

THE ELEVENTH  
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 2 JULY 2004



# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THE ELEVENTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 2 JULY 2004

1. The Eleventh Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 2 July 2004. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of all ARF participating countries. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also present. The List of Delegates appears as ANNEX A.
3. A meeting among defence and military officials attending the 11th ARF was also held on 1 July 2004.
4. The Ministers welcomed the admission of Pakistan as the 24th participant of the ARF and took note of its expressed commitment to help achieve the ARF's key goals and to abide by and respect fully the decisions and statements already made by the ARF.

## Overview of the ARF Process

5. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ARF as the main political and security forum in the region, and reiterated the importance of further strengthening the ARF. The Ministers also reiterated their support for ASEAN as the primary driving force of ARF and further encouraged the contribution of all ARF participants in moving the ARF process forward.
6. The Ministers discussed extensively issues of common concern and reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region. The Ministers also stressed the importance of ARF focusing its deliberations on regional issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as global/international issues with regional repercussion, and excluding issues of a bilateral nature.
7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant progress and the role that ARF has played in enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation as well as confidence building in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministers agreed to continue to observe the basic principles of decision-making by consensus and non-interference. The Ministers reaffirmed that ARF should move forward at a pace comfortable to all.

8. The Ministers recognized that the challenges facing the Asia Pacific region are becoming more complex and intertwined. The Ministers emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation and dialogue in a frank and open manner.
9. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of the involvement of the ASEAN Secretariat in assisting the ARF Chairman. In this regard, they welcomed the participation of the ASEAN Secretariat in all ARF activities, including ISG on CBMs and ISM on CTTC.

#### Highlights of Issues Discussed

10. The Ministers welcomed the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) at the 9th ASEAN Summit, which recognized the ARF's role as the primary forum in enhancing political and security cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the pivot in building peace and stability in the region. The Ministers supported ASEAN's intention to enhance its role in further advancing the stages of cooperation within the ARF to ensure the security of the Asia Pacific region. The Ministers further welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Security Community, as one of the pillars of the ASEAN Community which would ensure that countries in the region live at peace with one another and with the world in a just, democratic, and harmonious environment, and regard their security as fundamentally linked to one another and bound by geographic location, common vision and objectives. The Ministers expressed their support for the realization of the ASEAN Security Community in 2020 and the development of its Plan of Action, as this will strengthen ASEAN as it leads the ARF towards a more secure and stable region.
11. The Ministers recognized the importance of the purpose and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in the Southeast Asia (TAC) which can serve as the key code of conduct for the promotion of cooperation, amity and friendship within Southeast Asia and between ASEAN and other ARF participants. The Ministers welcomed the accession by the People's Republic of China and India to the TAC during the ASEAN+China Summit and ASEAN-India Summit in October 2003. They also welcomed the accession by Japan and Pakistan to the TAC during the current series of the 37th AMM/PMCs/11th ARF.
12. The Ministers exchanged views on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers encouraged the efforts of concerned parties towards the maintenance of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and the region by achieving a peaceful solution through dialogue to denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers took note positively that the Third Round of Six Party Talks was recently held in Beijing on 23-26 June 2004, and the participating states agreed to convene the Fourth Six Party Talks in September 2004 in Beijing. The Ministers supported the parties' commitments to the goal of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and underlined the need to take first steps towards that goal as soon as possible. The Ministers emphasized the

importance of a step-by-step process of “words for words” and “action for action” in search of a peaceful solution to the nuclear issues.

13. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in recent years by the North and South towards reconciliation and cooperation, and reiterated support for continued dialogue and contacts between the North and South, at various levels.
14. The Ministers underlined the importance of the implementation of Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC). The Ministers also stressed that the parties concerned exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would affect peace and stability in the region. The Ministers emphasized the importance of confidence building and the need to explore ways and means for cooperative activities among the parties concerned, thus creating favourable conditions for settling disputes in South China Sea peacefully. The Ministers welcomed the proposal of ASEAN and China to convene a Senior Officials’ Meeting under the DoC and establish an ASEAN China Working Group that will oversee the implementation of the Declaration in spirit and letter.
15. The Ministers noted the briefing given by Myanmar and discussed the development in Myanmar. The Ministers recalled and emphasized the continued relevance of the 10th ARF Chairman’s Statement. In this regard, the Ministers underlined the need for the involvement of all strata of Myanmar society in the on-going National Convention. The Ministers urged Myanmar to take every action that will add substance to the expression of its democratic aspiration. The Ministers also recognized the role of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General in assisting Myanmar to achieve this goal.
16. The Ministers reiterated their support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Indonesia, and emphasized that durable stability, economic prosperity, and democratization would contribute to peace, stability and development in the region.
17. The Ministers welcomed the full reassertion of the sovereignty of Iraq on 28 June 2004. We emphasized the need to ensure substantive materialization of this sovereign status. The Ministers were concerned by the current security situation in Iraq, and hoped that a durable solution could be attained in order to achieve peace, security, stability and national reconciliation for the well being of the Iraqi people. We stressed the importance of the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546 (2004) on Iraq, and the importance of all nations supporting the full transfer of sovereignty to Iraqi authorities, and the presence of the multinational force in Iraq for the time period described in UNSCR 1546. We further emphasized the central role of the United Nations in the process of political transition from the sovereign interim government to a democratic government; reconstruction; and development of the country.

18. The Ministers expressed deepest sympathy and condolences to the death of civilian victims in the on-going situation in Iraq, in particular the death of civilian hostages of various nationalities, including nationals of ARF participants. The Ministers, therefore, condemned the barbaric killings and acts of terrorism against civilian hostages, and consider those acts as offences of grave concern to the international community. Furthermore, they expressed their determination to prevent the recurrence of civilian hostage taking.
19. The Ministers affirmed that terrorism, irrespective of its origins, motivations or objectives, constitutes a threat to all peoples and countries, and to the common interest in ensuring peace, stability, security and economic prosperity in the region and beyond. The Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Ministers emphasized the importance of avoiding the identification of terrorism with any particular religion or ethnic group. The Ministers agreed that the campaign against terrorism should be conducted in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the principles of international law, in particular humanitarian and human rights law.
20. The Ministers welcomed the results of the International Conference of Islamic Scholars (ICIS) held in Jakarta, 23-25 February 2004, which among others condemned acts of terrorism with any religion, in particular Islam, and any race. They noted that Moslem scholars from all parts of the world stressed the fact that the campaign against terrorism can only be won through comprehensive and balanced measures, in particular by squarely addressing the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, intolerance, and injustice.
21. The Ministers welcomed the Joint Communiqué of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC) and the Joint Communiqué of the 1st AMMTC+3 in January 2004 in Bangkok. Furthermore, the Ministers commended the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues at the 1st AMMTC+3, which provides concrete and operational measures on cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues between ASEAN and China. The Ministers welcomed the signing of ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism at the 2nd ASEAN-India Summit in Bali 2003. Ministers also welcomed the signing of the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism at the 10+1 Meeting in Jakarta on 1 July 2004. They further welcomed the signing of ASEAN-Russia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism during the 11th ARF.
22. The Ministers, recalling the objectives agreed at the Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People's Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime in February 2002 and April 2003 in Bali, welcomed the results of the Bali Process

Senior Officials Meeting held in June 2004 in Brisbane. The Ministers noted that the Bali process was continuing to work on practical activities to combat people's smuggling and trafficking in persons.

