

THE TENTH
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 18 JUNE 2003

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THE TENTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 18 JUNE 2003

1. The Tenth ASEAN Regional Forum convened in Phnom Penh on 18 June 2003 under the chairmanship of H. E. Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. The list of delegates appears as ANNEX A.
3. The Ministers commemorated the ten years of the ARF as having great significance for the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific, observing that, despite the great diversity of its membership, the forum had attained a record of achievements that have contributed to the maintenance of peace, security and cooperation in the region. They cited in particular:
 - The usefulness of the ARF as a venue for multilateral and bilateral dialogue and consultations and the establishment of effective principles for dialogue and cooperation, featuring decision-making by consensus, non-interference, incremental progress and moving at a pace comfortable to all;
 - The willingness among ARF participants to discuss a wide range of security issues in a multilateral setting;
 - The mutual confidence gradually built by cooperative activities;
 - The cultivation of habits of dialogue and consultation on political and security issues;
 - The transparency promoted by such ARF measures as the exchange of information relating to defense policy and the publication of defense white papers; and
 - The networking developed among national-security, defense and military officials of ARF participants.
4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that mutual confidence within the region had been significantly strengthened through the ARF's confidence-building measures and that the ARF had initiated exploratory work on preventive diplomacy. The Ministers reaffirmed the key role of the ARF for security dialogue and cooperation with respect to the security situation in the Asia-Pacific. However, they stressed that the ARF must keep pace with the times by adapting itself to the evolving situation, develop a greater sense of common security and build a more effective regional security framework, thus contributing to lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific. Toward this end, they placed importance on:

- Strengthening the implementation of the nine recommendations endorsed at the 9th ARF Ministerial Meeting on 31 July 2002;
 - Continuing work on confidence-building measures as the foundation of the ARF process;
 - Implementing the “Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy”;
 - Acting on ARF principles of peaceful settlement of differences and conflicts between states through dialogue and negotiations;
 - Making the fight against international terrorism and transnational crime a priority of current ARF cooperation;
 - Addressing non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament issues, including small arms and light weapons;
 - Enhancing the role of the ARF Chair, including interaction with other regional and international organizations;
 - Utilizing the services of the ARF experts and eminent persons (EEPs);
 - Encouraging greater participation by defense and military officials; and
 - Enhancing linkages between Track I and Track II ARF processes.
5. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Chairman for the initiatives that he had undertaken in accordance with the provisions and spirit of the paper “Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair,” which the ARF adopted in Ha Noi in July 2001. They noted the Chairman’s discussions with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union and his consultations with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and other ARF participants on the Korean issue. They agreed that the ARF should play a constructive role in seeking a peaceful resolution of the issue.

Discussion of Regional and International Issues

6. The Ministers exchanged views on the regional and international situation and emphasized the key role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. They reaffirmed that regional dialogue and cooperation are essential to regional and international peace and stability. The Ministers maintained their view that the ARF remains the principal consultative and cooperative forum for political and security matters in the Asia-Pacific. This view was confirmed by today’s meeting, which held extremely useful discussions on critical developments unfolding in the region.
7. Views were expressed on the situation on the Korean peninsula. The Ministers supported the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. They urged DPRK to resume its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to reverse its decision to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). They called for a peaceful solution of the nuclear problem there for the sake of durable peace and security in the region. In this regard, the Ministers were of the view that the ARF has played a

useful and constructive role and agreed to support further efforts by the ARF Chair to help ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers welcomed the resumption of high-level inter-Korean talks held in Pyongyang on 28-29 April 2003 and recognized the importance of inter-Korean dialogues and exchange at various levels as a channel to pursue peaceful resolution of outstanding security concerns. They welcomed the talks held in Beijing on 23-24 April 2003 among the People's Republic of China, the DPRK and the United States of America as a good start in the right direction. The Ministers were also of the view that outstanding security and humanitarian issues should be addressed through increased dialogues.

8. The Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen further the cooperation among their countries in the fight against international terrorism, which continued to menace the security of nations and peoples around the world, including those in the Asia-Pacific region. They deplored the terrorist bombing attacks in Bali, Riyadh and Casablanca. They reiterated their condemnation of terrorism and expressed their determination to take all necessary steps in order to raise public awareness and take effective action against terrorism. At the same time, they rejected any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, race, nationality or ethnic group. They reaffirmed the significance of enhancing capability in the region to counter terrorism effectively, and the importance of cooperation and coordination by participants in building capacity for those who need assistance, within the framework established by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373.
9. The Ministers welcomed the Declaration on Terrorism issued by the 8th ASEAN Summit in November 2002, which called for intensified regional cooperative measures against terrorism and for support for them by the international community. They reviewed the implementation of their commitment to take specific and concrete measures to stop the financing of terrorism, as embodied in the ARF Statement on Measures against Terrorist Financing of 31 July 2002, and resolved to carry out those measures with ever stronger determination. They welcomed the joint declarations that ASEAN had issued with the United States of America and the European Union on 1 August 2002 and 28 January 2003, respectively, pledging closer and more resolute cooperation in the fight against terrorism.
10. The Ministers noted the ongoing work of other international organizations on counter-terrorism and welcomed the continuing work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, the G8 Roma/Lyon Group, including the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group, and the establishment of the APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force as well as the cooperation Programme on Fighting International terrorism approved in the context of ASEM. The Ministers also welcomed the Pacific Leaders' commitment at the 2002 Pacific Islands Forum to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 and the Financial Action Task Force 8 Special Recommendations on terrorist financing and to put in place law-enforcement legislation. The

Ministers noted that, with support from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, experts from the region are working on developing a legal framework for addressing terrorism and transnational crime in the Pacific.

11. The Ministers were gratified by the conduct and outcome of the Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CT-TC) in Karambunai, Sabah, Malaysia, on 21-22 March 2003. They expressed their appreciation for the work of Malaysia and the United States as co-chairmen of that meeting. The report of the co-chairmen appears as ANNEX B. The Ministers agreed that the ISM on CT-TC should continue its work and welcomed the offer of the Philippines and Russia to co-host the ISM on CT-TC in the next inter-sessional year. The Ministers adopted the ARF Statement on Cooperative Counter-Terrorist Actions on Border Security, as proposed by the ISM. The statement, which appears as ANNEX C, expressed the ARF participants' determination to take concrete, cooperative measures to strengthen security at their borders against terrorist threats.
12. The Ministers took note of the results of the International Conference on Anti-Terrorism and Tourism Recovery in Manila in November 2002 and the Regional Conference on Combating Money-Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Bali in December 2002. The Ministers expressed their commitment to facilitate the reinvigoration of tourism in the Asia-Pacific by enhancing cooperation to maintain regional peace and security. They reaffirmed the need to fully combat money-laundering and terrorist financing.
13. The Ministers noted the concerns expressed about the threat posed to commercial and general aviation by man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) in terrorist hands and the importance of curbing the proliferation of these weapons. The Ministers took note of the MANPADS initiative agreed upon at the G8 Summit in Evian, France, on 2 June 2003.
14. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
15. Deeply concerned about the rising incidence of piracy at sea in the Asia-Pacific region, the Ministers adopted an ARF Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security, committing their countries to undertake concrete cooperative measures for combating piracy and other maritime crimes. The text of the statement appears as ANNEX D. The Ministers recognized the significant work being undertaken by ARF participants in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and pledged their continuing support for this work.
16. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the growing cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, including cooperation within ASEAN, in dealing with transnational crime-money-

laundering, cyber-crime, drug - and arms-trafficking and trafficking in persons, as well as piracy at sea. They welcomed the issuance in Phnom Penh last November of the Joint Declaration of ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues.

