

THE NINTH  
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 31 JULY 2002



# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

## THE NINTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 31 JULY 2002

1. The Ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 31 July 2002. The Meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of ARF participating countries or their representatives. 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 9th ARF was also held on 30 July 2002.

### Overview of the ARF process

4. The Ministers expressed satisfaction that the ARF, as the main cooperative security forum in the Asia Pacific Region, continues to make significant progress in addressing regional security concerns, implementing confidence building measures and initiating exploratory work on preventive diplomacy (PD). They were of the view that the ARF process has further strengthened dialogue and understanding amongst its participants which represents an important contribution to regional peace and stability, especially, in light of the evolving security situation.
5. The Ministers reiterated that the ARF should continue to progress at a pace comfortable to all and maintained the importance of decision-making by consensus and on the basis of non-interference into one another's internal affairs. The Ministers expressed continued support for ASEAN's role as the primary driving force of the ARF and further encouraged the contribution of all ARF participants in moving the ARF process forward.
6. The Ministers emphasized the importance of the active participation of defence and military officials as well as the engagement of other security officials in strengthening the ARF process. The Ministers welcomed the initiative to create more opportunities for these officials to interact as they are essential to the confidence building process in the ARF and have proven to be constructive and useful in the exchange of views on issues of common interest. They were also informed by the ARF Chairman on the outcome of the defence/military officials meeting on 30 July 2002.

7. In recalling the decision of the 8th ARF in July 2001, on the adoption of the paper on the “Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair”, the Ministers welcomed Brunei Darussalam’s good offices and co-ordination role in between ARF meetings, particularly, in issuing a statement on behalf of ARF participants on the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States and facilitating the immediate convening of two workshops on “Financial Measures against Terrorism” and “Prevention of Terrorism” this year. They also expressed appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its wide consultations and outreach with participants on ARF matters as well as with Track II institutions and other international organisations.
8. The Ministers appreciated the first compilation of the ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons (EEPs) by the ARF Chair circulated to ARF participants. They further encouraged the submission of nominations of experts/eminent persons on a voluntary basis to the ARF Chair.
9. The Ministers recalled the adoption of the “Paper on Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy” as a snapshot of the state of current discussion on PD at the 8th ARF in July 2001 and regarded it as a major achievement in the evolution of the ARF. They noted deliberations on PD by officials and looked forward to further progress in future discussions. In broadening understanding on PD, the Ministers were of the view that inputs from Track I and Track II activities could be useful for future discussions on the subject.
10. The Ministers acknowledged the circulation of the third volume of the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) compiled without editing by the ARF Chair. They welcomed its non-classified release and expressed the view that the submission of the ASO represented an important contribution in promoting transparency and confidence among ARF participants. They encouraged the continued submission of inputs for the next volume of the ASO for circulation at the next inter-sessional year.

#### Highlight of Issues Discussed

11. The Ministers reviewed the overall security environment of the Asia Pacific and were encouraged by significant developments especially positive signs of recovery and growth in the global economy. They were also encouraged by greater interaction and exchanges among countries in the region especially between the major powers. They were of the view that whilst the security situation remained stable, the region continued to face uncertainties and challenges such as the sustainability of the economic recovery process and the threats of terrorism. The Ministers reiterated the importance of addressing security issues in a comprehensive manner.

12. In assessing regional and international security developments, the Ministers believed that the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001 in the United States had a tremendous impact on the overall security environment. The Ministers recalled the Statement of October 2001 issued by the ARF Chair on behalf of ARF participants and emphasized the need for the ARF to find ways and means to cooperate further in the fight against terrorism. In this regard, they recognized the importance of adding value to the collective and concerted global campaign against terrorism. The Ministers reaffirmed the principles outlined in the relevant UNSC Resolutions related to the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorist Acts and expressed satisfaction that all participants had submitted their reports in compliance with UNSC Resolution 1373. They encouraged early accession to or ratification of relevant international Conventions and Protocols relating to terrorism.
13. The Ministers noted the holding of the Workshop on “Financial Measures Against Terrorism”, 24 - 26 March 2002 in Honolulu, co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States, and the Workshop on “Prevention of Terrorism”, 17-19 April 2002 in Bangkok, co-chaired by Thailand and Australia. They expressed appreciation to these countries and, in this regard, welcomed the “ARF Statement on Measures Against Terrorist Financing” issued by the Chairman on behalf of all participants and agreed to review its implementation. The Statement appears as ANNEX B. They also endorsed the recommendations put forward by the Bangkok Workshop.
14. The Ministers welcomed, in particular, the establishment of an Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CT-TC) and noted a Concept Paper submitted by the United States and Malaysia would serve as a good basis for the work of the new ISM. They were of the view that enhanced cooperation against terrorism would further strengthen the ARF. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the United States and Malaysia as Co-Chairmen of the ISM on CT-TC in the next inter-sessional year. The Concept Paper appears as ANNEX C. They also noted the efforts by participants to promote cooperation to combat terrorism within the framework of the ARF, including the submission of Concept Papers on ARF Dossier on Counter-Terrorism Measures by Japan and on Cyber Terrorism by the Republic of Korea.
15. The Ministers pledged their commitment to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation in combating terrorism comprehensively to make the region a safer place for all. They commended regional and international efforts against terrorism, in particular: the Declaration by APEC Economic Leaders of October 2001 in Shanghai; the 7th ASEAN Summit Declaration of November 2001 on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism in Bandar Seri Begawan; the Declaration by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; the ASEAN+3 Leaders’ commitment to work together against terrorism at the 5th ASEAN + 3 Summit 2001 and the Almaty Act and the Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting

Dialogue among Civilization issued at the 1st Summit Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

16. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Work Programme on Terrorism by the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur and the signing of the Agreement on Information Exchange and the Establishment of Communication Procedures among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines on 7 May 2002. They further welcomed Cambodia's accession to the Agreement on 30 July 2002. They noted the recent meeting of the 22nd ASEANAPOL on 28-30 May 2002 in Phnom Penh, to devise ways of working together in their fight against terrorism.
17. The Ministers noted that further collaboration was needed to support capacity building, in particular to enhance participants' capability to counter terrorism especially in areas such as legal assistance, financial measures, and practical law enforcement cooperation. Ministers were of the view that the management of the consequences of a terrorist attack was a possible area for future ARF activity/work and recommended that this be given further consideration at the next ARF Inter-sessional Meeting.
18. The Ministers emphasized that stable and constructive relations between major powers were key to regional and global peace and security. They welcomed increased cooperation, dialogue and exchanges of visits at the highest level among Leaders in the region.
19. The Ministers expressed concern over the recent naval clash in the Yellow Sea/West Sea which had heightened tensions in the Korean Peninsula. They noted, however, the latest moves towards the easing of tensions and the resumption of dialogue. They stressed the need to ensure the prevention of the recurrence of such an incident in the future and underlined the importance of promoting Confidence Building Measures. The Ministers expressed the hope that genuine progress would be made for the mutual confidence building between North and South Korea and the enhancement of North and South reconciliation and cooperation. In that regard, they highlighted the importance of the smooth implementation of the 15 June North-South Joint Declaration and the follow-up measures agreed upon during the visit to Pyongyang by the Presidential Envoy of the ROK last April. They also emphasized the importance of the holding of a second Inter-Korean Summit. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the full implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework including the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO) project. The Ministers hoped that prospects for dialogue between the DPRK and the United States would improve. They also welcomed the Red Cross Talks between the DPRK and Japan and encouraged further dialogue.
20. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in the South China Sea and noted that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region. In this regard, they noted the agreement of ASEAN member

countries in respect of ASEAN's new approach as reflected in the Joint Communiqué of the 35th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. They welcomed ASEAN's resolve to work closely with China on this matter. The Ministers welcomed the parties' continued commitment to exercise self-restraint and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea in conformity with recognized principles of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

21. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 7th ASEAN Summit, 5th ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits on 5-6 November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan. They commended efforts at economic reform, integration and cooperation in the region. These included ASEAN's commitment to further accelerate its economic integration, embarking on far reaching economic cooperation, bridging the development gap in ASEAN, measures pursued via APEC and bilateral free trade agreements, consistent with the goals of the Doha Development Agenda. The Ministers also welcomed the commitment amongst Heads of State/Government of ASEAN, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in building a closer East Asian partnership to further contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity. The Ministers further welcomed the upcoming 1st ASEAN + India Summit to be held in Phnom Penh in November 2002.
22. The Ministers reiterated support for the territorial integrity and national unity of Indonesia and expressed the view that durable stability, economic prosperity and democratization would contribute to peace, stability and development in the region.
23. The Ministers recognized the importance of purposes and principles contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a basis for the promotion of cooperation, amity and friendship in Southeast Asia and between ASEAN and ARF participants.
24. The Ministers noted the on-going consultations between ASEAN and the Nuclear Weapon States regarding the latter's signing to the Protocol of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). The Ministers reiterated their support to the P5 Joint Statement concerning security assurances for Mongolia and to its nuclear-free status.
25. The Ministers welcomed the independence of East Timor (Lorosae) on 20 May 2002 and reiterated their support for the building of an independent state. In this regard, they emphasized the need for continued assistance from the international community in the reconstruction and development of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (DRET) in all areas. They expressed support for the activities of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNMISSET). Ministers also appreciated the Government of Indonesia's support of DRET's independence and the development of strong bilateral relations.

26. The Ministers welcomed the recent developments in Myanmar that signified the important achievements in Myanmar's national reconciliation process, unity and economic progress. The Ministers expressed the hope that the Government of Myanmar would take steps in further consolidating such progress.
27. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in South Asia and recognized the close link between peace, security and stability in the region and in the rest of the world and noted recent efforts in easing tension between India and Pakistan. The Ministers further called for an immediate end to all terrorist activities in the region as an essential step to de-escalate the situation. While welcoming its commitment to counter terrorism, Ministers earnestly looked to Pakistan to take urgent further steps to implement it. This would constitute an important step towards resumption of dialogue, strengthening of cooperation and resolution of differences through peaceful means to promote regional and international security and stability.
28. Ministers welcomed the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement on 31 August 2001 and the subsequent positive steps towards securing peace on Bougainville, including the passage of the necessary legislation through the Papua New Guinea Parliament in March 2002. Ministers welcomed the restoration of democracy in Fiji through the elections held in August-September 2001 and noted the continuing security challenges facing other Pacific island governments, including Solomon Islands.
29. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Loya Jirga and the subsequent formation of the Transitional Government of Afghanistan and its efforts towards creating lasting peace in Afghanistan, thus contributing to peace and stability in that region. The Ministers expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the Pledging Conference on the Reconstruction Assistance of Afghanistan in Tokyo this year and called on the international community for the prompt implementation of its support on the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
30. The Ministers noted that preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery directly engages the region's fundamental security interests. Ministers further noted that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 underlined the importance of participants renewing and fulfilling their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. In the area of conventional arms control, Ministers noted the importance of efforts by ARF participants to implement the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects such as the regional seminar jointly sponsored by the Philippines and Canada in Manila on 9-10 July 2002.
31. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that preparations were underway for the 2005 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) with the



first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference held in New York from 8-19 April 2002. The Ministers reaffirmed that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remained the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. They regarded that preserving and strengthening the NPT would be vital to peace and security. They noted the calls at the Preparatory Committee for States to accede to the NPT, the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the Additional Protocol to NPT Safeguards Agreement.

32. The Ministers acknowledged that states at the CTBT Conference on 11-13 November 2001 in New York had renewed the commitment to work towards universal ratification of the Treaty and its early entry into force. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance for all states to maintain the existing moratorium on nuclear testing and reiterated the call for all states to work towards the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons.
33. The Ministers expressed the hope that the re-convened session of the 5th BTWC Review Conference to be held in November 2002 would make progress in efforts to strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), especially by agreeing to hold annual meetings of State Parties. They also underlined the importance of ensuring that the First Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in April/May 2003 is a success. They recognized the importance of promoting universality of the CWC and BWC.

Reports of Track I and II Activities for the Current Inter-sessional Year (July 2001-July 2002)

#### Track I

34. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of Track I and II activities during the current inter-sessional year (July 2001-July 2002). They noted, in particular, the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of the Meetings of the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by India and Viet Nam, held in New Delhi, India 19-21 December and in Ha Noi, Viet Nam 21-23 April 2002 which appears as ANNEX D. The Ministers commended the work of the ISG on CBMs in advancing the ARF process. They endorsed the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report.
35. The Ministers also noted the following activities which took place under the auspices of the ISG on CBMs:
  - 35.1 The Second Law of the Armed Conflict Seminar in Bangkok on 7-10 August 2001.
  - 35.2 Workshop for Mid-Level ARF Civilian and Defence Officials on Preventive Diplomacy in Brunei on 10-14 September 2001.