23. The Ministers welcomed the Convening of the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter Terrorism (BRMM-CT), held in Bali on 4-5 February 2004, co-hosted by Indonesia and Australia as a means to translate strong political commitments of the countries in the Asia Pacific region in combating terrorism into practical collaborative actions. The Ministers further encouraged participants to actively participate in the two ad-hoc Working Groups established as a follow-up of the Bali Meeting.
24. The Ministers welcomed the formal opening of the Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang, on 3 July 2004, to build regional operational law enforcement capacity needed to fight transnational crimes, with a key focus on terrorism, and expressed interest in appropriate national agencies drawing on the resources that will be provided by the Center for operational support. The Ministers also encouraged contributions from ARF countries to the work of the JCLEC. The Ministers expressed their support for the center forming complementary working relations, including cooperation in the training of officials involved in counter-terrorism, with other relevant regional bodies, such as the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok and the Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur.
25. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the second Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) in Manila, on 30-31 March 2004. They expressed their appreciation for the work of the Philippines and Russia as co-chairmen of that meeting. The report of the co-chairmen appears as ANNEX B.
26. The Ministers adopted the ARF Statement on Strengthening Transport Security against International Terrorism, as recommended by the ISM on CTTC. The Statement, which appears as ANNEX C, expressed the ARF participants' determination to take concrete and cooperative measures in safeguarding their means of transportation from terrorist threats.
27. Noting the important work being done by the ISM on CTTC, the Ministers agreed to extend its mandate for one more year, while maintaining the current format. The Ministers welcomed Canada and Thailand's offer to co-chair the next ISM on CTTC in 2005 in Thailand.
28. The Ministers reiterated the importance of addressing the issue of nonproliferation and disarmament in all its aspects. The Ministers underlined the importance of close collaboration between participants to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The Ministers also stressed the need to strengthen technical

cooperation in order to enhance countries' capabilities and to strengthen national legal measures to address the issue of nonproliferation in all its aspects, in accordance with the international law. The Ministers adopted the ARF Statement on Non-proliferation, as appears in ANNEX D.

29. The Ministers of the States Parties to NPT agreed to make further efforts for the successful outcome of the 2005 NPT Review Conference. They emphasized the importance of promoting the universalization of non-proliferation and disarmament agreements. The Ministers called for the maintenance of existing moratorium on nuclear testing. The Ministers also reaffirmed their support for the concept of internationally recognized nuclear-weapons-free-zones (NWFZs) established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States in the region, and emphasized the contribution of such zones to enhancing global and regional peace and security. They reaffirmed the importance of the early accession of Nuclear Weapons States to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty.
30. The Ministers noted the importance of all countries in the region to take strong measures to eliminate the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons to non-state actors.
31. The Ministers noted the success to date of the Pacific Island Forum's Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), which represented a Pacific solution to a Pacific problem.

#### Activities of the Current Inter-sessional Year (July 2003- July 2004)

32. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the success of Track I and Track II activities during the current inter-sessional year (July 2003-July 2004). They noted, in particular, the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by China and Myanmar, held in Beijing, China, 20-22 November 2003 and in Yangon, Myanmar, 11-13 April 2004. The Ministers commended the work of the ISG on CBMs in advancing the ARF process. They noted the summary report of the co-chairmen, which appears as ANNEX E, and endorsed its recommendations.
33. The Ministers noted the following activities, which were completed in inter-sessional year 2003/2004:
  - 7th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions in New Delhi, 15-17 October 2003.
  - Workshop on "Civil-Military Relations and the Rule of Law" in Brunei Darussalam, 11-12 February 2004.
  - ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy, Tokyo, 16-17 March 2004.

## Programme of Work for the Next Inter-sessional Year

34. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs continue its work and welcomed the offer of Cambodia and the European Union to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year. The Ministers also noted that the next ISG on CBMs will be held in Phnom Penh on 26-27 October 2004 and the second meeting of the ISG on CBMs will be held in Berlin in March 2005.
35. The Ministers reaffirmed the procedure that proposed activities should first be discussed at the ISG level before SOM noted the new activities. In this regard, the Ministers approved the work program for the next inter-sessional year (July 2004-July 2005), as indicated by the proposed CBM activities listed in ANNEX F.

## Future Direction of the ARF Process

36. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with further progress made in the implementation of the Nine Recommendations of the Stocktaking of the ARF process and underlined the importance of implementing all remaining recommendations.
37. The Ministers stressed the importance of the adopted Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy in guiding the ARF in its actions and works in Preventive Diplomacy (PD) thus far, noting that some of the concepts have been translated into actions. In this regard, they expressed their appreciation for the convening of the Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy in Tokyo, March 2004, which had explored and elaborated various ideas for moving the ARF process further. In the same vein, the Ministers also took note of the concept papers circulated by Canada and Japan, respectively, regarding the evolution of the ARF. The Ministers requested the ISG on CBMs to continue its efforts in discussing PD. In this regard, the Ministers underlined that the present work in tackling terrorism represents a milestone in the ARF's development of a preventive role.
38. The Ministers agreed to extend further cooperation and support for the ARF Chair in carrying out the mandates outlined in the paper on the Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair, particularly in assigning the ASEAN Secretariat to assist the ARF Chairman in facilitating the work of the ARF. In this regard, the Ministers were encouraged by and supported the establishment of an ARF Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat, which would, among others, regularly update the ARF Register of CBMs and serve as the repository of ARF documents.
39. The Ministers emphasized the need to continue strengthening ties with other regional and international security organizations as well as linkages between Track I and Track II.

40. The Ministers noted that the continued publication of the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) is an important contribution to transparency as well as confidence building among ARF participants. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the fifth volume of the ASO compiled without editing by the ARF Chair. They also encouraged the continued submission of inputs on the next volume of the ASO.
41. The Ministers appreciated the publication of an updated Register of Experts/Eminent Persons (EEPs). In this connection, the Ministers agreed to adopt the Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEPs, which appears as [ANNEX G](#). The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Korea in working closely with ARF countries to finalize the Guidelines.
42. The Ministers welcomed the contribution made by defence officials in the ARF process and endorsed China's proposal on the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC), which appears as [ANNEX H](#). The Ministers welcomed China's offer to host the 1st ASPC by the end of 2004 and agreed that Indonesia would Chair this Conference. The Ministers underlined the principle that the ASPC should be convened back-to-back with the annual ARF SOM and therefore subsequent ASPC will be hosted and chaired by the ARF Chair country. The 2nd ASPC will therefore be held in Vientiane under the chairmanship of Lao PDR.
43. The Ministers noted the Matrix of ARF Decisions and Status prepared by the ARF Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat and agreed that the Matrix should be updated on an annual basis to contribute to building ARF institutional memory. The Matrix appears as [ANNEX I](#).
44. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the open dialogue regarding the progress of the ARF process and committed to further advancing the ARF process towards the preventive diplomacy stage and beyond, at a pace comfortable to all, while continuing to build mutual confidence and trust among its participants.

# CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

YANGON, MYANMAR, 11-14 APRIL 2004

## Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 June 2003, the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China, held the second Meeting of the 2003-2004 inter-sessional year in Yangon, Myanmar on 11-14 April 2004.
2. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting. The Defence Officials' Dialogue was held on 11 April 2004. The Agenda of the ISG Meeting is attached as ANNEX A, the Programme of Activities as ANNEX B and the list of Participants as ANNEX C.

## Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Situation

3. The Meeting had an extensive exchange of views on recent political and security developments in the region and some countries specific issues were mentioned. The discussions were held in an open manner and covered the whole spectrum of political and security issues.
4. The Meeting noted that the region and the world had witnessed significant changes in recent years. Participants expressed their belief that peace, cooperation and development in the region could only be achieved through concerted efforts of the countries in the region. They noted with satisfaction that relations between countries continued to be stable, and that regional cooperation was further enhanced within sub-regional, regional and multilateral frameworks.
5. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on 7-8 October 2003 and support was expressed for the Bali Concord II as the blue print to achieve an ASEAN Community which rests on its three pillars of ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-cultural Community. The Meeting stressed the importance of the ASC in contributing to the further promotion

of peace and security in the region, ASEAN's determination to move forward the stages of ARF and that ASC will strengthen ASEAN's role as the primary driving force in the ARF. The Meeting's support was expressed for China and India's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. The Meeting also noted the outcome of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held in Tokyo, Japan on 11-12 December 2003. They expressed their confidence that the development would contribute to the long-term peace and stability in the region.

6. The Meeting emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Recalling discussions of previous ARF Meetings, participants called for a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula and the efforts to address all the concerns of the parties. They agreed that the nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and welcomed the successful convening of the second round of the Six-Party Talks in Beijing and the Chairman's Statement thereof. Participants commended the Chinese government for its efforts in this direction. Participants welcomed the efforts to continue inter-Korean dialogue. They expressed their hope that DPRK would actively participate in the ARF.
7. The Meeting also noted the progress achieved in the fight against terrorism since the ISG on CBMs Meeting in November 2003. The Participants deplored terrorist attacks in various places and called for further strengthening of regional cooperation to counter terrorism. The Meeting supported the ongoing efforts of the ARF participating countries to prevent, suppress and eradicate acts of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and welcomed the outcome of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and the First AMMTC+3 (China, Japan and Republic of Korea) in Bangkok in January 2004.
8. The Meeting welcomed the follow-up activities for the realisation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, including the planned holding of ASEAN-China Symposium on the realisation of the Declaration.
9. Participants noted the improvements in the security situation in the Pacific, but acknowledged that challenges remained in attaining long-term objectives of reform. Participants noted the success to date of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) under the auspices of the Pacific Islands Forum.