17. The Ministers welcomed the Second Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime held in Bali in April 2003 and encouraged participants to continue their cooperative efforts, primarily by implementing the action plans developed by the two ad hoc expert groups established by the First Conference in February 2002.
18. The Ministers welcomed the results of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and those officials' meetings with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (SOMTC+3), with the European Union and with the United States on 9-13 June 2003 in Ha Noi. They were encouraged by the fruitful discussions on the implementation of the Declaration and Statements with China, the EU and the US. The Ministers expressed their determination to implement the joint Declarations and Statements.
19. The Ministers welcomed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which ASEAN and China signed in Phnom Penh on 4 November 2002. They expressed their confidence that efforts made by ASEAN and China in compliance with the Declaration's provisions and commitments would contribute valuably to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific and would help create the conditions for the peaceful settlement of the disputes in the South China Sea.
20. The Ministers congratulated the Government of Timor-Leste on its progress since independence. In particular, the Ministers noted the positive relationship developing between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. They noted that a number of ARF participants continued to make major contributions to the post-independence, multilateral effort in Timor-Leste. The Ministers stressed that, as part of the Asia-Pacific, Timor-Leste's future was reliant on the development of economic, political and security ties with its neighbors.
21. Noting the importance of strengthening democracy as a fundamental element of regional security, the Ministers were briefed about the current situation in Myanmar. They urged Myanmar to resume its efforts of national reconciliation and dialogue among all parties concerned leading to a peaceful transition to democracy. They welcomed the assurances given by Myanmar that the measures taken were temporary and looked forward to the early lifting of restrictions placed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD members. They reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative Tan Sri Razali Ismail to assist in this regard.

22. The Ministers re-affirmed their support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Indonesia. They recognized the efforts of the Indonesian Government to restore peace and order in Aceh. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Philippines and Thailand for their contribution in providing monitoring teams as requested by Indonesia in the recent efforts to resolve the Aceh problem through dialogue. They also pledged their support to deny the separatist movement access to means of violence through, among all, preventing arms smuggling into the Aceh province. The Ministers hoped that peaceful solution can be found based on special autonomy as the final solution for Aceh.
23. The Ministers welcomed the recent positive developments in the relations between India and Pakistan, particularly the peaceful initiatives by the Indian Prime Minister. They expressed the hope that the two sides would continue their dialogue and cooperation and resolve their differences through peaceful means in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and stability in South Asia and the world.
24. The Ministers welcomed the peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which were hosted by Thailand and outcome of the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka, which was held on 9-10 June 2003. They encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to further their efforts to achieve a durable peace which safeguards the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and is satisfactory to all its communities. The significant pledges in Tokyo are evidence of a strong commitment by the international community to support the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sri Lanka.
25. The Ministers welcomed the continue progress in the peace process in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, now leading towards the preparations for the election of an autonomous government.
26. The Ministers noted the deteriorating security and economic conditions in the Solomon Islands and the efforts of partner-countries to provide assistance to the Solomon Islands Government.
27. The Ministers recognized the growing danger posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and reaffirmed their commitment to make further joint efforts to tackle the problem. Ministers reaffirmed that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty remained the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. They emphasized the importance of promoting the universalization of non-proliferation and disarmament agreements, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocols, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and expressed concern about

actions which damage global non-proliferation efforts and undermine mutual trust and confidence. Ministers called for the maintenance of the existing moratorium on nuclear testing. Ministers welcomed the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, which came into effect in November 2002, as an important milestone in the effort to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and encouraged increased adherence by ARF countries.

28. In the area of small arms and light weapons, the Ministers underlined the importance of contributing to a successful first UN Biennial Meeting in July 2003 and encouraged all ARF participants to report to the United Nations on the implementation 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 reaffirming their commitment to addressing the multiplicity of concerns generated by and contributing to the proliferation and availability of small arms and light weapons, the Ministers commended participants on their efforts to follow up on the recommendations made at the regional seminar in Manila in July 2002.
29. The ARF defense and military officials attending the Tenth ARF met among themselves on 17 June 2003. The Ministers concluded that the conduct and outcome of the defense and military officials' meeting reaffirmed the importance of these officials' active participation in the ARF process. This was in line with the endorsed recommendation of the 9th ARF to widen their engagement and involvement, building upon Singapore's Concept Paper on Defense Dialogue within the ARF.
30. The Ministers took note of the need of developing a habit of dialogue among the Northeast Asian countries on security issues at Track I level starting with a free exchange of views.

Inter-sessional Activities

31. The Ministers were pleased with the success of the Track I and Track II activities that had taken place during the current inter-sessional year (July 2002 to June 2003). They received with appreciation the summary report on the meetings of the Inter-sessional Group on Confidence-Building Measures, which New Zealand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic co-chaired in Wellington on 20-22 November 2002 and in Vientiane on 26-28 March 2003. The Ministers commended the work of the ISG on CBMs in advancing the ARF process, noted the summary report of the co-chairmen, and endorsed its recommendations. The report appears as [ANNEX E](#).
32. The Ministers took note of the following activities that had taken place under the auspices of the ISG on CBMs:
 - ARF Workshop on Defense/Military Officials' Cooperation, Seoul, 28-30 August 2002;

- 6th ARF Workshop of Heads of National Defense Colleges/Institutions, Moscow, 16 - 20 September 2002;
 - ARF Workshop on Military Logistics Outsourcing Support, Beijing, 25-27 September 2002;
 - ARF Workshop on Counter-Terrorism, Tokyo, 1-2 October 2002;
 - ARF Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar, Singapore, 4-6 December 2002;
 - ARF Workshop on Maritime Security Challenges, Mumbai, India, 27 February-1 March 2003; and
 - ARF CBM Workshop on Managing Consequences of a Major Terrorist Attack, Darwin, Australia, 3-5 June 2003.
33. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs should continue its work and welcomed the offer of Myanmar and China to co-chair the Inter-sessional Group on Confidence-Building Measures in the next inter-sessional year. They noted that the next meetings of the ISG on CBMs would take place in Beijing on 20-22 November 2003 and in Yangon in April 2004.
34. The Ministers welcomed the offer of Cambodia and the European Union to co-chair the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence-Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) in the next inter-sessional year 2004-2005.
35. The Ministers took note with appreciation the offer by Mongolia to host an ARF workshop in Ulaanbaatar in 2004-2005 inter-sessional year to discuss the changing security perceptions of the ARF countries.
36. The Ministers approved the work program for the next inter-sessional year (July 2003 to June 2004), as indicated by the proposed CBM activities listed in ANNEX F.

Linkages Between Track I and Track II

37. The Ministers stressed the importance of strong linkages between Track I (official) and Track II (non-governmental) activities. In this regard, they took note of the ongoing discussions on this issue based on Canada's concept paper "Strengthening Linkages between Track I and Track II in the ARF Context," which appears as ANNEX G. The Ministers noted the conclusions of the Track II Workshop on Counter-Terrorism organized by the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies of Singapore and the Council on Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific – Canada (CSCAP Canada) in Vientiane on 25 March 2003. They agreed that efforts should continue to enhance Track I and Track II interaction, as recommended in the 2002 Brunei Darussalam Stocktaking Paper endorsed by the Ministers.

