

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
17TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
(ARF ISM ON CTCC)

Via Video Conference, 22 April 2021

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 27th ARF virtually held on 12 September 2020, the 17th ARF ISM on CTTC was held virtually on 22 April 2021. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms Cecile Hillyer, Counterterrorism Ambassador, New Zealand; H.E. Amb. Khairi Omar, Deputy Director-General of South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT); and Mr Oronzo Console, Acting Head of the EEAS Counter-Terrorism Division, EU.

2. Representatives from all ARF Participants except Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), India, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea registered to attend the Meeting. Representatives from INTERPOL were also in attendance for part of the Meeting to brief participants on relevant trends.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY THE CO-CHAIRS

3. In her welcoming remarks, Ms Hillyer gave condolences to those in the region who experienced recent natural disasters, including floods affecting East Timor and Indonesia. She noted it had been two years since the last ARF ISM on CTTC in Bali, and recognised the impact of COVID-19 on all participants. Whilst participants had innovated and adapted in the face of COVID-19, so had terrorist and criminal networks, which made efforts to prevent and combat terrorism and transnational crime as important as ever. She observed that New Zealand agreed to co-chair the CTTC in the wake of the Christchurch terror attack, and that there had since been numerous examples of terrorism and violent extremism in the region which underscored the relevance of the forum. She thanked the previous chairs, Indonesia and Russia, for reinvigorating the CTTC Work Plan in 2019. Four areas were prioritised and reflected in the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II, agreed by ARF Ministers in September 2020: illicit drugs; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) matters; preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE); and trafficking in persons (TiP).

4. In his welcoming remarks, H.E. Amb. Khairi Omar reflected on the new security challenges that are multi-faceted and cross-dimensional facing the region, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the need to tackle the root causes of terrorism, including through the promotion of mutual respect, as well as harmonious and peaceful co-existence. This required effective and sustainable measures at both the domestic and international levels; guided by the principles of respect for human rights, and the rule of law and be driven by partnerships.

5. In his welcoming remarks, Mr Console observed that the ability of the ARF ISM on CTTC to meet despite the pandemic demonstrated the Forum and region's resilience and commitment. He highlighted the EU's contribution to regional and international efforts to combat terrorism and transnational organised crime, and that the EU was active in addressing the

financing of terrorism, counter-terrorism, and cyber and maritime security. The EU would continue to support capacity building and providing technical advisory support across the regional agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

6. The co-chairs outlined the business protocols for the virtual meeting. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: COVID-19 AND TRENDS IN COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME

3.1. Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment

7. Mr Simon Fernan, Criminal Intelligence Officer from INTERPOL, briefed the Meeting on the links between COVID-19 and regional terrorism. He observed that (i) terrorist mobility had reduced as a result of border closures and lockdowns, but terrorists had increased their online presence; (ii) exposure of vulnerable people to terrorist ideology online had increased; (iii) terrorist groups were using 'terrorist wives' for facilitating logistical and financial support (iv) families of slain terrorist fighters, many in refugee camps in Northern Syria, posed a serious future security challenge. Countries needed to consider how they would reintegrate into society. He noted the need for countries to be prepared for when borders reopened.

3.2 INTERPOL's Response to Crime Emerging from the COVID-19 Pandemic

8. Mr Lam Chi-Wang, Coordinator Public Health and Pharmaceutical Crime from INTERPOL, briefed the Meeting on how COVID-19 had exacerbated smuggling trends and trade in illicit commodities in the region. INTERPOL and others had worked with regional partners, including ASEANAPOL to build capacity to address those threats. The financial crimes unit had worked with private sector partners to tackle e-commerce-linked crime.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CTTC-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN ASEAN-LED MECHANISMS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

4.1 ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drugs (ASOD), December 2020

9. Mr Ahmad Jatmiko, Director for International Cooperation at the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia, updated the Meeting on the 41st ASOD, held on 1 December 2020. The 41st ASOD adopted two documents, (i) Terms of Reference of ASOD, and (ii) Technical Guideline on the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Fund earmarked through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Indonesia encouraged ASEAN commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on securing communities against illicit drugs 2016-2025, and the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle 2020-2022.

4.2 ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), November 2020

10. Major Nguyen Thanh Binh, Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam, updated the Meeting on the 14th AMMTC, held on 26 November 2020. The 14th AMMTC (i) looked forward to

further discussion on Viet Nam's draft Concept Paper on the Establishment of a Direct Communication Link in the AMMTC; (ii) looked forward to the finalisation and adoption of Terms of Reference for the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), and of Terms of Reference for the SOMTC Working Group on General Transnational Crime Matters; was satisfied with Thailand's progress related to the draft Concept Paper "ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap"; (iv) noted the adoption of the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2019-2025 (Bali Work Plan) and looked forward to its implementation; (v) welcomed Brunei Darussalam as the incoming chair of AMMTC and SOMTC.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CTTC PRIORITY AREA #1: ILLICIT DRUGS