#### Voluntary Background Briefings

10. The Meeting welcomed the following voluntary briefings:
  - Briefing by People's Republic of China on the second round of Six Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula.
  - Briefing by Indonesia and Australia on the outcomes of the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter Terrorism. (ANNEX D)

- Briefing by the European Union on European Security Strategy, EU Strategy against proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, International Criminal Court (ICC). ([ANNEX E](#))
- Briefing by the United States on the Concept paper: Revitalizing Annual Security Outlook. ([ANNEX F](#))
- Briefing by Malaysia on Malaysia's mediation role in the Peace Process in Mindanao. ([ANNEX G](#))
- Briefing by United States on Global Posture Review. ([ANNEX H](#))
- Briefing by Cambodia on Meeting on Non-Proliferation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia with the Japanese Mission on Non-Proliferation. ([ANNEX I](#))
- Briefing by Australia and New Zealand on Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). ([ANNEX J](#))
- Briefing by Japan on Japan's efforts to promote cooperation for Non-Proliferation in Asia. ([ANNEX K](#))
- Briefing by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) on its activities. ([ANNEX L](#))

#### Non-Traditional Security Issues

11. The Meeting acknowledged that non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, cyber crimes and infectious diseases posed serious challenges and that closer cooperation and mutual support were essential in tackling these issues, including capacity building, information sharing and intelligence exchange among the ARF participants.
12. Participants reiterated that terrorism remained a serious threat to the region. Participants emphasised the need to further strengthen regional cooperation to combat terrorism, including through capacity building and information sharing and intelligence exchanges. The Meeting welcomed and agreed to actively participate in the SEARCCT's activities.
13. Participants welcomed the February 2004 Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-terrorism, co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia, and the announcement of the establishment of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC).
14. The Meeting noted the particular importance of transport security for the peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants endorsed the outcome of the ARF ISM on CT TC held in Manila on 30-31 March 2004 which was co-chaired by the Philippines and Russia. ([ANNEX M](#))

15. The Meeting underscored the need to enhance international cooperation to solve the problem of illicit drugs which continues to pose a threat to human security.
16. Participants expressed their continuing concern over the proliferation of WMD, their delivery means, small arms and light weapons and underlined the importance of fulfilling their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non proliferation. Some suggested that the ARF could contribute to the strengthening of export controls in the region as a way of preventing the proliferation of WMD. The United States tabled a revised draft statement on non-proliferation, sought comments on the draft from ARF participants by the end of April in advance of the SOM in Indonesia in May.

#### Consideration of CBMs

17. Participants noted the progress made in the implementation of various CBMs and the level of confidence and trust realised under the ARF. Participants agreed to further strengthen confidence-building measures.
18. In order to update the register on CBMs, New Zealand requested members who have sponsored CBMs to complete the registration forms as soon as possible. Should members agree, the register could now be posted as an adjunct to the New Zealand Ministry of Defence website.
19. The Meeting took note of the implementation of agreed CBMs and their reports:
  - The briefings by Brunei and U.S. delegations on the ARF Workshop on “Civil-Military Relations and the Rule of Law” in Brunei Darussalam, 11-12 February 2004. ([ANNEX N](#))
  - The briefings by the delegations of Japan and Thailand on the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy held in Tokyo, Japan on 16-17, March, 2004. ([ANNEX O](#))
20. The Meeting noted the following new CBMs proposed for the consideration of the ARF:
  - Singapore’s concept paper on Regional Cooperation in Maritime Security.
  - China’s concept paper on holding of seminars on Alternative Development.
  - China’s concept paper on Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Non-traditional Security Issues.
  - The Philippines’ TOR on Heads of Defence Colleges/Universities.
  - US concept paper on ARF CBM Seminar, Regional Maritime Security.
  - The Philippines’ concept paper on the ARF Symposium on Civil-Military Operations.
21. The Meeting welcomed the register of country points of contact for CBNR terrorism prepared by Singapore and its request for participants who have not done so to submit their nominations before the ARF SOM in May.

22. The Meeting took note of the “Concept paper on the ARF Workshop on Civil-Military Cooperation in Post-Conflict Reconstruction Assistance” proposed by Japan. Some participants expressed their hope for further clarification so as to facilitate future discussion on the proposed workshop.
23. The Meeting noted that the outcome of 3rd Tokyo Defence Forum Subcommittee and the coming 9th Tokyo Defence Forum, which will commemorate Japan Defence Agency’s and Self Defence Forces’ 50th anniversary.
24. The Meeting revised the list of proposed CBM activities, removing those already implemented and adding new proposed CBMs to Basket 1 and Basket 2. (ANNEX P)

#### Future Direction of the ARF

25. The Meeting reaffirmed the important contribution of the ARF, as the only political and security forum in the region, to regional security and reiterated the importance of further strengthening the ARF, including its progress towards Preventive Diplomacy.
26. Participants expressed the view that the ARF continued to make further progress and that the role of the ARF as a forum for political and security dialogue in the region should be maintained. Participants agreed that ASEAN should remain the driving force in the ARF process. The participants stressed that the ARF should continue to move forward at a pace comfortable to all. The Meeting agreed that member countries should strive for progress in the implementation of the Recommendations of the Stocktaking of the ARF process.
27. The Meeting also discussed the topic of strengthening ties with other regional and international organizations such as the United Nations, SCO and OSCE as well as linkage between Track I and II, and recommended the consideration of additional Track II Meetings in association with upcoming ISGs.
28. The Meeting noted the Concept-Paper: Reconsidering the ARF Functioning for the Coming Decade by Japan.

#### Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair

29. The Meeting reaffirmed that the ARF Chair should assume an enhanced role, in coordination between ARF meetings with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding and promoting continuity and efficiency of the ARF process building on the paper “Enhanced Role of the Chair” adopted by the ARF. In this connection, the Meeting discussed several proposals including the “Friends of the Chair.”

### Proposal for ARF Unit and participation of ASEAN Secretariat in ARF

30. The Meeting welcomed the participation of the ASEAN Secretariat in the ISG on CBMs for the first time and agreed to invite the ASEAN Secretariat in all the ARF ISG and related meetings.
31. The Meeting discussed the drafts Terms of Reference for an ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat to support the enhanced role of the ARF Chair. The Meeting agreed to use the ASEAN draft as the basis for future consideration of this matter taking into consideration the views and expectations of the non-ASEAN ARF members. Participants supported the initial establishment of ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat and recommended that this recommendation be forwarded to the SOM in Indonesia in May with a view toward approval by Ministers.

### ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons

32. Participants discussed the final draft guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEPs and expressed their hope that ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting could adopt it to activate the EEPs at an early date. (ANNEX Q)

### Preventive Diplomacy

33. The Meeting discussed the principles and scope of Preventive Diplomacy to ensure the continued relevance of the ARF to the changing global situation. The Meeting emphasised the need to further explore ways and means for ARF to implement Preventive Diplomacy. The Meeting also noted Canada's "Food for Thought/Non Paper on Preventive Diplomacy".
34. The Meeting welcomed the recommendations contained in the Co-Chairs' summary at the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy, held in Japan in March 2004, which would serve as a useful basis for taking the ARF process forward to implement Preventive Diplomacy and recommended that the workshop's conclusions and recommendations be forwarded to the SOM for further consideration.

### Annual Security Outlook

35. The Meeting observed that the ARF Annual Security Outlook promoted transparency, and therefore contributed to confidence building among ARF participants. The Meeting encouraged members that have not done so, to submit their inputs to the next Annual Security Outlook to the ARF Chair for compilation before the ARF SOM in May 2004.

## Arrangements for the next ISG Meeting

36. Cambodia and European Union proposed to hold the next ISG on CBMs for 2004-2005 inter-sessional year.

## Other Matters

37. The Meeting stressed the importance of increasing the involvement of defence officials in the ARF process. In this regard, the Meeting supported, in principle the revised Concept Paper on the ARF Security Policy Conference (SPC) by China and agreed to continue to work out the specific format of the SPC. The Meeting agreed that comments be submitted to the co-chairs by end April 2004 and that a revised draft be submitted to the ARF-SOM in May 2004 for consideration of the ARF-SOM.
38. The Co-Chairs briefed the ISG on the outcome of the discussion at the Defence Officials' Dialogue held on 11th April 2004. A report on the Defence Officials' Dialogue is attached as Annex R.

# CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SECOND ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, 30-31 MARCH 2004

1. As agreed by the Ministers at the Tenth ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Phnom Penh on 18 June 2003, the Second ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM CT-TC) was held on 30-31 March 2004 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting was organized by the Philippines and the Russian Federation, and co-chaired by Hon. Alicia C. Ramos, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Vladimir Andreyev, Deputy Director, Department of New Challenges and Threats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, and Vietnam. The ASEAN Secretariat, the International Law Enforcement Academy, and the Southeast Asia Regional Center on Counter-terrorism also participated in the Meeting. The list of delegates is attached as ANNEX A.

## Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

3. The Agenda is attached as ANNEX B and the Program of Activities is attached as ANNEX C.
4. The opening remarks of the Philippine co-chair and the Russian co-chair are attached as ANNEX D and E.

## Agenda Item 2: Update on Terrorist Organizations, Recent Terrorist Activities, and Counter-Terrorism Measures

5. Participants reported on measures undertaken by individual countries to counter terrorism. Among others, participants highlighted institutional and legal measures taken at the domestic level as well as those measures that have been implemented to promote cooperation on counter-terrorism at the regional and international levels.
6. The general view was that terrorism remains a major threat to modern civilization and must be condemned in all its forms. There was recognition that no country could succeed in the fight against terrorism alone. Thus, efforts must be directed to broaden and

strengthen international cooperation to deal with the problem. There was recognition that sharing of intelligence with other countries should be an essential element of any form of cooperation against terrorism.

7. Participants were in agreement that the nature of terrorism has evolved through the years and the world has seen how terrorists have adapted to new situations including the use of information technology to perpetrate attacks against soft civilian targets.
8. Some participants shared their own experiences as victims of terrorist attacks. It was shown that coordinated efforts among government agencies can be effective in preventing attacks and mitigating their impacts. Such strategies resulted in the apprehension and eventual conviction of many of the perpetrators of acts of terrorism in recent years.
9. It was recognized that a strong international regime against terrorism is essential. Participants were of the view that domestic efforts to support internationally agreed security standards such as the ISPS Code and various UN security conventions and protocols as well as the signing of bilateral agreements on cross-border terrorism and other forms of regional cooperation arrangements, should be pursued by individual countries. Participants also cited the efforts of their respective governments to deal with terrorism in terms of establishing new institutions and/or strengthening existing ones to coordinate their overall national counter-terrorism efforts as well as enacting new legislation to enable such institutions to carry out their respective mandates. It was recommended that both domestic and international counter-terrorism measures must complement each other.
10. The Meeting emphasized the need to find an appropriate balance between improving transport security while ensuring the smooth flow of goods and people, as well as the need to avoid higher and more burdensome costs.
11. A copy of the country presentations by the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, the Republic of Korea, and Mongolia are attached as ANNEXES F, G, H, I, J, and K.

#### Agenda Items 3 and 4: Counter-Terrorism: Transport Security on the Road and the Rail

12. Noting the negative impact of terrorism on domestic and international trade, participants emphasized that domestic and international counter-terrorism efforts must be implemented with a view to protecting trade and ensuring transport security to ensure the safe movement of peoples and goods across countries. The vulnerability of rail and road systems to terrorist attacks was also highlighted.
13. Participants noted that ensuring transport security requires investment by governments and the private sector in terms of equipment and human resources. The implementation

of innovative measures including the use of information technology to protect transport systems, particularly rail and road networks, against terrorist attacks was recommended. While it was recognized that approaches relating to transport security could vary, the general agreement was that the recent Madrid bombings demonstrated the need for countries to implement additional measures to protect rail and road infrastructure and services such as increasing patrols, expanding the security zones in stations and raising public awareness.

14. Concerns regarding the problems involved in facilitating the security of rail and road systems were also highlighted. These include the lack of coherent approach, insufficient cooperation, inadequate management of major disruptions with international consequences, need to harmonize local measures with internationally-agreed standards and the need for non-discriminatory security procedures.
15. Participants also identified possible actions that could be taken to ensure transport security such as enhanced cooperation among countries, increase resource allocation and support for research and development, training, networking and acquisition of equipment.
16. Russia, the European Union, and Japan presented papers under this agenda item. Attached as ANNEXES L, M, and N are their presentations.

#### Agenda Item 5: Counter-Terrorism: Transport Security – in the Air

17. Participants noted that the horrific events of 9/11, where commercial planes were used as actual weapons of destruction, permanently changed the way transport security in the air should be approached. Within this new paradigm, the participants identified key areas to enhance aviation security: cooperation between and among national stakeholders, information sharing, international cooperation, and capacity-building.
18. Participants expressed the view that governments should work closely with other national stakeholders in order to encourage compliance with the stringent security measures that need to be put in place. Inasmuch as no single government can ensure transport security in the air, governments alone cannot do so without the active cooperation of the private sector (airlines and airport agencies).
19. Participants could not overemphasize the importance of sharing timely and appropriate information. They noted developments in information technology that could improve the ways in which ARF countries access, communicate, and disseminate information for greater effectiveness.

20. While different views were expressed on the effectiveness of deploying air marshals, there was general agreement about the importance of pre-flight measures in enhancing aviation security. Several participants informed the Meeting of the measures they have put in place, such as screening of passengers and luggages, background check on airport employees with access to restricted areas, posting of law enforcement personnel in passenger screening counters, and deployment of trained dogs and their handlers (K-9 teams).
21. The participants stressed the importance of adhering to international security standards, such as those set by ICAO.
22. The country presentations of Russia ([ANNEX O](#)), Canada ([ANNEX P](#)), the United States ([ANNEX Q](#)), and Singapore ([ANNEX R](#)) are attached.

#### Agenda Item 6: Counter-Terrorism: Transport Security: At Sea

23. The participants considered sea transport infrastructure and services as probably among the most vulnerable targets for terrorist attacks under current circumstances. Attacks on ships and seaports could cause enormous damage in terms of human lives and property. The possibility that terrorists might shift their attacks from land to sea is a concern that should be addressed by the international community in a concerted manner. The participants expressed their full support to ARF efforts on maritime security.
24. At the domestic level, the participants presented the various measures adopted by their countries. These measures include the establishment of coordinating agencies looking into maritime security, enhancement of sea communications systems and port facilities, and the conduct of highly specialized training programs. New laws have also been put in place by their countries to regulate security matters on all types of transport.
25. Recognizing the importance of intensifying bilateral, regional and international cooperation in maritime security, some countries are initiating agreements in critical areas such as customs cooperation and the conduct of border patrols. Some participants called for enhanced international cooperation in maritime security similar to arrangements in the air transport services sector.
26. The participants raised the need to give serious attention to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea, and develop a multilateral framework for achieving cooperation in the region.
27. Some participants have taken measures to harmonize their domestic security policies with international standards such as the ISPS Code. The implementation of the ISPS

Code is an important tool for ensuring transport security at sea. The participants are aware of the importance of meeting the deadline for its compliance.

28. The presentations of Russia ([ANNEX S](#)), Indonesia ([ANNEX T](#)), the United States ([ANNEX U](#)), China ([ANNEX V](#)), Malaysia ([ANNEX W](#)), and the Republic of Korea ([ANNEX X](#)) are attached.

#### Agenda Item 7: Inter-Modal/Multi-Modal Transportation Security

29. Participants noted that most activities to enhance transport security since 11 September 2001 have been planned and implemented within individual modes. Counter-terrorism in the aviation and maritime sectors – though actively debated at present in ICAO and IMO – remains focused on those individual modes. Rail security is largely focused on national-level initiatives.
30. Participants agreed that there is a need to ensure that the linkages among air and rail, rail and road, inland waterway and maritime transport are seen in the context of an inter-modal transport security framework. Such a framework will provide a coherent, cost-effective, and rational approach to transport security.
31. Participants were informed of some actions taken to promote inter-modal security: securing of key infrastructure (tunnels, bridges, terminals; establishment of standards for service providers, industry-wide consultations, and coordination of efforts between countries such as the U.S.-Canada Free and Secure Trade (FAST) initiative.
32. Coordination on transport security and terrorism – be it among modes, private and public sector entities, or countries – necessitates some degree of policy transparency. Participants shared the view that enhanced information exchange is a key component of any inter-modal/multi-modal transport security framework.
33. The country presentations of European Union ([ANNEX Y](#)) and Canada ([ANNEX Z](#)) are attached.