The ARF Process and Its Future Direction

38. The Ministers reviewed the nine recommendations endorsed by the 9th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Brunei Darussalam on 31 July 2002 and expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far, especially in the areas of counter-terrorist cooperation and the enhancement of the role of the ARF Chair. They were of the view that the ARF's work in these areas could contribute to the development of the ARF towards preventive diplomacy and, therefore, should be continued and strengthened. They called for the continued cooperation and support of ARF participants and the ASEAN Secretariat's assistance for the ARF Chair in carrying out the mandates outlined in the paper on the "Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair."
39. The Ministers agreed to support the ARF chair to have Friends of the Chair to assist the Chair in dealing with international situations, which affect the peace and security of the region.
40. The Ministers were satisfied with the level of confidence and trust that had been developed under ARF auspices and with the activities in the overlapping areas between CBMs and preventive diplomacy that ARF had begun to undertake. They resolved to further strengthen ARF confidence-building measures, which they considered as vital for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. While emphasizing the need for further consolidating CBMs, the Ministers underlined the significance of enhancing the role of the ARF Chair and advancing the ARF process. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the offer by Japan to host an ARF workshop on preventive diplomacy in February 2004.
41. The Ministers considered that the ARF's work on preventive diplomacy was being advanced through, among other measures, the actions that it had taken to address the situation on the Korean peninsula and to enhance confidence and cooperation in addressing common security threats, including international terrorism, transnational crime, piracy and other maritime crimes, and the support given to the ARF Chairman in carrying out the enhanced role of the Chair.
42. The Ministers welcomed the issuance of another volume of the Annual Security Outlook (ASO). The publication, they observed, was an important contribution to transparency, and therefore to confidence-building, in regional security affairs.
43. The Ministers appreciated the publication of an updated Register of Experts/Eminent Persons and took note of the efforts to finalize the Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEP by the ISG on CBMs and the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting. They urged further discussion on this issue and looked forward to the activation of the experts and eminent persons in helping to advance the work of the ARF. They commended the work of the ISG on CBMs and the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting in considering the Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEP, and encouraged further consultations to finalize the Guidelines.

44. The Ministers noted that applications to participate in the ARF had been received from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. They also noted that ASEAN countries agreed to lift the moratorium and to consider the application of new participants of ARF on a case by case basis. They received the communication that ASEAN Foreign Ministers had reached a consensus to accept a new participant in the ARF. They agreed to keep these two inter-linked issues for further consideration.
45. The Ministers welcomed the proposal by China on convening an “ARF Security Policy Conference” in which high military officials as well as government officers will be invited to take part. They looked forward to the concept paper to be circulated to the ARF participants in due course.
46. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the general progress of the ARF process and with the increasing usefulness of the forum for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.
47. In advancing the development of the ARF process, the Ministers acknowledged ASEAN’s continued leading role in the ARF and the need proceed at a pace comfortable to all.

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM STATEMENT ON COOPERATION AGAINST PIRACY AND OTHER THREATS TO MARITIME SECURITY

ADOPTED ON 17 JUNE 2003

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

1. Recognizing that:
 - a) Piracy and armed robbery against ships and the potential for terrorist attacks on vulnerable sea shipping threaten the growth of the Asia-Pacific region and disrupt the stability of global commerce, particularly as these have become tools of transnational organized crime;
 - b) ARF Countries to represent approximately 80 percent of the world's GDP and trade, and even more of maritime or container shipping trade;
 - c) Maritime security is an indispensable and fundamental condition for the welfare and economic security of the ARF region. Ensuring this security is in the direct interest of all countries, and in particular the ARF countries;
 - d) Most maritime armed-robberies in the Asia-Pacific region tend to occur in the coastal and archipelagic waters. Trends over the last few years indicate that piracy and armed-robbery against ships continue to threaten to be a significant problem in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - e) To deal with this increasingly violent international crime, it is necessary to step up broad-based regional cooperative efforts to combat transnational organized crime, including through cooperation and coordination among all institutions concerned, such as naval units, coastal patrol and law enforcement agencies, shipping companies, crews, and port authorities;
 - f) Such efforts must be based on relevant international law, including the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention;
 - g) It is important that there be national and regional cooperation to ensure that maritime criminals and pirates do not evade prosecution;

- h) Effective responses to maritime crime require regional maritime security strategies and multilateral cooperation in their implementation; and
 - i) National, regional and international efforts to combat terrorism also enhance the ability to combat transnational organized crime and armed-robbery against ships.
2. The Participants of ARF endeavour to achieve effective implementation of the relevant international instruments and recommendations/guidelines for the suppression of piracy and armed-robbery against ships, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf; and the International Maritime Organization's recommendations and guidelines for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed-robbery against ships at sea; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 particularly the new Chapter XI-2 and the International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS Code); and to enhance their coordination and cooperation to that end. The members of ARF express their commitment to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelves as soon as possible, if they have not yet done so.
3. The ARF Participants will work together to protect ships engaged in international voyages by:
- a) Enhancing cooperation on fighting piracy and armed-robbery in the region between ARF participants' shipping and organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Piracy Reporting Center of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB);
 - b) Early implementation of the comprehensive amendment to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and the new ISPS Code adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Security in December 2002; as called for in Conference Resolution 6;
 - c) Affirming their responsibilities to prosecute, in accordance with relevant domestic laws, perpetrators of acts of piracy and armed-robbery against ships;
 - d) Endorsing the development by the International Maritime Organization of the following instruments and recommendations/guidance for use in preventing and suppressing piracy and armed-robbery against ships:
 - Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed-robbery against ships, MSC/Circ. 622/Rev. I, 16 June 1999;
 - Guidance to ship-owners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on

preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed-robbery against ships, MSC/Circ. 623/Rev. 3, 29 May 2002; Directives for Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs), MSC/Circ. 967, 6 June 2000;

- Interim Procedures for MRCCs on Receipt of Distress Alerts, MSC/Circ. 959, 20 June 2000;
- Resolution A. 922 (22) – Code of Practice for the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed-robberies against ships;
- Resolution A. 923 (22) – “Phantom” ships and registration process; and
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

4. The ARF participants commit to undertake the following actions:

- a) Encourage bilateral and multilateral maritime cooperation among ARF members to combat piracy, including at the present increased contact among personnel, information exchanges and anti-piracy exercises on the basis of respecting territorial integrity, sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction and in accordance with the principles of voluntary participation and agreement in line with the respective applicable international conventions.
- b) Encourage ARF consideration and future discussion of new IMB proposals (10/23/02) on prescribed traffic lanes for large supertankers with coastguard or naval escort whenever and wherever possible on the high sea upon the consent of all ARF countries concerned. If considered feasible, forward to IMO for adoption as appropriate.
- c) Provide, where and when possible, technical assistance and capacity-building infrastructure to countries that need help in developing necessary laws, extending training, and where and when possible, providing equipment.
- d) Enhance ARF participants’ ability to share information domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against maritime piracy and armed-robberies.
- e) Institute regional ARF cooperation and training in anti-piracy and security. Cooperate with the world maritime university (under the IMO) as regards education and training of personal engaged in anti-piracy and security.
- f) Encourage greater ARF member states’ transport industries and shipping community to report incidents to the relevant coastal states and to ships’ flag

administration for follow up action by the proper authorities as prescribed in MSC/Circ. 623. In addition to the IMO, ships may also report to secondary reporting centers such as the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Center in Kuala Lumpur.