- 35.3 Fifth ARF Meeting of Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions in Tokyo on 28-31 August 2001.
  - 35.4 ARF Peacekeeping Seminar: Best Practices and Lessons Learned in New Delhi on 20-21 March 2002.
  - 35.5 ARF Workshop on Financial Measures Against Terrorism in Honolulu on 24-26 March 2002.
  - 35.6 ARF Workshop on Prevention of Terrorism in Bangkok on 17-19 April 2002.
36. The Ministers also endorsed the Concept Papers on “A Recording Mechanism of ARF CBMs” and “Defence Dialogue within the ASEAN Regional Forum” prepared by New Zealand and Singapore respectively.

#### Track II

37. The Ministers took note of the paper submitted by CSCAP entitled “ARF in the 21st Century” and the outcome of the Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy organized by CSCAP and the Institute of International Relations Viet Nam. They welcomed efforts to enhance linkages between Track I and Track II in particular ASEAN-ISIS, CSCAP and other institutions. They expressed the view that inputs from Track II could be further discussed by Track I.
38. The Ministers encouraged ASEAN and Russia to continue their work on the draft Pacific Concord.

#### Programme of Work for the Next Inter-Sessional Year (July 2002-July 2003)

39. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs continue their work and welcomed the offer by Laos and New Zealand to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year. Ministers also noted that the next ISG on CBMs would be held in Wellington, New Zealand on 20-22 November 2002. The second meeting of the ISG on CBMs will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26-28 March 2003.
40. The Ministers endorsed the programme of work for the next inter-sessional year (July 2002-July 2003) as contained in ANNEX E.

## Future Direction of the ARF Process

41. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment in further strengthening the ARF as an effective forum for political and security dialogue and cooperation in the evolving security situation in the Asia Pacific region.
42. The Ministers emphasized the importance of the evolutionary approach of the ARF process from confidence building to preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches to conflicts. They underscored the ARF process of decision-making by consensus, moving at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants and ASEAN's role as the primary driving force of the ARF process.
43. The Ministers endorsed the recommendations contained in Brunei Darussalam's Paper on "Stock-taking of the ARF Process" and encouraged their effective implementation. The recommendations appear as ANNEX F. They shared the view that enhanced cooperation against terrorism would help further strengthen confidence building in the ARF.
44. The Ministers welcomed the enhanced role of the chair in particular assigning the ASEAN Secretariat to assist the ARF Chairman in coordinating the work of the ARF and in this connection, recalled the roles recommended by the ISG on CBMs. They noted that some of these roles have been carried out and encouraged further implementation. Ministers noted other recommendations contained in the initial Brunei Darussalam paper circulated on 5 May 2002 and a number of participants were of the view that these could be considered in the future. These included an Inter-sessional Group on Weapons of Mass Destruction, an Inter-sessional Group on Preventive Diplomacy and establishment of an early-warning system.
45. While, the ARF process should further consolidate and broaden its work in confidence building measures to promote trust, understanding and cooperation among ARF participants, the Ministers also recognized the importance of making further progress on PD. The Ministers underlined the ARF's work in tackling terrorism represented a milestone in the ARF's development of a preventive role.
46. On the expansion of the ARF, Ministers noted the intention of DRET to join ARF. The Ministers also noted that Pakistan had renewed its application to join the ARF. They welcomed the suggestion that the expansion of the ARF be kept under review.
47. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress in exploring the overlap between CBMs/PD. In strengthening the four CBM/PD overlap measures, namely the enhanced role of the ARF Chair, the ARF Registers of Experts/Eminent Persons, the Annual Security Outlook and voluntary background briefing on regional security issues, they agreed that the ARF further intensifies its work in implementing them as well as further exploring the overlap between CBMs and PD.

# ARF STATEMENT ON MEASURES AGAINST TERRORIST FINANCING

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 30 JULY 2002

H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Bolkihah, the Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

In the interest of global peace and security, the participants in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) are determined to stop the financing of terrorism. In October 2001 the Chairman issued a statement on behalf of the participants that stated that we will address ways and means to cooperate together in the fight against terrorism. The fight against terrorist financing is a shared responsibility of the international community. We have therefore today endorsed a statement of our intention to work individually and in concert to prevent terrorists and their associates from accessing or using our financial systems and to stop abuse of informal banking networks.

These recommendations arise from the work done by senior officials of ARF participating states, notably the ARF Workshop on Financial Measures Against Terrorism hosted by Malaysia and the United States in Honolulu from March 24-26, 2002.

We agree that ARF participants will implement quickly and decisively measures that the United Nations has identified as mandatory to combating terrorist financing. We will block terrorists' access to our financial system. We will work with other relevant international bodies, including the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), FATF-style bodies, and the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) to prevent abuses to the financial system and threats to its integrity through the promotion of international standards relevant to terrorist financing, money laundering and financial sector regulation and supervision. We welcome the conclusions of the FATF extraordinary plenary on terrorist financing and its eight special recommendations on terrorist financing. Above all, we will enhance our ability to share information domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against terrorism. We call on all ARF participants to make every effort to provide assistance to those countries who require assistance in accordance with this statement. In pursuing our goals, we have agreed to the following concrete steps:

#### Freezing Terrorist Assets

- Each ARF participant will implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly UNSCR 1373, to stop the financing of terrorism.

- In accordance with UNSCR 1373, each ARF participant will, within its jurisdiction, freeze without delay the assets of terrorists and their associates and close their access to the international financial system.
- Each ARF participant will, consistent with its laws, make public the lists of terrorists whose assets are subject to freezing, and the amount of assets frozen, if any.

#### Implementation of International Standards

- Each ARF participant will aim to approve, accept, ratify or accede to and implement the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism as soon as possible.
- Each ARF participant will aim to approve, accept, ratify or accede to and implement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- We will work co-operatively and in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, FATF and FATF-style bodies, FSF, Basle Committee of Banking Supervisors (BCBS), and other relevant international and regional bodies to promote the adoption, implementation, and assessment of international standards or recommendations to combat the abuses of the financial system, including in respect of terrorist financing, financial regulation, and money laundering.