#### Agenda Item 8: Presentation of Working Group Reports and Recommendations

34. The Meeting divided into Working Groups to tackle three different aspects of transport security, namely: policy recommendation, intelligence/information exchange, and counter-measures. The reports of the Working Groups on Policy Recommendation, Intelligence/Information Exchange, and Counter measures are attached as [ANNEX AA](#), [ANNEX BB](#), and [ANNEX CC](#), respectively. The participants agreed that the recommendations of each working group serve as good starting points for forging a regional consensus on transport security issues.

Agenda Item 9: Consideration of Draft ARF Statement on Transport Security

35. The Co-Chairs' draft ARF Chairman's Statement on Combating International Terrorism in Transport is attached as ANNEX DD. The participants agreed to submit their comments to the Philippine and Russian co-chairs, through diplomatic channels, on or before 12 April 2004 to allow for the consolidation of comments in time for the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting in Yogyakarta in May.

Agenda Item 10: Presentation of the Co-Chairs' Summary Report

36. The Philippines, on behalf of the Co-Chairs, presented the draft Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 2nd ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Agenda Item 11: Other Matters

37. Mr. Mark Lloyd, Program Director of the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, briefed the participants about the Academy. ILEA aims to develop each country's criminal justice institutions by conducting training programs for mid-level police officers. Mr. Lloyd added that the opportunity for networking with counterparts from other countries enhances cooperation among the participating countries in these courses. A copy of Mr. Lloyd's speech and presentation is attached as ANNEX EE.
38. Mr. Dzulkefly Abdullah, Director of the Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter-terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, circulated SEARCCT's information paper at ANNEX FF.
39. The Participants expressed the view that the meeting served as a useful platform for an exchange of views on counter-terrorism issues of common concern and agreed to propose to the ARF Senior Officials its continuation for another inter-sessional year.
40. The Participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for the arrangements made for the meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegates.

# CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF ARF WORKSHOP ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

TOKYO, JAPAN, 16-17 MARCH 2004

## Introduction

1. Pursuant to the Recommendations on the Future Direction of the ARF endorsed at the 9th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2002, which decided to follow up the Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted in 2001, the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy was held on 16-17 March 2004 in Tokyo, co-chaired by Japan and Thailand. The meeting was attended by ARF participants listed in the Annex, and several participants had Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) in their respective delegations.
2. The Workshop was held back-to-back with the OSCE-Japan Conference on the Search for Conflict Prevention in the New Security Circumstances, and there were informal exchanges of views between participants of the two conferences prior to the Workshop.
3. The Workshop was conducted in a frank and cordial manner and participants had useful and constructive discussions on matters relating to preventive diplomacy.

## Summary of Discussions

*Session 1: Review of Developments in the Area of Preventive Diplomacy in the ARF since the Adoption of the "Paper on Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy"*

4. The Workshop reviewed, with the presentation by Japan, the history of discussions on the matter of preventive diplomacy in the ARF so that all the participants could possess a common understanding on where we are on this issue. The Workshop took stock of the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the ARF process such as ISG-CBMs, ISM-CTTC and ongoing activities involving defense officials. The Workshop stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation in a transparent, continuous and efficient manner towards strengthening work in the area of preventive diplomacy. The Workshop also took note of the usefulness of the exchange of experiences with organizations dealing with regional peace and security. The Workshop discussed that accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by ASEAN Dialogue Partners would contribute to confidence building and preventive diplomacy in the region.

## *Session 2: Concrete Measures towards Implementation of Preventive Diplomacy*

5. The Workshop carried forward discussions on exploring concrete measures towards implementation of preventive diplomacy as follows.

(1) Role of the Chair

The Workshop noted with appreciation the presentation by Thailand on how to enhance the role of the ARF Chair. The Workshop discussed mechanisms and options regarding the Chair's role and the chair system, including, *inter alia*, "Friends of the Chair", introduction of co-chairmanship, vice-chairmanship or Troika. Some participants stressed the leading role of ASEAN in the ARF and with regard to the ARF Chair. The Workshop also discussed the issue of procedure in issuing the ARF Chair's Statement on specific situation.

(2) Secretariat

The Workshop welcomed the agreement by ASEAN on the establishment of the ARF Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat. The Workshop underlined the need for due consideration to the ARF Unit's terms of reference, to be initiated by ASEAN, and looked forward to further discussion on the ARF Unit.

(3) Role of the EEPs

The Workshop noted with appreciation the briefing by the Republic of Korea on Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEPs. The Workshop agreed that the ARF should accelerate finalization of the draft Guidelines, activate EEPs as soon as possible after finalization of the draft Guidelines, and encourage EEPs' participation in appropriate ARF activities.

(4) Role of Track Two Organizations

The Workshop recognized the importance of Track Two activities and of strengthening linkages with Track Two organizations.

(5) Concrete Measures

The Workshop took note of the presentation by China on concrete measures on preventive diplomacy such as keeping the nature of ARF as a political and security dialogue venue and embodying the principles of having ASEAN playing a leading role in developing preventive diplomacy in the ARF.

## *Session 3: Preventive Diplomacy and the New Perception of Security*

6. The Workshop emphasized the importance of achieving common understanding of and recognizing the importance of "New Threats", with focus on transnational problems, *inter alia*, international terrorism, illicit trafficking in arms, drugs and persons, and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, piracy and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which require global and regional cooperation and responses.

7. The Workshop agreed on the necessity to promote international cooperation such as information sharing and networking among executive branches of governments, law enforcement agencies and customs, in addition to traditional diplomatic efforts, as well as increase public awareness and the role of civil society. The Workshop explored ways to reflect in the ARF process the existing and new initiatives in the areas of counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, and other regional security cooperation efforts to respond to new threats arising from intense domestic instability.
8. The Workshop took note with appreciation of the Non-Paper on Preventive Diplomacy presented by Canada, which set out the proposal to identify priorities and establish the work plan to achieve a practical outcome. The Workshop recognized the significance of expediting the ARF to accelerate its response to new security threats and reinforce its preventive diplomacy efforts, and suggested the ISG-CBMs in Yangon and ARF-SOM in Yogyakarta to continue to consider these ideas.

*Session 4: Considerations and Recommendations*

9. The Co-Chairs noted with warm appreciation that all the participants including EEPs were engaged in the discussion in a constructive and interactive manner, thereby producing tangible outcomes which reflected the strong commitment among the participants to make progress towards preventive diplomacy.
10. In this regards, the Co-Chairs agreed to forward the following recommendations, picked up from the discussion at the Workshop, to the next ISG-CBMs in Yangon in April 2004 as well as the next ARF-SOM in Yogyakarta in May 2004 for their consideration:
  - Prioritize various ideas for cooperation to move the ARF process forward,
  - Support efforts to enhance the role of the ARF Chair and explore further the various options to achieve it,
  - Welcome the agreement by ASEAN on the establishment of the ARF Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat and encourage to pay due consideration to its terms of reference,
  - Finalize the draft Guidelines for Operation of the ARF EEPs, activate EEPs as soon as possible after finalization of the draft Guidelines, and encourage EEPs' participation in appropriate ARF activities,
  - Assess the idea of the establishment of ISG-PD or of entrusting existing ISG-CBMs to cover PD,
  - Affirm that the focus of ARF work should cover security in a comprehensive manner, including traditional and non-traditional security issues, and explore practical ways to accelerate the ARF's response to new security threats, and to reinforce its preventive diplomacy efforts,
  - Strengthen linkages with Track Two process,
  - Strengthen linkages with other international or regional bodies which deal with security issues on the basis of consultation and consensus of ARF participants.

# CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

BEIJING, CHINA, 20-22 NOVEMBER 2003

## Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Cambodia on 18 June 2003, the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar, held the first meeting of the 2003/2004 inter-sessional year in Beijing from 20-22 November 2003.
2. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam attended the Meeting. Consistent with the ARF goal of increasing the participation of defence and military officials in all relevant meetings and activities, most delegations included defence officials. An ARF Defence Officials' Meeting was held on 19 November. The Agenda of the ISG meeting is attached at [ANNEX A](#), the Programme of Activities at [ANNEX B](#) and the list of Participants at [ANNEX C](#).

## Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Situation.

3. There was an extensive exchange of views among participants on the political and security developments in the region and beyond since the 10th ARF Ministerial Meeting. The discussion was held in an open and free-flowing manner and covered a wide range of issues which had an impact on the region as a whole.
4. The Meeting noted that the world and region had undergone profound changes. Participants were of the view that peace, cooperation and development were the main trend of the regional situation. They expressed their gratification that relations between countries, in particular the major powers in the region remained stable and cooperative, and that regional cooperation were enhanced under various frameworks such as ASEAN Plus Three (10+3), ASEAN Plus India Summit, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) and Boao Forum for Asia (BFA).

5. Participants welcomed the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on 7-8 October 2003. Support was expressed for the Bali Concord II as a solid platform to achieve an ASEAN Community and China and India's accession to the TAC, which would contribute further to long-term peace and stability in the region.
6. The nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula remained the most significant focus for participants. The Meeting emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Recalling discussions of previous ARF meetings, participants called for a nuclear-weapon-free peninsula and supported the efforts to address all the concerns of the parties. They agreed that the nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and welcomed the progress made for an early convening of the second round of the Six-Party Talks. Participants commended the Chinese Government for its efforts in this direction. Participants welcomed the efforts to continue inter-Korea dialogue. They also expressed their hope for DPRK to resume participating in the ARF activities.
7. The Meeting emphasized that terrorism remained a serious threat in the region, and noted that progress had been made in regional efforts against terrorism since the 10th ARF Ministerial Meeting. Participants deplored the terrorist bombing attacks in Istanbul, Bali, Jakarta and Riyadh, and emphasized the need to further strengthen regional cooperation to counter terrorism.
8. Participants noted the progress that the Government of Timor-Leste had made since its independence. Some participants expressed that it was essential for the UN to continue its presence there. They noted some ARF participants continued contributions to the development of Timor-Leste.
9. The Meeting was briefed by the Myanmar delegation on the government's efforts to bring about a transition to democracy through the seven-step roadmap. Some participants urged further progress on national reconciliation, and for inclusiveness of the democratization process.
10. Some participants noted that the security situation in the Pacific Island region remained a cause of concern. The Meeting noted the success to date of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands under the auspices of the Pacific Island Forum.
11. Participants exchanged views on the situation in Aceh and Papua provinces and were briefed by the Indonesian delegation on the latest developments and on measures aimed at resolving the issue in a comprehensive and satisfactory manner adopted by the government of Indonesia.

## Voluntary Background Briefings

12. The Meeting welcomed the following voluntary briefings:

- Briefing by Myanmar on the Situation in Myanmar ([ANNEX D](#)).
- Briefing by Myanmar on the recent Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand ([ANNEX E](#)).
- Briefing by China on the latest development of the Six-Party Talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.
- Briefing by Australia on the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, with which New Zealand and Papua New Guinea associated ([ANNEX F](#)).
- Briefing by Malaysia on the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-terrorism ([ANNEX G](#)).
- Briefing by Malaysia on the Recent Negative Travel Advisories Issued by the United States on Visiting Sabah ([ANNEX H](#)).
- Briefing by Indonesia on the Concept of ASEAN Security Community ([ANNEX I](#)).
- Briefing by Malaysia on the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Center ([ANNEX J](#)).

## Non-Traditional Security Issues.

13. Participants had an in-depth discussion on strengthening cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues. They were of the view that non-traditional security issues, including terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering and cyber crimes, continued to pose threats to the peace and security of the region and it should remain as one of the priorities on the ARF agenda.
14. The Meeting agreed there was an urgent need for more practical and pragmatic cooperative measures among the ARF participants to cope with the non-traditional security issues. In this regard, participants emphasized the importance of capability building, information sharing and intelligence exchanges among the ARF participants in their efforts to address non-traditional security concerns. Some participants expressed the hope that the ARF would establish relations with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur.
15. Australia briefed the Meeting on its contribution to regional efforts in the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and HIV/AIDs ([Annex K](#)), and on the Ministerial Meeting on Combating Illegal Immigrants and Human Trafficking and introduced the follow-ups on the workshop on Managing Consequences of a Major Terrorist Attack conducted by Australia and Singapore in Darwin on 3-5 June 2003. The Meeting noted Singapore's presentation on the register of country points of contact for CBRN terrorism and Singapore's request for participants to submit their nominations by 22 December 2003. The explanatory note is at [Annex L](#). The

Meeting also noted plans by Australia and Indonesia to co-host a regional ministerial counter-terrorism meeting in Bali in February next year.

16. Some participants emphasized the importance of enhancing maritime security, and called for the ARF participants to undertake concrete cooperative measures including sharing of information for combating piracy and other maritime crimes. Participants took note of different workshops hosted by participants.
17. Participants expressed their concern over the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) as well as the heightened risk of WMD falling into the hands of non-state actors. Some called for the strengthening of measures such as export and financial control in preventing the proliferation of WMD. Japan briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the Asian Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation held in Tokyo on 13 November 2003 ([ANNEX M](#)). Some participants also raised the challenges to national and regional security of small arms and light weapons, as well as land mines and urged the ARF to consider practical measures to address these issues.
18. The Philippines and Russia briefed the Meeting on their preparation for the next Inter-session Meeting on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crimes to be held in Manila in March 30-31, 2004, which would focus on transport security. Some participants proposed the inclusion of representatives from organizations such as International Law Enforcement Academy (Thailand) and the Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter-Terrorism (Malaysia) in the meeting.

#### Consideration of CBMs

19. Participants agreed that progress had been made in the implementation of various CBMs, and that the level of confidence and trust had been enhanced under the ARF auspices. Participants agreed to further strengthen confidence-building measures, which should remain as a main thrust of the ARF process.
20. The Meeting took note of the implementation of agreed CBMs and reports by organizing countries on the following activities:
  - 7th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions in New Delhi, 15-17 October 2003 ([ANNEX N](#)).
  - Workshop on Managing Consequences of a Major Terrorist Attack held in Darwin on 3-5 June 2003.
21. Participants noted that the following CBMs that will be held this inter-session year:
  - Seminar on Civil-military Relations and the Rule of Law in Brunei on February 11-12, 2004 (Brunei, US).
  - 8th ARF Meeting of the Head of Defence Colleges/Institutions. (Singapore).

22. The Meeting revised the list of proposed CBM activities, removing those already implemented and adding new proposed CBMs to Basket 1 and Basket 2. The proposed revision to the list is at [ANNEX O](#).
23. The Meeting received draft Concept Papers for the following proposed CBMs:
  - China proposed to hold an ARF Seminar on Alternative Development ([ANNEX P](#)).
  - China proposed to hold an ARF Seminar on Non-traditional Security Cooperation ([ANNEX Q](#)).
24. The Republic of Korea proposed to hold an ARF Seminar on Cyber terrorism during the second half of 2004.
25. Japan briefed the outcome of 8th Tokyo Defence Forum and coming 3rd Sub-committee of the Forum.
26. The Philippines proposed to draft Terms of Reference of the Annual Meeting of the ARF Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions before next ISG meeting in Yangon.
27. New Zealand briefed the Meeting on the progress of updating the ARF Register of CBMs and urged participants to provide full details of CBMs for the complete establishment of database of the Register.

#### Future Direction of the ARF

28. Participants were of the view that the ARF had made good progress during the past decade, and that the usefulness of the ARF as a forum for political and security dialogue and cooperation, with ASEAN as the driving force, should be maintained. The ARF should continue to observe the basic principles featuring decision-making by consensus and non-interference. At the same time, participants also stressed that the ARF should keep abreast with the times, and move forward at a pace comfortable to all. In this regard, the Meeting urged greater progress made in the implementation of the adopted Nine Recommendations of the Stocktaking of the ARF process.
29. The Meeting stressed that it was important to increase the involvement of defence officials in the ARF process. To this end, they welcomed China's efforts in drafting the Concept Paper on "the ARF Security Policy Conference" ([ANNEX R](#)). They agreed to further discuss and try to reach consensus on the concept paper among the ARF participants for the submission to the ARF SOM in 2004.

30. Some participants also expressed the view that the ARF should strengthen informal liaison with other regional and international organizations such as the UN, APEC, SCO and OSCE as well as linkage between Track I and Track II.