- g) Encourage the ARF Chair to explore with the ASEAN Secretariat or an ARF participant whether it would be willing to coordinate logging of requests for assistance by ARF participants in implementing the provisions of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms on the Continental Shelf and other relevant instruments.
- h) Review progress on efforts to combat maritime piracy and armed-robbery against ships at the 11th ARF Ministerial meeting in 2004 and share their experiences with member states of the IMO.
- i) Endorse the ongoing efforts to establish a legal framework for regional cooperation to combat piracy and armed-robbery against ships.
- j) Welcome the discussion in the IMO on various issues relating to the delivery of criminals who have committed crimes on a ship on the high sea or on the exclusive economic zone to the authorities of port state by the master of the ship, and hope to reach a conclusion as soon as possible. (IMO document "LEG 85/10").
- k) Nothing in this statement, nor any act or activity carried out in pursuant to this statement, should prejudice the position of ARF countries with regard to any unsettled dispute concerning sovereignty or other rights over territory.

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM STATEMENT ON COOPERATIVE COUNTER-TERRORIST ACTION ON BORDER SECURITY

ADOPTED ON 17 JUNE 2003

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

Recognizing that:

Terrorism constitutes a grave threat to stability, peace and security in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. It has links with transnational organized crime, such as money laundering, arms smuggling, people smuggling, and the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs. It is also associated with the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological, and other deadly materials. Because terrorism has multiple dimensions, manifestations and causes and respects no national boundaries, it is a complex phenomenon that requires a comprehensive approach and unprecedented international cooperation. More than ever, it is important to ensure the secure flow of goods and people, to create and reinforce sound border infrastructures, and to coordinate information sharing and enforcement.

The fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach and unprecedented international cooperation.

In this regard, we recall the Statement by the ARF Chairman dated 4 October 2001, which stated “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 important that the underlying causes of this phenomenon be addressed to resolve the source of international terrorism.”

Critical to such an approach and to effective international cooperation are the control of states over their borders and the denial of cross-border movement to terrorists and that of their goods, funds and material.

It is imperative therefore that borders should not be thought of only in terms of land frontiers between nations. Airports and seaports are also border crossing points so that air transport and maritime transport need to figure in the overall concept of border security.

If one is not simply to encourage the threat to move from one mode of transport to another then progress needs to be made in parallel across the entire spectrum of modes of border-crossing transport.

We stress the leading role of the UN in the fight against terrorism and call upon ARF participants to become parties as soon as possible to the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism fully implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 1373, and remain fully committed to supporting the work of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and other pertinent UN bodies.

Acknowledging that terrorism and its linkage with transnational organized crime form part of a complex set of new security challenges, we stress the necessity to address them urgently in all aspects and in all fora, including the ASEAN Regional Forum.

We reject any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, ethnicity, race or nationality, and stress that in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and in other parts of the world, the need to also strengthen dialogue and promote mutual understanding between cultures and civilizations is greater than ever before.

We acknowledge that terrorism, including its links with trans-national organized crime such as money laundering, arms-trafficking and the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, people smuggling, as well as illegal movements of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, forms part of a complex set of new security challenges, which have to be addressed urgently in all aspects and in all fora, including the ASEAN Regional Forum.

In this regard, we welcomed the recent establishment of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The challenge for ARF participating states is to implement effective border security and documentation practices while facilitating the cost-effective and efficient flow of people and goods for legitimate economic and social purposes and without undermining the principles and policies that promote our common security, and well being. The ARF has already joined other multilateral fora in taking substantive steps to enhance information sharing.

The ARF notes the significant progress that has been made by ARF participants in addressing counter-terrorism aspects of border security and encourages ARF governments to further enhance their efforts and commitment to combat terrorism in a more comprehensive manner on a voluntary basis and taking into account resources and capacity of ARF participants, in particular their efforts:

- to strengthen the capability of law enforcement and intelligence agencies;
- to ensure that border security forces are carefully screened, receiving good initial and ongoing training and motivated both by a desire to protect the community and by an adequate wage structure.

- to strengthen cooperation in sharing of intelligence in order to effectively deal with terrorism and transnational crimes such as illicit arms trafficking, drug trafficking and human and cargo smuggling;
- to strengthen cooperation in, and the legal framework for, where possible, prosecuting and extraditing terrorists, and to ensure that terrorist acts are established as serious criminal offences in domestic laws and regulations and that the punishment duly reflects the seriousness of terrorist acts;
- to cooperate, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements, to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks and take action against perpetrators of such acts; and
- to ensure that the free flow of people and goods across borders is secure and not subject to exploitation by terrorists, drug traffickers, arms smugglers, people smugglers and other criminals.

The challenge for ARF and its participants is to implement border security and documentation practices that confront the terrorist threat without undermining these basic principles that promote our common security, including respect for human rights and the rule of law.

In this light, ARF participating states undertake to carry out the following cooperative actions for strengthening border security:

Movement of People

- Support the expeditious implementation of a common global standard based on UN EDIFACT for the collection and transmission of advance passenger information (API) where possible.
- Support international efforts to achieve agreement on minimum standards for the issuance of travel and identity documents.
- Support efforts to develop means for sharing data on individuals of terrorist and transnational criminal concern in accordance with laws and regulations of each country, for the purpose of incorporating that data into national and/or regional alert systems.

Movement of Goods

- Support work, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to develop and implement an improved container-security regime for identifying and examining high-risk containers and ensure their in-transit integrity, bearing mind that some countries would encounter problems of high financial costs and the difficulty in acquiring the appropriate technology.
- Take note with interest of support work within the World Customs Organization and other relevant international organizations to implement common standards for electronic customs reporting by 2005, wherever possible, and require advance electronic information pertaining to containers, including their location and transit, to the extent

feasible and as early as possible in the trade chain, with due regard to the difficulty in acquiring the appropriate technology for this purpose.

- Encourage major trading nations and relevant international organizations to extend effective assistance to ARF participating states in their efforts to improve the security and facilitation of the international trade chain.
- Support the development, in the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, of an effective and proportionate security regime for the inter-state overland transport and distribution of hazardous cargoes that present significant security risks.
- Support relevant provisions of the document “Cooperative G8 Action on Transport Security” adopted in Cananascis on 26 June, 2002.

Document Security

- Support international work in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) towards developing minimum standards for the application of biometrics in procedures and documents, with due regard to the difficulty of some countries in bearing the cost and acquiring the appropriate technology for this purpose.
- Improve procedures and practices for sharing data on lost or stolen passports and denied entries.

General Measures

- Encourage multilateral cooperation on border security among ARF members to combat terrorism.
- Encourage ARF consideration and adoption of new measures for border security proposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other relevant international organizations.
- Provide, where necessary and possible, technical assistance and capacity-building infrastructure to states that need help in developing laws, training, and or in acquiring the equipment to enhance border security.
- Enhance ARF participants’ efforts to share information useful on terrorism and transnational organized crimes such as illegal arms trafficking, drug trafficking, people smuggling, and money laundering, where feasible domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against terrorism.
- ARF participating states are to review the process of these and other efforts to strengthen border security at the 11th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2004.