5.1 Disrupting Organised Crime

11. Mr Brent Litherland, Customs Counsellor at the New Zealand High Commission to Malaysia, and Mr Daniel Brunt, Customs Counsellor at the New Zealand Embassy to Thailand, briefed the Meeting on New Zealand's approach to disrupting organised criminal networks in the region. They noted that (i) a wide range of supply chains were used for illegal smuggling, with an increase of goods smuggled across and through the Pacific by small craft during the pandemic; (ii) criminal networks were increasingly sophisticated, and used encrypted communications, new concealment methods and new money laundering approaches. New Zealand's enforcement approach involved (a) working with overseas partners to disrupt supply chains upstream; (b) improving intelligence-sharing to target border seizures. New Zealand looked forward to deepening cooperation with overseas partners. New Zealand's presentation appears as **ANNEX 2**.

5.2 Concept Notes and Proposals for New Activity

12. The co-chairs encouraged participants to register interest in co-leading the priority area on 'illicit drugs'.

13. The Meeting noted that the US had circulated a concept note for a future series of capacity building exercises, "Preventive Diplomacy Tools to Address Transnational Organized Crime". In response to the questions from Russia about (i) the appropriateness of converging preventive diplomacy and transnational organised crime in the same initiative, and (ii) the suitability of the ARF as a forum for covering socio-economic inequalities and the role of non-government actors in combatting, the US would review the scope of the proposed initiative, and noted that there were precedents for preventive diplomacy being included in ARF workstreams. The US would also ensure the skills and tools were consistent with previous events, and encouraged participants to co-sponsor the initiative.

14. Canada underlined the importance of cooperation to combat transnational organised crime.

15. Thailand participant reported to the Meeting on the implementation of the Safe Mekong Drug Control Joint Operation Plan (2019-2022) to comprehensively address illicit drug production and distribution in the Golden Triangle area, in collaboration with Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Meeting noted the collaboration of these six

countries in the Golden Triangle 1511 Operation from 2019-2020 which effectively intercepted precursor chemicals trafficked into the Golden Triangle Area, and from there to third countries. The Meeting noted the extended mandate until 2021 of the Taskforce Storm, a joint Thai-Australia drug suppression operation. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN Cooperation Work Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle had been extended until 2022. The Meeting also noted that on 7 April 2021, Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board hosted the virtual ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network operational workshop to share information on the drug situation among ASEAN Member States, and that the workshop had developed the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2020, which is available on the ASEAN-NARCO website.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CTTC PRIORITY AREA #2: CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR MATTERS (CBRN)

6.1 Recent Developments in the Framework of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative

16. Ms Jirina Valentova, Policy Officer in the Security and Defence Directorate, EU EEAS, presented to the Meeting on "Recent Developments in the Framework of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative". The framework operated as a demand-driven set of initiatives, aimed at reinforcing national CBRN policy and building risk mitigation strategies for the range of CBRN threats, be they linked to natural, accidental or criminal incidences. The approach aimed for sustainability by fostering local ownership of those strategies. This supported compliance by countries with UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Ms Valentova outlined the extent of the EU's operation throughout South East Asia. These efforts had continued despite the pandemic through a series of expert webinars, as well as a number of projects focused on dual-use goods, and the management of waste.

6.2 Concept Notes and Proposals for New Activity

17. The Meeting noted that the workshop "Developing WMD Exercises", co-sponsored by the Philippines and the US, had been postponed due to the pandemic.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CTTC PRIORITY AREA #3: PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (PCVE)

7.1 PCVE and Progress under ARF Work Plan for CTTC (2019-2021)

18. Mr Faizal C. Sidharta, Director for ASEAN Cooperation, Indonesia, updated the Meeting on PCVE and progress under the Work Plan. The Meeting noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had slowed down activities, but that recent activities ARF Participants had taken part in included:

- (i) the ARF virtual Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing, on 22-24 February 2021, co-chaired by the Philippines, Australia and the US;
- (ii) ARF Statement on the Treatment of Children Recruited by or Associated with Terrorist Groups proposed by Australia, the EU, Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines, adopted by the 27th ARF in September 2020;

- (iii) ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT) (2019) proposed by Australia, Indonesia and New Zealand, adopted by the 26th ARF in Bangkok in 2019; and
- (iv) ARF Statement on Aviation Partnership: Soaring Ahead Together (2019) proposed by Brunei Darussalam and the US, adopted by the 26th ARF.

19. The Meeting noted that several activities have been proposed under this Priority Area to be conducted in the next intersessional year hence Indonesia invited more ARF Participants to present activity proposals.

20. The Meeting also noted that Indonesia, Malaysia and New Zealand will hold the ARF Workshop on Preventing Terrorist use of the Internet in July 2021, and that the outcome of the Workshop will be reported at the 18th ARF ISM on CTTC in 2022.