#### International Cooperation: Exchange of Information and Outreach

- We will enhance our cooperation on the international exchange of information, including regarding actions taken under UN resolutions. ARF participants will promptly implement such measures as are necessary to facilitate this exchange.
- Each ARF participant should establish promptly, or maintain, a Financial Intelligence Unit or its equivalent and will take steps to enhance information sharing among them, including through promoting increased participation in groups of such units.
- An important element of this effort is the work of the regional FATF-style anti-money laundering bodies. Accordingly, the ARF participants call on these regional bodies to meet promptly and to expand their mandates to include terrorist financing.

#### Technical Assistance

- We are committed to providing, where possible, technical assistance to countries that need help in developing and implementing necessary laws, regulations and policies to combat terrorist financing and money laundering.
- We welcome the efforts of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other multilateral and regional organizations to provide technical assistance, including by expanding existing programs and training centers.

#### Compliance and Reporting

- To promote implementation and compliance with international standards, and to share information regarding our respective laws, regulations, and best practices to address terrorist financing, we will support the activities of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee. We will

also actively support surveillance and voluntary self-assessment through the IFIs, FATF and relevant international bodies.

- ARF participants should respond to the FATF's invitation to participate in a self-assessment of the eight special recommendations on terrorist financing.
- We encourage the FSF to continue its work respecting the actions of financial sector regulators in the fight against terrorism.
- We will ensure that our financial institutions and citizens comply with measures to combat the financing of terrorism and other financial crimes, and will assist them to do so, including through informing financial institutions of their obligations and new developments.
- We welcome the active contribution of the regional FATF-style bodies to the FATF's worldwide self-assessment program.
- We will review progress on our efforts to combat the financing of terrorism at our next Ministerial meeting.

# CO-CHAIRMEN'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

NEW DELHI, INDIA, 19-21 DECEMBER 2001

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 22-24 APRIL 2002

## Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Ha Noi on 25 July 2002, the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by the Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, held two meetings during the 2001/2002 intersessional year, the first in New Delhi on 19-21 December 2001 and the second in Ha Noi on 22-24 April, 2002.
2. Representatives from all ARF participating countries, except Papua New Guinea, attended both the meetings. 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. The Agendas of the New Delhi and Ha Noi ISG Meetings are attached at ANNEXES A and B, the Programmes of Activities as ANNEXES C and D and the List of Participants as ANNEXES E and F respectively.

First ISG Meeting, 19-21 December 2001, New Delhi, India

## Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Situation

3. There was an extensive exchange of views among participants on the political and security developments in the region and beyond since the 8th ARF Ministerial Meeting. The discussions were held in an open and free-flowing manner and covered a range of issues impacting on the region as a whole.
4. In the discussion about the review of the regional and international political and security situation, the issue of terrorist strikes against the United States and the subsequent global coalition against terrorism remained in principal focus. The Meeting expressed its condolences to the people and the Government of the United States on the tragic terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and the thousands of lives lost. The Meeting also expressed its condolences to the people and the Government of India on the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on 13 December 2001. Participants agreed that the terrorist strikes

and developments since 11 September 2001 had led to a transformation of the global security perspective and compounded the effects of the global economic downturn on the regional economic situation. Participants expressed their determination and resolve to continue the collective and concerted global campaign against terrorism and the implementation of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

5. The Meeting reiterated support for the Statement of October 2001 on the threat of international terrorism issued by Brunei as the ARF Chair on behalf of ARF participants. Support was also expressed for the Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism issued by ASEAN Leaders at their 7th Annual Summit and the Declaration by APEC Economic Leaders. The Meeting also took note of the Declaration by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. There was general agreement that ARF participants view all acts of terrorism as an attack against humanity and completely unjustifiable regardless of any motivations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever, and a profound threat to international peace and stability. ARF participants are committed to prevent and combat all forms of terrorist acts and will also cooperate at the regional level towards joint practical counter-terrorism measures.
6. Participants were unanimous in their support for reconstruction and reconciliation in Afghanistan and the provision of humanitarian assistance there. Some participants expressed the view that eradication of the network of the Al Qaeda and the Taliban was an essential step in the global efforts to stamp out terrorism completely. Participants also emphasized that the ongoing campaign against terrorism was not a fight against any country or against Islam.
7. Participants emphasized that there should be greater exchange of information and intelligence and further cooperation among law enforcement agencies as a necessary tool to effectively combat terrorism. Capacity building in some ARF participating countries was also required with the cooperation of participating countries with greater expertise and resources in the field of counter-terrorism. There was general agreement that accession by participating countries to all UN Conventions against terrorism would assist in fighting terrorism and would also constitute a CBM.
8. Proposals were before the Meeting for a series of ARF Workshops on Counter Terrorism. The proposals to hold an "ARF workshop on Counter-Terrorism" focusing on the financing of terrorist activities in the spring of 2002 in the US, and to hold an "ARF workshop on the Prevention of Terrorism" in April 2002 in Thailand were endorsed by participants for consideration by the ARF Chair with a view to their immediate implementation through consultations among participating countries.
9. Participants reaffirmed their support for efforts made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to reduce tensions and



establish lasting peace of the Korean Peninsula since the historic inter-Korean summit in June last year. They encouraged the DPRK and the ROK to implement further follow-up measures to enhance inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation in the spirit of the 15 June 2000 North-South Joint Declaration. Participants expressed hope for the further promotion of the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and emphasized the importance of holding the second inter-Korean summit.

10. The Meeting emphasized support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of Indonesia. Participants expressed satisfaction on the restoration of stability in East Timor and acknowledged the achievements made by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor in cooperation with Indonesia and other countries. Participants noted the need for continued international support for East Timor in the lead-up to and after independence.
11. Participants noted the positive developments in the situation in the South China Sea and welcomed the progress made on developing a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea between ASEAN and China. They were also encouraged by the continued commitment of the parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.
12. Participants noted that general elections were held in Fiji in August-September 2001 under the framework of the 1997 Constitution. Some participants expressed the hope that the post-elections constitutional issues that have been raised would be settled satisfactorily by the judiciary and that Fiji would move in the direction of respect for democratic principles reflecting the multi-racial composition of Fijian society and on the basis of equal political, economic and social rights for all citizens of Fiji. Some participants also noted that peace agreements had paved the way for eventual resolution of conflicts in Solomon Islands and Bougainville, and that the Bougainville experiences provided a possible model for regional peace building.
13. Participants welcomed some positive development in the political situation in Myanmar and hoped for the process of national reconciliation move forward. They also appreciated the efforts of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General in this context.
14. Participants welcomed the outcome of the 7th ASEAN Summit held in Brunei Darussalam on 5-6 November 2001. The ARF Chair informed the Meeting that, at the Summit ASEAN Leaders agreed to further accelerate ASEAN's economic integration, identify far-reaching economic cooperation projects and promote further initiatives in bridging the development gap in ASEAN. During the ASEAN+3 Summit, ASEAN leaders and the Leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea agreed on building a close East Asian partnership in further contributing to regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