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORKSHOP ON MANAGING THE CONSEQUENCES OF A MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACK

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA, 3-5 JUNE 2003

At the invitation of Singapore and Australia, representatives of many of the participant countries of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) met in Darwin from 3 to 5 June 2003 to share perspectives on strengthening cooperation among ARF countries on managing the consequences of a major terrorist attack, including a terrorist attack involving the deployment of chemical, biological or radiological weapons.

Participants recalled that the threat of terrorism had been the primary focus of the 9th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on 31 July 2002, and that Ministers had agreed that managing the consequences of a terrorist attack was a possible area for future ARF activity/work.

Participants welcomed the Darwin meeting as a further demonstration of the ARF's determination to enhance cooperation, and to make collective efforts more effective in combating terrorism and in managing the consequences of any future terrorist attacks. Participants expressed their gratitude to the speakers at the Workshop for their presentations, which contributed to successful outcomes of the Workshop. The agenda for the Workshop, and the list of participants at the Workshop, are attached at [ANNEX 1](#) and [ANNEX 2](#), respectively.

Participants agreed that terrorism poses a serious threat to regional and international security and peace, as well as to the social and economic development of individual nations. Participants agreed that regional and international counter-terrorist efforts can add value to national capacities of ARF participants in managing the consequences of a major terrorist attack. Participants acknowledged that each individual state has different capabilities to manage the consequences of a major terrorist attack.

Having regard to these considerations, the workshop focused on practical measures to prepare for, respond to and recover from a major terrorist attack, including dealing with the effects of a terrorist attack which deployed chemical, biological or radiological agents or devices.

Participants examined the lessons learned from the Bali terrorist attack on 12 October 2002, and the consequences of other recent terrorist attacks in the region. In their discussions on dealing with the consequences of a major terrorist attack, and the distinct requirements of such an attack, participants shared their expertise on management of: structural collapse; urban

search and rescue; treatment of the disaster site as a crime scene, including preservation of forensic evidence; the special challenges arising from the deployment of chemical, biological or radiological agents or devices; and the medical capability for handling mass casualties.

To obtain a greater understanding of some of the issues and principles raised during the Workshop, participants engaged in an interactive desk-top exercise dealing with the consequences of a hypothetical terrorist attack in which chemical weapons and radiological dispersement devices had been deployed in densely populated areas. Participants discussed strategies and policies required to facilitate effective and rapid coordination of responses to a major terrorist attack, and discussed the scope for further cooperation between ARF participants on managing the immediate and longer term consequences of a future terrorist attack.

Participants recognized that there may be situations where national capabilities may be insufficient to deal with both the immediate response, as well as the longer term recovery. They noted that such assistance, where required, could be sought from global organizations including United Nations agencies, from bilateral donor partners and from non-government organizations. But participants recognized that, to be fully effective, international assistance would need to be requested as soon as possible, clearly specified, and coordinated carefully. They also noted that special arrangements would be required to handle in-kind contributions such as food, clothing and medicine to ensure the most effective utilization of these supplies.

Workshop participants concluded that timely exchange of information and further cooperation between relevant agencies of ARF participant countries are essential tools to manage the consequences of a major terrorist attack. In that context, workshop participants noted the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in the ARF region, and acknowledged the important role these agreements would play to facilitate cooperation between the contracting parties in the event that international cooperation was required in managing the consequences of a major terrorist attack involving any of the contracting parties.

Participants recognized the importance of developing coordinated plans for efficient and rapid response to terrorist attacks. They acknowledged that these plans should take into account the roles of regional and national authorities, and include capabilities available in both civilian and military agencies to avoid duplication of effort. They encouraged countries that may require international support to factor this aspect into their national planning, to ensure ready response, and to preclude legal and technical difficulties in requesting and receiving outside support. They noted the views of presenters that planning for consequence management should ideally include regular testing of national plans in robust and realistic exercises.

Participants reiterated the unique management aspects of responding to Chemical/Biological/Radiological threats, and the importance of developing plans, procedures, equipment and training to enable an effective response to such threats. They recognized the importance of information exchange and liaison between teams dealing with the immediate incident or disaster, and the subsequent consequence management teams. They noted the important role of scientific advice in the planning, capability development, and response phases of CBR incidents. Participants also noted the need for an agent detection and identification capability; treatment and decontamination of potentially large numbers of casualties, including hospitalization and surge capacity; search and rescue in a contaminated and highly populated environment; ensuring the safety of first responders; and the need for an open and coordinated flow of information in multi-agency responses.

Participants agreed to look for opportunities to build on the dialogues established at the workshop and to identify possibilities for future cooperation in capability development and training, through provision of technical assistance; information exchange; regional exercises and the development of common procedures. Participants noted that the relationships and understanding between officials which grew from joint exercises, training, and in some cases operations, were invaluable to enable quick and appropriate response to an attack, and they welcomed the opportunities created by informal consultative mechanisms to continue to strengthen regional cooperation.

Participants recommended several strategies and best-practice approaches in which ARF members could cooperate at a practical level, outlined in the *Recommendations to Build on Outcomes from the Workshop* ([ANNEX 3](#))

Participants agreed that the outcomes of the workshop be presented to the ARF Ministerial Meeting to be held in Phnom Penh on 18 June 2003.

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
WORKSHOP ON MANAGING THE CONSEQUENCES OF
A MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACK

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA, 3-5 JUNE 2003

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BUILD ON OUTCOMES FROM THE WORKSHOP

Participants recommended that:

1. The co-chairs explore further opportunities for participants to meet to review the outcomes of the Darwin workshop on managing the consequences of a major terrorist attack and that ARF participants look to build on the dialogue established at the workshop, including identification of possible areas for future cooperation in key response areas such as dealing with structural collapse, urban search and rescue, medical treatment of casualties, including hospital and medical surge capacity; forensic investigation and the challenges posed by Chemical/Biological/Radiological weapons;
2. ARF participants continue to develop contacts between representative of the national and regional disaster response management, investigation and recovery agencies of ARF participant-states;
3. ARF participants be encouraged to exchange further information on response and recovery mechanisms;
4. ARF participants explore the possibility of an internet site for regional disaster management, in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Area Network, as an effective and low cost tool to provide information on man-made and natural disasters in the region;
5. ARF participants be encouraged to identify training in preparedness for response to, and recovery from, major terrorist attacks as a priority in their bilateral development cooperation programs;
6. ARF participants be encourage to take up training opportunities at all levels of response, in particular to take up offers of international training in fire fighting HAZMAT and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) courses offered for international participants by the Civil Defence Academy of the Singapore Civil Defence Force, and other countries;

7. ARF participants be encourage to support the role of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in developing consultative and coordination mechanisms at the regional level, and in providing training to participant countries in areas such as national coordination and media liaison skills;
8. ARF participants be encourage to assist each other in developing national and regional response and recovery capabilities, including through cooperation with relevant regional and institutional mechanisms;
9. The Singapore co-chair coordinate a list for dissemination in the ARF of national contacts in relevant national disaster response, management, investigation and recovery agencies, to be provided by ARF participants, with a view to establishing and maintaining a register of country operational and management capabilities.

REPORT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON COUNTER TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES (ISM-CTTC)

KARAMBUNAI, SABAH, MALAYSIA, 21-22 MARCH 2003

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision reached at the 9th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on 30 July 2002 in Brunei Darussalam, the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM-CTTC) was held from 21-22 March 2003 in Karambunai, Sabah, Malaysia. The Meeting was Co-Chaired by Malaysia and the United States. Ambassador Dato' N. Parameswaran, Deputy Secretary General (Special Functions), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, led the Malaysian Side and Mr. Robert Pollard, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, led the United States Side.
2. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam attended the Meeting. The List of Delegates is attached ([ANNEX A](#)).