21. Mr Zaim Nasution, National Counter Terrorist Agency, Indonesia, briefed the Meeting on the issue of the return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF). The Meeting noted the adoption of ARF Statement on the Treatment of Children Recruited by or Associated with Terrorist Groups at the 27th ARF. Indonesia suggested the establishment of an international standard minimum rule on the issue of treatment of children associated with terrorist groups with the support of the international community, incorporating three priority areas, namely:

- (i) prevention of children from recruitment or association with terrorist groups;
- (ii) rehabilitation and reintegration; and
- (iii) justice for children.

22. The Meeting noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had delayed activities following the successful adoption of the Bali Work Plan 2019-2025 at the 13th AMMTC Meeting on 27 November 2019.

7.2 ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing, 22-24 February 2021

23. Mr Junever M. Mahilum-West, Director General for ASEAN, the Philippines, updated the Meeting on the ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing, held on 22-24 February 2021 via video conference. The workshop explored challenges and shared best practices on addressing terrorist threats in aviation security.

7.3 Multi-stakeholder Approaches in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: A Perspective from Malaysia

24. Mr Asrul Daniel, Strategic Communications Analyst at SEARCCT, Malaysia, briefed the Meeting on Multi-stakeholder Approaches in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. Actions taken included:

- (i) actively developed messaging and narrative-based approaches to reduce the appeal of, and build resilience against, violent extremism;
- (ii) began messaging efforts in collaboration with both traditional and non-traditional partners, such as youth leaders, social media influencers, new media professionals, traditional media, civil society, religious scholars, government agencies, former extremists and industry professionals.

25. Malaysia's presentation appears as **ANNEX 3**.

7.4 New Zealand's response to the Christchurch terror attack

26. Mr Andrew George, Special Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, New Zealand, briefed the Meeting on New Zealand's social-inclusion approach to countering violent extremism, and New Zealand's response to the Christchurch terror attack. New Zealand set up a Royal Commission of Enquiry, which on 8 December 2020 released 44 government recommendations covering:

- (i) improvements to preventing counter violent extremism capabilities and research;
- (ii) the role of police in the regulation of firearms; and
- (iii) improving social cohesion to address underlying causes of hate and violent extremism.

7.5 Concept notes and proposals for new activity

27. The Meeting noted that four concept papers were submitted:

- (i) "Online Seminar on the Role of Youth in Building Digital Resilience to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism" by Malaysia. The Meeting noted Australia and New Zealand's offer to co-sponsor;
- (ii) "ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda" by Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting noted the US's offer to co-sponsor;
- (iii) "Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum" by Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting noted Australia and the US's offers to co-sponsor; and
- (iv) "Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism" by the EU. The Meeting noted Indonesia and Lao PDR's offers to co-chair.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CTTC PRIORITY AREA #4: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

8.1 Bali Process

28. Mr Rolliansyah Sumirat, Director for International Security and Disarmament at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia, updated the Meeting on Bali Process activity. The Meeting noted several Bali Process activities that took place, including:

- (i) the meeting of the Policy Expert Group of the Task Force on Planning and Preparedness, held in July 2020, which recommended:
 - (a) strengthening cooperation to investigate and disrupt trafficking and smuggling networks through the Bali Process Working Groups, and
 - (b) strengthening collaboration with SEAN, particularly SOMTC;
- (ii) The 15th Meeting of the Steering Group and Ad Hoc Group Senior Official Meeting, held in October 2020, during which joint proposals were received from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNODC, which some Ad Hoc Group members have provided feedback on and Indonesia will follow up on; and
- (iii) The Study on Corruption as a Facilitator of Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in the Bali Process Region with a focus on South East Asia, launched in March 2021.

29. The Meeting noted several future virtual meetings, including:
- (i) the 10th Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration, to be held on 6 May 2021;
 - (ii) the 4th Bali Process Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration, to be held on 21-25 June 2021; and
 - (iii) the Steering Group Ministerial Meeting, to be held in June or July 2021.

8.2 National Action Plan on Anti-trafficking in Persons 2021-2025 (NAPTIP 3.0)

30. Mr Ezwin Mizra, Undersecretary, National Strategic Office to the Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (NSOMAPO), Malaysia, briefed the Meeting on Malaysia's National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2021-2025 (NAPTIP 3.0). Malaysia's presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

AGENDA ITEM 9: REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN AND FUTURE DIRECTION

9.1 Review of the ARF Work Plan for CTTC (2019-2021)

31. The Meeting agreed to extend the Work Plan by one year to 2022, to make up for the disruption caused by COVID-19 in 2020.

32. The Meeting discussed the proposal to extend the term of the current co-chairmanship by one additional year, i.e. 2020-22 to 2023, and for the proposal to be brought for the consideration of the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) on 24 May 2021. The Meeting also noted the proposition for the extension of co-chairmanship to be formalised at the next ARF ISM on CTTC.

33. No participants had put themselves forward to lead priority areas of the ARF Work Plan for CTTC (2019-2021).

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Other Business

34. No other business was raised.

ENDS