achieve any of the seventeen SDGs by 2030. It was noted that out of the 104 measurable targets, the region is on track to reach only nine targets by 2030 at the current rate of progress. In light of this, the Meeting called for Participants to enhance further collaboration, cooperation and contribution of efforts to address this common challenge.

24. As envisioned by Article IV of the NPT, Participants expressed support for the inalienable right of States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology. Participants expressed their support to IAEA's peaceful uses activities such as TCP through collaborations including in-kind contribution, and financial contributions to the Technical Cooperation fund and Peaceful Uses Initiative, and reaffirmed its effectiveness as an essential tool to enable safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology to meet the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development. The Meeting noted the wide range of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies employed by ARF Participants in their respective national applications. These include applications in the health sector, where complementary techniques are widely used for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, including nuclear medicine, especially in the fight against cancer, heart diseases and neurological disorders. Other uses of nuclear energy are its applications in nutrition, food and agriculture, industry, natural resources and environment, and its usage as a clean energy source with zero carbon emissions. The Meeting took note of Russia's establishment of the Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Reserve in Angarsk that helps ensure an uninterrupted

supply of LEU for nuclear power generation, which can be supplied to any country in need at the request of the IAEA Director-General.

25. The Meeting took note of various efforts of Participants in promoting nuclear safety and security, radiation protection and the application of effective and efficient safeguards of nuclear materials. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Participants also expressed support for establishing a Regional Early Warning Radiation Monitoring Network and Data Exchange Platform in ASEAN, currently supported by the European Union and one ASEAN Member State, and renewed commitments to share environmental monitoring data. Participants also expressed support towards the implementation of the Strategic Master Plan (SMP) for environmental remediation of uranium legacy sites in Central Asia.

26. Some Participants raised the concern on the release of “contaminated water” from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) into the sea, while Japan said that it is “ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water” and explained about its efforts regarding the water. Others welcomed the transparency and accountability of Japan and IAEA’s ongoing engagement on this matter.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: AOB**

27. The Meeting took note that in the Inter-Sessional Year (ISY) 2020-2021, the ARF Workshop on Nuclear Risk Reduction, Co-Chaired by the Philippines and Australia, was held on 18-19 November 2020 via videoconference. The Meeting further noted that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the following activities were postponed and will be carried forward to the ISY 2021-2022: (i) the ARF Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on Response Capabilities to Chemical, Biological and Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents, Co-Chaired by the Philippines, ROK and the US; and (ii) ARF Workshop on Nuclear Safety and Security Standards and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology, Co-Chaired by Viet Nam and the US.

28. The Meeting noted that there is no new activity proposed for the ISY 2021-2022.

29. On the subject of future co-chairmanship of ARF ISM on NPD, the Meeting noted that Sri Lanka and the US had expressed their interest in co-chairing the next cycle from the Inter-Sessional Year 2021-2024. The Meeting welcomed ASEAN

Member States to express their interest to co-chair this ISM before the ARF Senior Official's Meeting (SOM), which would be held on 29 June 2021.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS**

30. In their closing remarks, the Co-Chairs thanked all ARF Participants and speakers for their active participation, contributions, and comprehensive discussions demonstrated in the Meeting. The Co-Chairs expressed hope for continued dialogues and practical cooperation to strengthen discussion on non-proliferation and disarmament in the region under the framework of the ARF.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

31. The Meeting expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their effective chairmanship and the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting. The Meeting also commended the frank discussion and active participation of all ARF Participants that contributed to the success of the Meeting.

#### **ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Key Decision/Issues</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Follow-up By</b>
1.	To finalise the ARF ISM on NPD co-chairmanship for the next period.	Prior to the 28 <sup>th</sup> ARF	ARF Participants