## Transnational Crime of Concern to the Region

15. The Meeting agreed that transnational crimes continued to pose challenges to the peace and security of the region and that the subject of transnational crime should remain on the ISG's agenda. The Meeting discussed alternative formats to carry forward fruitful and productive discussion on these issues, including terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and cyber crime. Participants agreed that all these issues were intrinsically linked to each other and to the counter-terrorism agenda, and that adhoc workshops, seminars or symposia, including at the expert level, could provide an appropriate format to facilitate the emergence of tangible results and recommendations from the discussions. Some participants also suggested that the old format of an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Transnational Crime may still be beneficial as a good political mechanism and could possibly be held once a year. The identified issues of transnational crime would continue to be on the agenda of the next ISG Meeting in Ha Noi and participating countries would convey ideas and proposals on these to the Co-Chairs in the intervening period.
  
16. Participants welcomed the adoption of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its aspects in New York in July 2001 and expressed their commitment to implementing the programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants recalled the Australian proposal for an ARF Small Arms Declaration, which had not attracted consensus, but noted the importance of ARF participating countries cooperating to address the humanitarian and socio-economic problems posed by illicit small arms trade, including the terrorism dimension.

## Consideration of CBMs

17. The Meeting took note of the implementation of agreed CBMs and reports by organizing countries on the following activities:
  - The 2nd Law of the Armed Conflict Seminar held in Bangkok from 7-10 August 2001 (Thailand).
  - The Workshop for Mid-Level ARF Civilian and Defence Officials on Preventive Diplomacy held in Brunei from 10-14 September 2001 (Brunei and USA).
  - The Fifth ARF Meeting of Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions held in Tokyo from 28-31 August 2001 (Japan)
  - The Seminar on Shipboard Waste Management held in Washington from 24-28 June 2001 (USA)
  
18. The Meeting revised the list of proposed CBM activities, removing those already implemented and moving some from Basket 2 to Basket 1. The revised list is at ANNEX G.

19. The Meeting received draft Concept Papers for the following CBMs and agreed to present these for consideration of the ARF SOM to be held in Brunei in May 2002:
  - Republic of Korea's Proposal to host a Workshop on Defence/Military Officials' Cooperation within the ARF, to be held in Seoul from 28-30 August 2002.
  - China's proposal for an ARF Seminar on Outsourcing of Military Logistics Support to be held in China in September 2002.
  - US and India's proposal for an ARF Workshop on Maritime Security Challenges to be held in USA in September-October 2002.
20. The Meeting also took note of Singapore's proposal to host the 8th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions in 2004.
21. The Meeting noted that the Seminar on Economic Security for Asia Pacific in the First Decades of the 21st Century, to be held in Viet Nam, would be rescheduled for the second half of 2002.
22. The Meeting discussed New Zealand's Draft Concept Paper on a Recording System for ARF CBMs. Participants expressed their appreciation for the commendable work done by New Zealand and its offer to undertake the responsibility of compiling the Register as the initial input to the ISG Meeting in Ha Noi and for commendation to the ARF SOM and Ministerial Meeting.

#### Preventive Diplomacy

23. The Meeting agreed that the Paper on Concepts and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted at the 8th ARF was a major achievement in the evolution of the ARF. The Meeting decided that the ISG would continue to discuss preventive diplomacy as mandated by the ARF Ministers. Account was also given of the ideas that had come up during the Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy held in Brunei in September 2001.

#### Future Direction of the ARF

##### (i) Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair

24. Participants agreed that role of the ARF Chair could be enhanced in accordance with the Paper on this adopted at the 8th ARF and with the consensus of all participating countries. Several suggestions on greater liaison and information exchange between the ARF chair and other international organizations, region-wide consultations, outreach with participating countries in between Meeting, especially with non-ASEAN participating countries, as well as interaction with Track-II organizations, were discussed. Other proposals included providing a matrix of ARF Ministerial decisions, a Wise Men's Group to help the Chair, periodic reports by the ARF Chair about ASEAN

Developments, facilitating discussions on potential areas of cooperation, compilation by the ARF Chair of existing cooperation in the ARF region on counter-terrorism which could serve as a basis for the ARF Workshops on the subject, and an assessment to be made about resources necessary for the ARF chair to discharge its enhanced role.

(ii) ARF Register of Experts / Eminent Persons

25. The Meeting discussed the issue of nominations to the ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons (EEPs) on voluntary basis and agreed that participating countries may consider finalising their nominations by the time of the next ISG. Interest was also expressed by some participants in operationalizing the Register, and the Republic of Korea offered to come up with ideas to this end.

(iii) Voluntary Briefings

26. The Meeting took note of the following briefings made by participating countries:

- Japan – on Japan's anti terrorism measures.
- Canada – on Canadian Defence Spending.
- Russia – on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- USA – on the Quadrennial Defence Review and the Asia-Pacific Network (APAN) website.
- European Union – on the European Security and Defence Policy.
- Viet Nam – on strengthening of Viet Nam's relations with neighboring countries.
- Mongolia – on the North East Asian Security Situation.
- India – on Steps in Counter-Terrorism.
- Thailand – on the meetings of ASEAN Army and Navy Chiefs.

Arrangement for the next ISG Meeting

27. Viet Nam informed the meeting that the next ISG meeting would be held in Ha Noi from 22-24 April 2002.

Other Matters

28. The Meeting was briefed by the Russian Federation on the ongoing consultations on the text of the Pacific Concord. A paragraph on international terrorism has been included in order to make the draft more in tune with the current international situation.

29. Defence officials briefed the ISG on the outcome of their discussions at the Defence Officials' Luncheon held on 20 December 2001. Participants agreed that the Indian Discussion Paper on the theme of 'Maritime Security' had served as a useful basis.

Singapore circulated a Concept Paper on 'Defence Dialogue within the ARF' and it was felt that comments on the Paper should be communicated by end January 2002 with a view to discussing it at the next ISG meeting in Ha Noi. The ISG encouraged the continued holding of the Defence Officials' Luncheon as a useful confidence building measure.