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

3. The Agenda is attached ([ANNEX B](#)).
4. The Opening Remarks by the Co-Chairmen are attached ([ANNEX C](#)/Malaysia and [ANNEX D](#)/United States).
5. The Programme for the Meeting is attached ([ANNEX E](#)).
6. The following summary reports reflect useful elements of the discussion for further consideration of participating countries.

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

7. A number of participants briefed the meeting on recent national efforts that they had undertaken to counteract terrorist activities. They highlighted the cooperation that

they had received from their neighbouring countries, including also the sharing of intelligence.

8. There was general agreement that terrorism constituted a dangerous threat to regional stability and security. Since terrorism transcends national borders, participants recognized that it needed to be addressed through cooperative action at the national, regional and international levels. In this regard, it was noted that the United Nations was the framework for the global war against terrorism. ARF participants were called upon to become parties to the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols relating to counter terrorism.
9. Participants were of the view that to effectively fight terrorism, there should be, among other things, increased cooperation in intelligence sharing as well as in enforcement measures.
10. Participants also stressed the vital need for technical assistance to developing countries for capacity building and the acquisition of the necessary technology and equipment to fight terrorism. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee was seen as an important coordinating vehicle for such technical assistance.
11. Australia ([ANNEX F](#)), China ([ANNEX G](#)), Indonesia ([ANNEX H](#)), Japan ([ANNEX I](#)), Malaysia ([ANNEX J](#)), Republic of Korea ([ANNEX K](#)), Singapore ([ANNEX L](#)) and the ASEAN Secretariat ([ANNEX M](#)) presented papers under this Item.

Agenda Item 3: Counter-Terrorism – Border Security: Movement of People

12. Participants identified three key areas: interagency coordination in each country, the need for enhanced international cooperation, and capacity building in order to disrupt the movement of terrorists without restricting the flow of travelers that are a vital part of international economic, political, and cultural links. Members agreed that September 11th was a catalyst for change, as it highlighted the threat of terrorism poses to all ARF members. It was noted that transnational criminals seek to exploit the gaps between countries, jurisdictions, and bureaucracies. Participants were of the view that because terrorists were able to exploit these weaknesses, there is a need for broad and comprehensive cooperation and coordination.
13. Sharing immigration data is one of the most important examples of interagency coordination. Because of the diversity of terrorist operations – moving money, manpower and materiel through banks, borders and brokers – participants agreed that each country's agencies must work closely together. Border security authorities and domestic law enforcement and immigration agencies must share information about visas, and the use – or abuse – of those visas by visitors while in a given country. Visa regimes are

only as good as their enforcement, and there is a continuing need to ensure that visitors do not exceed the activities authorized by their visas. It is also important to be able to record when the individual has left the country. Several members voiced the opinion that there must also be enhanced cooperation between the military and police departments; especially in the area of information sharing.

14. Participants briefed the Meeting on the various efforts underway in their countries to reorganize their bureaucracies to bring relevant agencies into closer contact, and to mold the different bureaucratic cultures into one cohesive, smoothly functioning entity with enhanced CT capabilities.
15. The Meeting observed that information sharing, especially sharing of immigration data, is also a key form of international cooperation. Just as governments must enhance coordination among their various CT agencies, they must also cooperate with other governments. Direct international law enforcement collaboration was also stressed as vital to enhancing border security. Effective CT requires disrupting terrorist attacks before they occur, and for that, timely and relevant information must be shared with the appropriate authorities.
16. Many participants lack a centralized database of points of contact in immigration and customs bureaus that could be used to facilitate communication between governments. A list of the various officials worldwide could be compiled, circulated, and updated regularly, forming a basis for regular consultations between governments on border security issues. This would foster an international dialogue among those on the “front line.”
17. The Meeting highlighted that the more advanced countries need to share their knowledge, history of dealing with the problem and expertise with the less developed countries. Along those lines it was suggested that existing multilateral legal inconsistencies be resolved so there can be uniform enforcement of international conventions and protocols on counter-terrorism.
18. Several participants voiced the opinion that there is also a need to create opportunities for international cooperation among the law enforcement agencies. For example, exchanges of personnel would allow participants from less developed countries to receive training on more advanced systems and then take that knowledge home with them. These exchanges would also foster a better understanding and coordination of detecting illegal immigration and would encourage communication between the participating agencies.
19. Participants also commented on the need for greater timeliness of information sharing between agencies as well as governments. It was noted that timely dissemination and

use of relevant information could lead directly to arrests, especially when dealing with terrorists who have the ability to change identities in a short time.

20. The Meeting stressed the need for capacity building – increasing the ability of governments to provide security without impeding legitimate flows of people and trade. The ability to effectively balance the counter-terrorist need for inspections, time intervals for computer checks, etc. without disrupting open markets and free movement of bona fide travelers was stressed. Terrorists are good at discovering and exploiting loopholes in the system. Hence the need for a holistic approach.
21. Participants noted the importance of regularly reviewing visa waiver lists. Members discussed the possibility of a smart card as a way to increase security without decreasing the flow of people.
22. Participants agreed that capacity building would provide training and technical assistance to one another, capitalizing upon their comparative advantage in a given area. Modernizing the equipment necessary to detect fraudulent passports is also a key area where capacity is low in many ARF countries. They suggested ways to improve border security capacity, such as installing a system linking all ports of entry with online data and installing machine-readable passport systems.
23. Participants noted that public-private sector cooperation would also be beneficial. It was suggested for example, that weekly meetings between government officials and airlines representatives to collect information from passenger lists and manifests would be helpful. Some countries obtain manifests from airlines so that these manifests can be reviewed before arrival.
24. Managing immigration and customs information is another vital area requiring capacity building. A country has to have an effective system for capturing the data that is collected. There has to be extensive cooperation among those who are responsible for entry and exit controls, monitoring the length of the stay, issuing visas, and responsibility for intelligence gathering. All of this can be called “immigration intelligence.”
25. Illegal immigration is an area where transnational crime and terrorism intersect. There is a need for interagency cooperation between immigration officials and the police, international cooperation among law enforcement agencies, and a need to have a viable infrastructure to keep track of the information regarding immigration.
26. Australia ([ANNEX N](#)), China ([ANNEX O](#)), European Union ([ANNEXES P](#) and [Q](#)), Malaysia ([ANNEX R](#)), Philippines ([ANNEX S](#)) and United States ([ANNEX T](#)) presented papers under this Item.