(i) Preventive Diplomacy

31. Participants stressed the need to implement the Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted at the 8th ARF Ministerial Meeting, and to continue discussion on preventive diplomacy as mandated by the ARF Ministers. Some participants suggested that the ARF EEPs conduct study on this issue. Some participants expressed the hope that the workshop to be held by Japan in March 2004 would produce concrete ideas and proposals to facilitate the ARF to implement the adopted paper on Preventive Diplomacy.

(ii) Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair

32. The Meeting complimented the ARF Chair for the efforts made in enhancing the role of the Chair. Participants agreed to extend further cooperation and support for the ARF Chair in carrying out the mandates outlined in the paper on the Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair. Some mentioned ASEAN Secretariat's assistance to the ARF Chair in the form of "ARF unit". Some participants expressed the hope that "the Friends of the Chair" could be introduced when necessary.

(iii) ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons

33. Participants expressed their appreciation of the efforts by the Republic of Korea in drafting the Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEPs (ANNEX S), and encouraged further discussion. They also expressed their hope that consensus could be reached, so that the operation of the EEPs could be initiated at an early date.

(iv) Annual Security Outlook

34. The Meeting observed that the continued publication of the ARF Annual Security Outlook was an important contribution to transparency, and therefore to confidence-building, among ARF participants. Therefore, the co-chair encouraged the ARF participants to submit Annual Security Outlook on voluntary basis to the ARF Chair for compilation before the next ISG on CBMs in the first half of 2004.

## Arrangements for the next ISG Meeting

35. The Union of Myanmar welcomed the participants to attend the next ISG meeting to be held in Yangon on 11-13 April 2004.

## Other Matters

36. The co-chair briefed the ISG on the outcome of the discussion at the Defence Officials' Dialogue held on 19 November 2003. A report on the Defence Officials' Dialogue is attached at ANNEX T.

## ARF STATEMENT ON STRENGTHENING TRANSPORT SECURITY AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 2 JULY 2004

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organization issues the following statement:

Strongly condemning all terrorist acts regardless of objectives or motivations;

Drawing attention to the significant threat to transportation posed by terrorist organizations and criminal groups and their growing coalescence, including those involved in piracy and smuggling;

Recognizing that despite the increased anti-terrorist efforts of the international community terrorism remains a direct threat to international peace, security and stability, and economic prosperity, including in the Asia-Pacific region;

Stressing that the complex, multi-dimensional and global nature of terrorism requires active and concerted actions by the international community, and a comprehensive approach – combining political, diplomatic, economic, legislative, law enforcements and other means – to address its manifestations and its causes;

Recognizing the need to enhance international, regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote counter-terrorist capacity by sovereign states;

Stressing the need for all states to create an environment where terrorism in all its manifestations is resolutely and totally rejected and to establish the necessary legislation and other means to ensure that terrorist offenses are effectively investigated and prosecuted;

Ensuring that all measures to combat terrorism are taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other applicable norms and principles of international, humanitarian and human rights law;

Reaffirming and strengthening the central role of the United Nations, in combating terrorism and shaping a joint and efficient system to address global threats and challenges;

Remaining strongly committed to the implementation of UN conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and fully supporting the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council and other relevant UN agencies;

Recognizing that further efforts aimed at facilitating the earliest possible conclusion of the draft UN Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism and the draft UN International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism would be a significant contribution in that regard;

Acknowledging the need to respect independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states, the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and non-use of force or threat of force;

Rejecting any attempts to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, race or culture;

Noting the vital importance of the safe and efficient operation of transport systems for their proper functioning and successful development of the global, regional, and national economies;

Recognizing the significance of international cooperation stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant international maritime regime in enhancing maritime transportation safety and security as an important contribution to international, regional and national efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crime;

Noting the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-terrorism which established two Ad Hoc Working Groups to enhance regional law enforcement cooperation and legal frameworks;

Recalling the ARF Statements on Measures Against Terrorist Financing of 30 July 2002, on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security of 17 June 2003, as well as the ARF Statement on Cooperative Counter-terrorist Action on Border Security of 18 June 2003 which stresses, in particular, that progress needs to be made in fighting terrorism across the entire spectrum of modes of border-crossing transport;

Observing the progress achieved by the Forum participants in combating terrorism in transport;

Taking note of the “Cooperative G8 Action on Transport Security” adopted by G8 in Kananaskis on 27 June 2002 as well as the “Enhanced Transport Security and Control of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)” Action Plan adopted by G8 in Evian on 3 June 2003 and the concerns about the threat posed to commercial and general aviation by MANPADS.

ARF participating states and organization will endeavor to:

1. Enhance wherever possible their efforts and cooperation in fighting terrorism in all modes of transport – on the road, by rail, at sea, in the air, and by pipelines – in accordance with their domestic legislation, international obligations, and this Statement. In this regard, ARF participating states and organization will endeavor to jointly explore new practical measures and initiatives to combat terrorism in the transport sector.
2. Strengthen the legal cooperation framework to counter terrorism in all modes of transport by accession to relevant global anti-terrorist conventions and protocols and the conclusion of appropriate bilateral and multilateral treaties, agreements, and conventions. The ARF participating states and organization will continue, *inter alia*, their efforts to cooperate on criminal prosecution and extradition of persons suspected of perpetrating terrorist acts.
3. Fully and effectively implement their obligations under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code by the agreed date of 1 July 2004.
4. Strengthen cooperation in the exchange of information, particularly on terrorist activities – planned or being committed – and persons and entities/organizations/groups involved, as well as appropriately and effectively share information for the prosecution process of perpetrators of terrorist acts, while protecting the confidentiality of individual information, in accordance with domestic laws.
5. Strengthen practical cooperation between law-enforcement bodies, and relevant security and intelligence services, as well as state transportation agencies and organizations in counteracting terrorism in transport.
6. Explore possible ways of improving interoperable methods of identification of members of international terrorist groups active in international transport routes. The ARF participating states and organization thus, express their intention for respective national authorities to cooperate in improving the security features of travel documents and visa systems, including through the consideration of standards and best practices established in other fora, thus facilitating the identification of individuals suspected to be involved in terrorist activities, while taking into account the need to avoid the violation of the rights of individuals.
7. Hold appropriate simulation and joint exercises, with a view to enhancing institutional capacity building of coastal states, especially with regard to piracy and maritime and aerial terrorism, to ensure effective modal coordination of maritime and aviation security and safety measures.

8. Consider opportunities to plan and implement, as appropriate, coordinated special operations and criminal investigations and set up under the most appropriate jurisdiction, joint operative teams to mitigate the effects of terrorist attacks on transport facilities and bring the perpetrators to justice.
9. Cooperate, consistent with existing relevant transportation regimes, in preventing transportation systems from being used by terrorist, either as a site to commit terrorist acts or for transporting personnel, arms, explosives and explosive devices, and weapons of mass destruction.
10. Promote cooperation between research institutions to examine terrorism against the transport network, carry out joint research, exchange expertise and recommend methodologies, technologies, and best practices for combating such threats through meetings, seminars and conferences or through exchange of legislative and other legal regulations, and scientific research results.
11. Expand cooperation and enhance participation in international fora and international organizations, in particular, by adherence to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO's) International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code and relevant standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
12. Assist in providing appropriate training and equipment to respective transport security services.
13. Continue to develop and harmonize measures aimed at enhancing necessary security regimes for container shipping, while taking into account national legal systems and the need to avoid unnecessary increase in costs and disruption to trade.
14. Jointly examine and consider means to counter suicide terrorist attacks against transportation and transport facilities.
15. Continue to develop concerted efforts to fight piracy and other border crimes such as smuggling of illicit containers, under the aegis of IMO and respective national and regional frameworks, in particular, those relating to enhanced export control measures.
16. Develop and share best practices in the formulation of an intermodal transport security framework that would link air, rail, road, inland waterway and maritime transport, believing that such a framework will provide a coherent, cost-effective, and rational approach to cargo transport security.

17. Encourage constructive interaction between the ARF and other regional and international organizations/fora in this area with counter-terrorism mandates.
18. Cooperate to ensure that terrorists are prevented from using information technology and its applications to disrupt and sabotage the operation of transportation systems.
19. Annually review the progress of these and other efforts to combat terrorism in transport at the following ARF Ministerial Meetings.