Second ISG Meeting, 22-24 April 2002, Ha Noi, S.R. Viet Nam

Review of the Outcome of the First ISG Meeting in New Delhi and interim activities

30. India, as the Co-chair of the First ISG Meeting in New Delhi, reviewed the outcomes of the First ISG Meeting and interim activities. The Meeting noted that this review with satisfaction.

Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Situation

31. There were frank and substantive exchanges of views among the participants on the regional and international security situation which have impacts on the region since the 1st ISG Meeting in New Delhi.
32. There was general agreement among the participants that, on the whole, the situation in the region was relatively stable. The meeting noted that stability in the region was further guaranteed by positive developments in the relations between major powers. The process of cooperation and regional economic integration gained further momentum and efforts at resolving disputes and defusing tensions were further intensified. However, the region continued to face challenges and uncertainties due to the threat of terrorism, the global economy downturn and the widening development gap among regional countries, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, etc.
33. Participants welcomed the recent agreement to resume dialogue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) following the visit to Pyongyang by the Presidential Envoy of the ROK. They encouraged the two Koreas to implement follow-up measures for the enhancement of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation in keeping with the spirit of the June 15 South-North Joint Declaration and emphasized the importance of holding the second inter-Korean Summit. Participants reiterated the importance of the full implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, including the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Project. They welcomed reports that prospects for dialogue between the DPRK and the United States may be improving. They also welcomed the resumption of the Red Cross Talks between the DPRK and Japan. Some participants welcome the recent visits by President of the Republic of Indonesia to the DPRK and the ROK.

34. The Meeting exchanged views on the situation in the South China Sea and noted the progress made in the consultation between ASEAN and China on the regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) which constitutes a very important CBM contributing to peace and security in the region. The Meeting was encouraged by the determination of the parties concerned towards the early adoption of the COC as well as their continued commitment to exercise self-restraint and peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.
35. The Meeting reiterated support for the territorial integrity and national unity of Indonesia and expressed their hope for a durable stability and economic prosperity in Indonesia for the sake of peace, stability and development in the region.
36. The Meeting welcomed the result of the presidential election held on 14 April 2002 in East Timor in which Mr. Xanana Gusmao was elected the President of East Timor. The Meeting reiterated support for the building of an independent state of East Timor and in this connection welcomed the planned Declaration of Independence of State of East Timor on 20 May 2002 which would contribute to peace, stability and security in the region. The Meeting stressed the need for continued assistance from the international community to the reconstruction of East Timor.
37. Participants exchanged views on the situation in South Asia. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Afghanistan Interim Administration and its efforts towards creating durable peace in Afghanistan, thus contributing to peace and stability in the region and the world at large. The meeting welcomed the success of the Conference on Reconstruction of Afghanistan recently held in Tokyo, and expressed its support for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
38. The Meeting welcomed positive developments in the national reconciliation in Myanmar. In this connection, the Meeting expressed appreciation for and encouraged further efforts by the Government of Myanmar and the international community. The Meeting also expressed appreciation for the recent visit by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Myanmar.
39. Participants noted that the general elections in Fiji last year had still not led to the formation of a Government in accordance with the constitution of Fiji. They agreed that upholding of constitutional provisions must be urged by the international community and that equal political, economic and social rights for the minority communities of Fiji must be guaranteed. They called for the rule of law and equal and non-discriminatory treatment to all Fijian citizens to return quickly to Fiji. Some participants noted that there were good prospects for establishing a lasting peace in Bouganville, but that a serious crisis of law and order was undermining the stability of Solomon Islands.

40. Some participants expressed their concerns over the increased violence between Israel and Palestine which poses a serious threat to peace and stability not only in the Middle East but also in other regions. It was felt that further efforts and initiatives by the international community were needed to help bring an immediate end to the violence and resume peaceful negotiations among parties concerned to attain durable and satisfactory solutions.
41. While recognizing the importance of addressing the nexus between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, some participants considered that there was a loss of momentum in the international non-proliferation and disarmament and arms control agenda.

#### Terrorism and Transnational Crimes of Concern to the region

42. Participants shared the view that terrorism had become an immediate, direct and long term threat to the peace and stability of each and every country in the region and the world at large, and renewed their commitment towards concerted efforts to combat terrorism. It was underlined that there can be no slackening in the global campaign against terrorism and its supporters anywhere.
43. Malaysia and the United States briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the workshop on Financial Measures Against Terrorism held in Honolulu on 24-26 March 2002. Participants discussed the Draft Statement on Terrorist Financing produced at the workshop and agreed to submit the revised Draft to the ARF SOM Meeting in May 2002 for further consideration. The Revised Draft Statement appears as ANNEX H.
44. Thailand and Australia briefed the Meeting on the Report and Recommendations of the Workshop on the Prevention of Terrorism held in Bangkok on 17-19 April 2002. The Meeting agreed to submit the recommendations of the Bangkok Workshop to the ARF SOM Meeting in May for further consideration. The Report and Recommendation of the Workshop appears as ANNEX I.
45. The Meeting also welcomed Japan's intention to host a follow-up ARF Workshop on Counter-terrorism, including measures adopted for the 2002 Football World Cup.
46. In the context of terrorism and counter-terrorism cooperation, participants expressed grave concerns over the serious threat to the region posed by transnational crime such as drug trafficking, money laundering, women and children smuggling, cyber crime and piracy, and their linkages with terrorist operations. The Meeting agreed that exchange of experiences and cooperation in dealing with these crimes, including cyber crimes, should be further enhanced.

47. The Meeting explored ideas about the appropriate format to carry on effective discussion on these transnational crimes. While recognizing the merit of the work of the Expert Group Meetings on transnational crimes (EGMs) in creating the framework for discussion, participants were of the view that ad-hoc workshops, seminars or symposia could be appropriate formats for future discussions on those issues provided there was adequate expert participations.