Agenda Item 4: Counter-Terrorism – Border Security: Movement of Goods

27. The Meeting identified four key-areas: international cooperation, information exchange, inter-agency cooperation, and economic impacts. Working in these areas, it is important to strengthen the role of customs in counter-terrorism without restricting the flow of goods that are a vital part of the international economy.
28. Participants agreed that there was a need for greater international cooperation because of the complexity of international commerce and the role of customs officials. It was noted that reciprocity of information and training was of great importance. This would also allow member countries to better determine where the real threat existed.
29. The Meeting agreed that as customs procedures are changed to meet the terrorism threat there has to be a great degree of cooperation in the areas of training and technology. Given the greater importance of advanced technology in customs work there is a great need for training. It was hoped that some of the more advanced ARF countries could train customs officials from developing countries in using this new technology to increase efficiency and security simultaneously. It was suggested that the exchange of officials and the holding of more seminars would be fruitful.
30. Several participants voiced the opinion that international cooperation would also assist in monitoring the movement of money related to the shipment of goods. All illicit transactions in contraband goods have a financial trail that can be traced through financial or law enforcement means, highlighting the need for enhanced cooperation.
31. Participants noted that there is a great need for coordination of the information gathered and that there should be established standards governing information exchange. In this area the impact of modern technology could be felt the most. The ability to exchange more detailed information in a timely basis would allow customs officials to practice risk management – identifying containers of greatest concern.
32. The Meeting observed that the movement of goods is also an area requiring extensive inter-agency coordination. Furthermore, the imminent nature of the terrorist threat makes implementing customs security measures an urgent priority, given the impact on the global economy that an attack against goods shipments would have. Much work has been done already to enhance security in the areas of air passenger travel, narcotics interdiction, the trafficking of humans, and tourism, and counter-terrorism efforts can build upon those measures.
33. Several participants found that the merger of customs and immigration departments could result in better information exchange. Several participants noted that such reorganizations would result in greater efficiencies. Participants also advised that

combining different governmental databases would be helpful. Information derived from drug interdictions could also be used in the war on terrorism.

34. The Meeting noted that the issue of costs versus benefits in the implementation of new customs regulations. Some participants voiced their concern that increased security might impact the international movement of goods. Several participants noted that using risk management techniques was a way to keep costs down.
35. Participants also agreed that looking at the entire supply chain, greater detail and reliability on cargo manifests, and high-technology measures can greatly enhance security without the need to increase inspectors.
36. The Meeting reiterated the need for greater uniformity, more training, better technological assistance, and increased cooperation. Utilization of ARF, WTO, WCO, APEC, and etc. are key steps to furthering these interchanges.
37. Malaysia ([ANNEX U](#)), Republic of Korea ([ANNEX V](#)), Singapore ([ANNEX W](#)) and United States ([ANNEX X](#)) presented Papers under this Item.

Agenda Item 5: Counter-Terrorism – Border Security: Document Security

38. The Meeting recognized that document security constituted a vital component in the counter-terrorism efforts as terrorists could make use of the lapses in the security of such documents in pursuit of their objectives.
39. There was general agreement that the absence of uniformity in the standards of travel documents, the lack of adequate security features as well as in procedures and practices made it easy for terrorists to move across borders.
40. The Meeting took note of the various national measures that were being undertaken by ARF participating countries to enhance the security of travel documents which included the introduction of Machine-Readable-Passports, the use of overt and covert security features and the use of biometrics technology.
41. Some participants raised the possibility of encouraging international efforts to develop standard travel documents for seafarer's travel and identity documents, in place of the current practice of using Seamen's Identity Cards.
42. The Meeting also agreed on the need for regional cooperation, especially in the areas of exchange of information related to the abuse and forgery of travel documents, illegal migration and terrorism. Some delegations believed that the development of best practices would also facilitate the exchange of information and enhance cooperation.

43. The Meeting agreed that the lack of resources and high cost of modern technology such as the biometrics technology was a major impediment for less developed countries to assure the security of documents. Participants stressed the vital need for the advanced countries to provide technical assistance to the less developed countries for capacity building and the acquisition of the necessary technology and equipment to enhance the security of documents.
44. Australia ([ANNEX Y](#)), Canada ([ANNEX Z](#)), Malaysia ([ANNEX AA](#)), Republic of Korea ([ANNEX BB](#)) and the United States ([ANNEX T](#)) presented Papers under this item.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation of the Report of the Meeting

45. A draft ARF Chairman Statement on Cooperative Counter-Terrorist Action on Border Security is attached ([ANNEX CC](#)).
46. Participants who had comments to make on the draft were requested to convey them in writing to the Co-Chairmen by 15 April 2003. After that date, the Co-Chairmen would transmit the draft to the ARF SOM for its consideration and for its onward transmission to the 10th ARF Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Other Matters

47. Under this Item, Malaysia briefed the meeting on developments relating to the establishment of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT). Malaysia also provided details on the Centre in the attached Paper ([ANNEX DD](#)).
48. The Meeting had an exchange of views on the future of the ISM-CTTC. It agreed that there was merit in continuing with the ISM-CTTC for 2003/2004. It decided to recommend to the ARF SOM to consider this issue, including, if need be, the identification of Co-Chairs, and to convey its views on this matter to the 10th ARF Ministerial Meeting.
49. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the arrangements made for the meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded to participants.
50. The Meeting was conducted in the usual ARF spirit of friendship and cordiality.

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

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, 26-28 MARCH 2003

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Brunei Darussalam on 31 July 2002 and the first Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), held in Wellington on 20-22 November 2002, the second Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) was held in Vientiane on 26 - 28 March 2003 and co-chaired by the Lao People's Democratic Republic and New Zealand.
2. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, 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 25 March. The Agenda of the Meetings is attached as ANNEX A, the Programme of Activities as ANNEX B and the List of Participants as ANNEX C.
3. Pursuant to the First ISG Meeting, 20-22 November 2002, in Wellington, New Zealand, the second Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), held in Vientiane on 26-28 March 2003, discussed the following:

Review of the Outcome of the 1st ISG on CBMs Meeting in Wellington and Interim Activities

4. The New Zealand Co-Chair briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 1st ISG on CBMs, held in Wellington on 20-22 November 2002. The Co-Chair Summary Report of the Meeting is attached as ANNEX D.

Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Security Situation

5. There was an extensive exchange of views among participants on the political and security developments in the region and beyond since the ARF ISG on CBMs Meeting in New Zealand. The discussions were held in an open and free flowing manner and covered a range of issues which had an impact on the region as a whole.

6. In the review of the regional and international political and security situation, the issue of terrorism remained a significant focus for participants. They noted some successes in the global campaign against terrorism since the November ISG on CBMs Meeting, but emphasized the need for continuing vigilance against the terrorist threat and for ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation to counter that threat. They reaffirmed their determination to persevere in a collective and concerted global campaign against terrorism.
7. Participants noted with grave concern the worsening situation on the Korean peninsula. They urged the DPRK to resume its cooperation with the IAEA and to reverse its decision to withdraw from the NPT, and supported all efforts to achieve a peaceful diplomatic settlement. Participants called for a nuclear weapon-free Korean peninsula. Some participants called upon the DPRK to honour its commitment to give up nuclear weapon programmes. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of a constructive role by the ARF in seeking a peaceful resolution of this issue, and expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the ARF Chair. Participants also recognized the importance of inter-Korea and Japan-DPRK dialogues as channels to pursue peaceful resolution of outstanding security concern in the area.
8. Participants expressed regret that the DPRK was not represented at the ISG Meetings and expressed the hope that it would participate in future ARF Meetings including the forthcoming ARF Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings.
9. Participants took note of the situation in Iraq and expressed regret that, despite extensive diplomatic efforts to secure Iraq's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions on fulfilling its disarmament obligation, the dispute had not been resolved by diplomatic means. They emphasized the importance of making every effort to minimize the sufferings of innocent civilians and to bring hostilities to an end in the shortest possible time. Some participants expressed concern about the potential impact of protracted conflict on regional security, including in the region covered by ARF. Some participants noted the continuing importance of the UN role and the international agencies in responding to the situation in Iraq.
10. The Meeting noted the risks to stability, including the potential for transnational crime and terrorism to gain a foothold also in the Pacific region. The circumstances were different from country to country and allowed for no quick fix or single solution. Particularly in Melanesia there was a need for capacity building to develop effective law enforcement and border control legislation. It was noted that several ARF Members were working with the Forum Secretariat, and other donors to assist Pacific island countries in this area.