# ARF STATEMENT ON NON-PROLIFERATION

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 2 JULY 2004

1. The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the ARF participants, issues the following statement:
2. Recognizing that:
  - A. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in all its aspects and their means of delivery constitute a threat to international peace and security and a growing danger to all states;
  - B. The proliferation of WMD and the spread of terrorist groups increase the risk that terrorists may gain access to WMD and their means of delivery;
  - C. A multilateral approach to security, including disarmament and nonproliferation, contributes to maintaining international order, therefore every effort should be undertaken to uphold, implement and strengthen the multilateral disarmament and nonproliferation treaties and agreements to which ARF participants are States Parties.
  - D. The support of international institutions charged respectively with verification and upholding of compliance with these treaties is of key importance.
  - E. It is vital to prevent terrorists or those who harbor them from acquiring or developing WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials, and continued efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.
  - F. In the interest of international peace and security, ARF participants agree that it is vital that we prevent, with utmost vigilance and urgency, the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials.
  - G. The effort to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery requires a comprehensive approach in accordance with international law.
  - H. Critical to such an approach is to encourage all ARF participants to comply with their respective nonproliferation commitments and disarmament obligations under the international treaties to which they are parties. They are also encouraged to adopt new measures as appropriate on effective export controls and on establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.
  - I. The ARF has long recognized the threat posed by the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery to the Asia-Pacific region and the need to uphold, implement and strengthen the multilateral disarmament and nonproliferation

treaties and agreements to which ARF participants are states parties. These principles were reflected in the 1996 ARF Chairman's Statement, which referred to the ARF Seminar on Nonproliferation in Jakarta on December 6-7, 1996, and in subsequent ARF statements. The ARF commends Canada's proposal to conduct a seminar on export licensing in the next ARF cycle.

- J. The prevention of proliferation should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
3. The ARF supports, in line with Article 25 of the UN Charter, the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (2004) and presumes that all its provisions, having unequivocal supremacy over this Statement, should be effectively implemented. To this end, ARF participants will closely collaborate with each other and duly cooperate with the Committee of the Security Council established under Resolution 1540. This Statement is a contribution at the regional level to achieving the goals of the aforesaid Resolution.
  4. The ARF notes the progress that has been made by ARF participants in addressing proliferation concerns. The ARF encourages ARF participants to further enhance their efforts and commitments to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery in a more comprehensive manner that takes into account ARF participants' resources and capacities. The ARF encourages ARF participants to make best efforts:
    - A. To redouble their efforts to maintain and strengthen the disarmament and nonproliferation treaties, and for all States parties to these treaties to fully implement them in accordance with their obligations under these treaties.
    - B. To enact or improve national legislation, regulations and procedures to exercise effective control over the transfer of WMD and related materials, while ensuring that such legislation, regulations and procedures are consistent with the obligations of States Parties under international treaties;
    - C. To strengthen cooperation in sharing of information among ARF participants and with relevant multilateral and international organizations in order to deal effectively with proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery and related transfers;
    - D. To take cooperative measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials in accordance with national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law; and
    - E. To strengthen national legal measure, as appropriate, for criminalizing the illicit exports of equipment and technology that contributes to the proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems, and related materials.
  5. To accomplish these goals, ARF participants have decided to carry out the following cooperative actions, as appropriate and in accordance with international law, for strengthening measures against proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery:

- A. ARF participants will implement effective export controls and enforcement measures to control the transfer of materials, technology and expertise that can contribute to the design, development, production or use of WMD and their means of delivery, where necessary reinforcing their national authorities and capabilities toward this end, while ensuring that such policies and practices are consistent with obligations of States Parties to the international treaties. However, efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD should not hamper international cooperation in material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
  - B. To this end, ARF participants recognize the utility of effective national export control lists as well as the need, where necessary, to rigorously enforce and further develop them, without affecting the rights to develop research, production and use of (nuclear, chemical and biological) materials for peaceful purposes.
  - C. Given that safe and secure management of radioactive sources is very important in the current security climate, ARF participants will review their abilities to control radioactive sources and will make a political commitment to work toward following guidance contained in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, or "Code."
  - D. Agreeing that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would contribute to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, ARF participants will continue to support the Six Party Talks to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue.
  - E. ARF participants will continue to enhance cooperation with the IAEA and the OPCW in order to strengthen international nuclear and chemical safeguards respectively, and to uncover networks that provide WMD-related equipment, materials and technologies illegally.
  - F. All participants will foster regional dialogue and cooperation in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.
6. In addition, ARF participants decided that they will:
    - A. Work actively with international cooperative mechanisms to provide, when and where possible, technical assistance to strengthen mechanisms against proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials and technologies, to ARF participants that request such assistance; and
    - B. Encourage the ARF Chair to explore with the ASEAN Secretariat, or, if established, an ARF Unit, whether it would be willing to record requests from ARF participants for assistance in implementing measures to strengthen their respective WMD national authorities and other mechanisms against proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials and technologies.
  7. ARF participants will review the progress of these and other efforts to strengthen nonproliferation of WMD in all its aspects and their delivery means at the 12th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2005.

# GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ARF EEPs

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 2 JULY 2004

These guidelines, based on the Co-Chair's Paper on the Term of Reference for the ARF EEPs adopted at the 8th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2001, is to provide a guidance to the actual operation of the Register of EEPs.

## 1. Composition and Status of the EEPs

- (a) The EEPs, experts and eminent persons nominated and registered by each ARF participant in due course in accordance with the 2001 Co-Chairs' paper on Terms of Reference for the ARF EEPs, shall be regarded as advisers to the ARF.
- (b) The ARF participants will be encouraged to indicate the specific field of expertise of the individual EEPs, thereby facilitating selection of EEPs suited for the assigned task.

## 2. Role of the EEPs

- (a) The role of the EEPs is to provide non-binding and professional views or policy recommendations to the ARF through the ARF Chair, or to serve as resource persons to the ARF on issues of relevance to their expertise.
- (b) The activities of the EEPs shall focus on issues and subjects which are relevant to the interests and concerns of the ARF not being adequately addressed elsewhere, and to which their expertise is directly applicable.
- (c) The work of the EEPs should directly support activities to take the ARF further forward, especially with respect to formative work on confidence building measures, the development of preventive diplomacy and the elaboration of approaches to conflicts in the region. In this regard, "the Nine Recommendations on the Future Direction of the ARF" adopted the 9th ARF Ministerial Meeting on 31 July 2002 provide good examples of those subjects in which the expert study, analysis and recommendations of the EEPs may be required.

## 3. Procedures for Activities and Meetings of the EEPs

- (a) The ARF Chair or any ARF participant may propose activating the EEPs for the aforementioned tasks. Such proposals will be collected by the ARF Chair and circulated to all ARF participants. In the absence of any objection from the ARF participants, the proposals will be put into effect.

- (b) The ARF Chair shall invite nominations of EEPs from the ARF participants and, in consultations with the ARF participants, propose the individual EEPs to participate in the assigned task. The EEPs for the assigned task will be selected to reflect a diverse range of views among the EEPs and be of a manageable size. The mandate and scope of the work of the EEPs will be determined on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the principle of consensus and so as to support the ARF Chair on specific tasks.
- (c) Meetings of the EEPs may be convened to facilitate the conduct of the work mandated by the ARF, with the government hosting the EEPs' meeting providing the secretariat services and administrative assistance. It is encouraged that the EEPs' meeting be co-chaired by an EEP from ASEAN member state and an EEP from non-ASEAN member state.
- (d) The activities and findings/results of the EEPs should be reported in writing to the ARF Chair which will share them with all ARF participants. In this regard, the EEPs should be informed in advance that their findings/results will be used by the ARF Chair or ARF participants within the ARF and with the consent of the concerned participants. The copyright for publication of the activities and findings/results of the EEPs will be held by the ARF and their activities and findings/results will not be publicized outside the ARF.

#### 4. Financial Rules

- (a) The ARF participants providing the EEPs with related services will bear the costs involved.
- (b) In the event that the EEPs are commissioned for a task on the initiative of the ARF Chair, the Chair may mobilize voluntary contributions from the ARF participants. The modalities for funding should be indicated in the proposals.

#### 5. Future Review and Amendment

- (a) These guidelines will be reviewed for possible amendment and revision when and if the need arises in the future.
- (b) Any amendment and revision shall be made on the basis of consensus of all ARF members.