#### Consideration of CBMs

48. The Meeting took note of the implementation of CBMs since the 1st ISG in India as follows:
- “ARF Peacekeeping Seminar: Best Practices and Lessons Learned” co-hosted by India, Malaysia and Canada in New Delhi on 20-21 March 2002.
  - “ARF Workshop on Financial Measures Against Terrorism” co-hosted by Malaysia and the US in Honolulu, Hawaii on 24-26 March 2002.
  - “ARF Workshop on Prevention of Terrorism” co-hosted by Thailand and Australia in Bangkok from 17-19 April 2002.
49. The Meeting revised the List of proposed CBM activities, removing those already implemented and moving some from Basket 2 to Basket 1. The revised list appears as ANNEX J.
50. The Meeting took note of the Concept Papers of the following CBMs and agreed to present these for consideration to the ARF SOM Meeting to be held in Brunei in May 2002:
- China’s Concept Paper on the ARF Seminar on Military Logistics Out-sourcing Support to be held in China on 25-27 September 2002.
  - ROK’s Revised Concept Paper on Workshop on Defense/Military Official’s Cooperation Within the ARF to be held in August 2002 in Seoul.
  - Singapore’s Concept Paper on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar to be held in the first week of December 2002 in Singapore.
51. The Meeting took note of the US and India’s proposal for rescheduling ARF Workshop on Maritime Security Challenges, with further details to be provided.
52. The Meeting also took note of Japan’s proposal to hold a Second ARF Workshop on Counter-Terrorism to be held in Tokyo in September-October 2002.
53. The Meeting was briefed by the Russian Federation on the preparations for the 6th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges/Institutions to be held in Moscow 16-19 September 2002.



54. The Meeting took note of Singapore's Proposal to host the 8th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges/Institutions in 2004.
55. The Meeting commended the efforts made by New Zealand in developing a Concept Paper on a Recording Mechanism of ARF CBMs and in compiling the CBM Register as an initial input to the Meeting. The Meeting continued to discuss the revised Concept Paper, focusing on the key areas of the Recording Mechanism: the Scope and the Recorder. On the Scope, participants agreed that as a start, ARF CBM Registration Form would focus on those CBMs which have been undertaken within the framework of ARF. The introduction of ongoing CBMs outside the ARF Framework could be phased in at a later stage. Concerning the Information Recorder, the participants agreed to submit two alternatives, namely the ARF Chair or the ISG-CBM Co-Chairs to the ARF SOM Meeting in Brunei, May 2002 for consideration and decision.

#### Preventive Diplomacy

56. The Meeting reiterated that the adopted Paper on the Concept and Principles of PD was a useful snapshot of the state of the current discussion on PD in the ARF. The Meeting agreed that as the challenge of terrorism dominated the ISG's agenda, discussion on PD would be further discussed at the next ISG. The Meeting took note of the Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy co-hosted by CSCAP and the Institute for International Relations of Viet Nam immediately after the ISG Meeting, and noted that inputs from Track 2 activities could be a good source of reference for ISG-CBMs deliberation on Preventive Diplomacy in the future.

#### Future Direction of the ARF

57. Brunei Darussalam, as the current ARF Chair, presented its views on the present state and future direction of the ARF process. The Meeting felt that some proposals mentioned in the briefing should be given further consideration at the forthcoming ARF Senior Officials' Meeting with the aims of bringing them into practice in the future.

##### (i) Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair

58. Participants continued to exchange views on how to enhance the role of the ARF Chair along the line of the Paper on Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair adopted at the ARF-8 in Ha Noi in order to make the ARF Chair more responsive to the fast changing security situation in the region and the world. It was felt that the ARF Chair could play a more active role in such areas as liaising and sharing information and experiences with the UN, other international organizations and Track 2 organizations, providing updates on

the regional security situation, facilitating discussions on potential areas of cooperation in ARF, managing the Register of EEPs. The participants also reiterated their support for ASEAN as the driving force of the ARF process.

(ii) Terms of Reference for the Register of Experts/Eminent Persons

59. The Meeting agreed that the adoption of the Terms of Reference for ARF Experts/Eminent Persons (EEPs) in ARF-8 last July in Ha Noi had paved the way for the operation of the register of experts/eminent persons. The Meeting was pleased to note that a number of ARF participating countries had submitted nominations of EEPs to the ARF Chair. The Meeting encouraged ARF participating countries to continue to submit nominations on a voluntary basis by the ARF SOM in May so that the list of ARF EEPs could be submitted to ARF 9 for consideration and possible endorsement.
60. The Meeting noted the initial suggestions by the Republic of Korea on the Provisional Ideas on the Operational Mechanisms for the ARF EEPs.

(iii) Annual Security Outlook

61. The Meeting noted the production of the two volumes of ARF Annual Security Outlook at the ARF-7 and ARF-8 as significant contribution to the promotion of confidence in the region. In this connection, the Meeting encouraged all ARF participants to continue to participate in the production of the Annual Security Outlook (ASO) at the upcoming ARF Ministerial Meeting and submit their ASO to the ARF Chair by June 1st 2002.

(iv) Voluntary background briefing on Regional Security Issues

62. The Meeting took note of the following briefings made by participating countries:
- The European Union briefed the Meeting on developments in its European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) since the declaration of operationality by the Laeken European Council (December 2001) notably the EU's decision to take over the UN police mission (IPTF) in Bosnia-Herzegovina from January 2003, and its availability to lead the follow-up operation to NATO's operation Amber Fox in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should permanent EU-NATO arrangements be in place by then.
  - Indonesia briefed the Meeting on its efforts to fight terrorism and other related issues, at the international, regional and national level.
  - Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism on 1-3 April, 2002 which adopted "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on International Terrorism" as another aspect of its contribution towards promoting international cooperation against terrorism.

- Laos briefed the Meeting on the Report of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the actions taken to implement Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001).
- Thailand briefed the Meeting on the annual Cobra Gold Military Exercise which has witnessed growing participation of ARF countries.
- The United States gave an update to the New Delhi briefing on the Asia-Pacific Area Network (APAN), an Internet site providing information on a wide range of military activities. In addition the U.S. briefed on the Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) process. MPAT seems to develop regional capacity to quickly and efficiently deploy multinational headquarters for small scale contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Other Matters

63. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Viet Nam as the Co-Chair of the Defense Officials' Lunch on the outcome of their discussions. The briefing appears as ANNEX K. Participants agreed that the in-depth candid exchange of views among defense officials on the experiences drawn from anti-terrorism activities were very useful, which contribute to trust and confidence building among defense officials.
64. The Meeting endorsed Singapore's Concept Paper on "Defense Dialogue within the ARF", prepared in consultation with ASEAN countries and agreed to forward the Paper for the ARF-SOM's consideration in May 2002. The aspect of number of participants, duration, timing and agenda for the Defense Officials' Dialogue may be decided by the Co-Chairs of future ISGs. The Concept Paper appears as ANNEX L.
65. The Meeting was briefed by the Russian Federation on the progress made in the consultations with ASEAN on the text of the Pacific Concord.

#### Co-Chairmanship of the ISG on CBMs for the intersessional year 2002/2003

66. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Laos PDR to assume the ASEAN Co-Chairmanship of the next Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) and agreed to recommend the issue of Co-chairmanship of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) for the Inter-sessional year 2002/2003 to the ARF SOM in May 2002 in Brunei for consideration and decision.

## CO-CHAIRS' REPORT ON ARF WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION OF TERRORISM

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 17-19 APRIL 2002

At the invitation of Thailand and Australia, participants of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) met in Bangkok on 17-19 April 2002 to consider how the ARF could enhance cooperation to counter terrorism. The agenda and list of participants are attached as [ANNEX 1](#) and [2](#) respectively. Participants endorsed a set of recommendations attached as [ANNEX 3](#).

2. Workshop participants welcomed the statement issued in October 2001 by the ARF Chair on behalf of all ARF participating countries stating that the ARF would address ways and means to cooperate in the fight against terrorism as the beginning of their common endeavour to combat terrorism. They also welcomed the successful ARF Workshop on Financial Measures against Terrorism co-hosted by the United States and Malaysia in Honolulu on 24-26 March 2002. Some participants recognized that development by the ARF of an effective response to terrorism would constitute an important step in realizing the ARF's preventive diplomacy mandate.
3. Participants noted the global magnitude of terrorism, and that ARF and other countries were not immune to terrorist threats and attacks. They agreed that terrorism posed a serious long-term threat to national, regional and international security, and had potentially serious development and economic ramifications. This included possible damage to investment flows and tourist markets if ARF participating countries or the region as a whole were seen as not playing an appropriate part in the international fight against terrorism. Participants agreed on the importance of effective national legal frameworks and enforcement to counter terrorism. Some noted that maintaining and enlarging the international coalition formed after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 would be crucial to the success of the war on terrorism.
4. The workshop, having regard to these considerations, focused on the development of practical measures to counter terrorism. Participants reviewed lessons from the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, and policies and measures of ARF participating countries in combating terrorism. They discussed possibilities for enhanced cooperation on border control, including in addressing identity fraud and illegal movement of people through use of technologies and information sharing. They also considered best practice approaches to security management of major international events, including VIP protection, and to aviation security. In addition, participants took part in a discussion

exercise focusing on a hypothetical terrorist incident to obtain a greater understanding of some of the issues and principles raised during the workshop.

5. Workshop participants concluded that greater exchange of information and intelligence, as at this workshop, and further cooperation among law enforcement and other relevant security agencies were essential tools in the fight against terrorism. They agreed also that training and exercises between and in ARF participating countries could contribute usefully towards the development of national and regional capabilities to prevent terrorism. Participants noted that a number of bilateral and other agreements and arrangements to counter terrorism and related transnational crime were in place already in the region, and that the ARF could play a role in encouraging the scope of these to be extended multilaterally.
6. Participants acknowledged the international legal obligations falling on ARF participating countries pursuant to UNSC resolutions on terrorism, particularly UNSCR 1373, and the mandated program of action monitored and supported by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee. They encouraged ARF participating countries to seek to implement relevant international standards, including by acceding to the twelve UN counter-terrorism instruments, and by bringing to an early successful conclusion negotiations on the proposed Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism. Participants noted the nexus between terrorism and transnational crime, and endorsed the outcomes of the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali on 27-28 February 2002 and attended by all ARF participating countries.
7. The workshop identified several ways in which the ARF could respond practically to the security challenge posed by terrorism. Participants agreed that ARF participating countries be invited to submit to the ARF Chair summaries of measures taken nationally in response to the terrorist threat. They suggested that a check-list of these measures be compiled, with a view to enabling the ARF to target more readily potential future areas for counter-terrorism cooperation. They also welcomed in this context Japan's intention to host a follow-up ARF workshop focusing on counter-terrorism measures adopted for the 2002 Football World Cup. Participants agreed that the ARF Chair be requested to make contact with other relevant regional organizations on the question of counter-terrorism, with a view to sharing experience and avoiding duplication of existing measures and activity.
8. Workshop participants recommended that this Co-Chairs' Report on the ARF Workshop on Prevention of Terrorism be submitted to the Inter-Sessional Group on Confidence-Building Measures due to meet in Ha Noi on 22-24 April 2002, and the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on 16-17 May 2002 for further consideration and with a view towards its endorsement by ARF Ministers when they meet in Bandar Seri Begawan in July 2002.

ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Prevention of Terrorism  
Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 April 2002  
ANNEX 3 : Recommendations

Participants recommended that ARF participating countries:

1. Submit to the ARF chair a list of relevant national counter-terrorism agencies and a summary of measures taken on a national, bilateral and multilateral basis in response to the terrorist threat, to enable the development of a check-list to identify potential future areas for ARF cooperation.
2. Reiterate support for an enhanced role for the ARF Chair in liaising with external parties such as heads of international organizations and track II organizations on the question of counter-terrorism.
3. Build on existing networks of law enforcement, immigration and other relevant security agencies to enhance information and intelligence exchange, including through electronic and other channels of communication.
4. Assist each other in developing national and regional counter-terrorism capabilities, including through cooperation with relevant regional and international institutions.
5. Further share their experiences and consult and draw widely on best practice in security-related matters accumulated by regional countries in organizing major international events.
6. Examine further the counter-terrorism and related best practice aspects of maritime and aviation security, among other areas, including through future workshops and seminars.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARF ON  
THE TERRORIST ACTS OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2001

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 4 OCTOBER 2001

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum on behalf of participating states and organization issues the following statement:

The states and organization participating in the ASEAN Regional Forum condemn the acts of terrorism perpetrated in the United States on September 11, 2001, that resulted in the death of thousands of innocent peoples.

The threat of international terrorism to international peace and security requires concerted action to protect and defend all peoples and the peace and security of the world. It is also important that the underlying causes of this phenomenon be addressed to resolve the scourge of international terrorism.

Our governments undertake to use all necessary and available means to pursue, capture and punish those responsible for these attacks and to prevent additional attacks.

The ASEAN Regional Forum will address ways and means to cooperate further in the fight against terrorism in its future deliberations.