11. The Meeting had a frank discussion on the situation in Myanmar and expressed their appreciation of and support for the efforts of the UNSG Special Representative Razali. They noted the co-operation extended to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights on his visits to Myanmar, and co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the country. The Meeting encouraged further progress in the process of national reconciliation and a shared commitment by all to an intensified dialogue aimed at national unity, a restoration of democracy and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
12. Participants welcomed the continued commitment of parties concerned to implement the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea signed by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China at the ASEAN-China Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2002.
13. The Meeting welcomed ASEAN efforts in ensuring regional peace and security, deepening economic co-operation and integration, combating terrorism and transnational crimes, and strengthening economic linkages with ASEAN's dialogue partners as reaffirmed by ASEAN Leaders at the 8th ASEAN Summit, held in Phnom Penh in November 2002.
14. Participants also noted developments outside the region. They were encouraged by the progress towards rebuilding and reconciliation in Afghanistan and expressed support for the provision of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance there.
15. The meeting flagged its support for the ongoing peace process in Sri Lanka and welcomed the contribution of ARF members in support of post conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction. ARF Members agreed to use their influence to further advance the peace process and to bring the different stakeholders in the process together.
16. The meeting welcomed Timor Leste' s adherence to democratic values, the rule of law and human rights principles, and encouraged the further regional integration of Timor Leste.
17. The Meeting discussed disarmament issues from the perspective of the ARF region. It recalled that Ministers in Brunei in July 2002 had noted that preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery directly engaged the region's fundamental security interests. Most participants reaffirmed the importance of ensuring the universality of core disarmament treaties: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).
18. Participants welcomed continuing work in a number of fields relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including launching conference in The Hague, on

25-26 November 2002 of the International Code of Conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

19. The importance of strict measures to control weapons of mass destruction and their components materials was addressed. In this context emphasis was placed on exports of military goods and dual-use technologies to ensure denial to terrorists of access to weapons and related technologies. Participants referred to the UN-sponsored process on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons for its relevance in the region and agreed to continue exploring measures at the national and regional level to address this problem.
20. Participants reaffirmed that recent terrorist attacks in ARF countries underlined the importance of participants fulfilling their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Participants underscored continuing concern for disarmament issues, acknowledged new dimensions to these issues, and understanding of the need to attend to them, even while acting to meet the urgent challenge of terrorism. They agreed to continue their discussions on non- proliferation, disarmament and arms control in future ISGs.

Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime of Concern to the Region

21. The Meeting noted the Report of the ARF-Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM-CT-TC), held in Karambunai, Sabah, Malaysia from 21 to 22 March 2003 presented by Malaysia which appears as ANNEX E. The Meeting was co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States and was attended by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam. Participants conveyed a positive initial assessment of the Meeting. Noting that the ISM's future would be determined at the ARF SOM on 30 April 2003, participants supported continuing meetings of the ISM on CT-TC.
22. The Meeting noted that the ARF-Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime had discussed the following matters:
 - a) Terrorist Organizations, Recent Terrorist Activities and Counter Terrorism Measures;
 - b) Counter Terrorism-Border Security: Movement of People;
 - c) Counter terrorism-Border Security: Movement of Goods; and
 - d) Counter Terrorism-Border Security: Document Security.
23. The Meeting also noted the following:
 - a) the establishment of Southeast Asia regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) reported by Malaysia (ANNEX F);

- b) the recommendation to the ARF SOM to consider continuing with ISM CT-TC for 2003/04 and identification of Co-Chairs for submission to the 10th ARF Ministerial Meeting for consideration.
24. The participants agreed there was an urgent need for more concrete cooperation among ARF participants to counter the threat of terrorism and welcomed recommendations from the ARF Ministerial Meeting to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Participants welcomed the increased cooperation that was already being undertaken in the areas of information and intelligence-sharing, cooperation among law enforcement agencies and financial measures against terrorism and that this was a necessary tool to combat terrorism effectively.
25. There was agreement that early accession by all ARF participants to all UN Conventions and Protocols against terrorism, as called for by UNSC 1373, and effective implementation of these obligations, would assist in fighting terrorism and would also constitute a confidence building measure. It was also agreed that ARF participants should further strengthen and enhance their cooperation to this end.
26. An amended draft ARF Chairman's Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security was tabled and discussed (ANNEX G). Participants concurred that threats to maritime security were a serious concern. They agreed to forward it to ARF SOM for consideration.
27. Singapore briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the workshop on counter terrorism financing in Singapore on 21-22 January 2003. The Meeting also noted that Singapore would hold the following Training Workshops in the coming months under the AMM-TC Framework:
- a) Aviation Security in July 2003 (project concept appears as ANNEX H)
 - b) Intelligence Analysis in August 2003;
 - c) Post Blast Investigation in October 2003; and
 - d) Bomb and Explosives Identification in November 2003.
28. Australia and Singapore briefed the Meeting on a workshop on Managing the Consequences of a Major Terrorist attack, to be held in Darwin, Australia on 3-5 June 2003. The workshop's key objectives would be to lay the basis for a common understanding among ARF members of the complex issues involved in managing the consequences of a major terrorist attack including one involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear weapons (C/B/R/N), and to consider the scope for further practical cooperation for those agencies most directly involved in preparing for any future major terrorist attack in the region. The workshop would contribute to the ARF's developing focus on specific practical areas of cooperation in responding to the terrorist threat. To maximize the practical outcomes of the workshop

and to lay the basis for future cooperation and collaboration, Australia and Singapore encouraged participation by representatives of emergency response, civil defence, aid and police/law enforcement agencies as well as Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

29. Japan explained its proposal for an “ARF Dossier on Counter-Terrorism Measures” by circulating a sample document attached as [ANNEX I](#).
30. The Meeting agreed that transnational crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and cyber crime continued to pose challenges to the peace and security of the region and that the subject of transnational crime should have high priority on the ARF’s agenda. Participants agreed that all these issues were intrinsically linked to each other and to the counter-terrorism agenda.
31. Indonesia briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ASEAN Workshop on Combating Terrorism, held in Jakarta on 20-22 February 2003. Indonesia further informed that two Indonesia proposals: ASEAN Collaboration on Post Terrorist Attack and Extradition and/or Handing Over of Terrorist Suspect will be further discussed at the 3rd Annual SOM-TC Meeting scheduled in June 2003 in Ha Noi. The Meeting also noted that Indonesia will convene the Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking of Persons and Related Transnational Crime (BRMC) II in Bali on 28-30 April 2003 under the Co-Chairmanship of Indonesia and Australia.

Consideration of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

32. The Meeting took note of the implementation of agreed CBMs and reports by organising countries on the following activities:
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar, Singapore December 2002. ([ANNEX J](#))
 - Workshop on Maritime Security Challenges, India February/March 2003 ([ANNEX K](#)).
33. The Meeting revised the list of proposed CBM activities, removing those already implemented and adding new proposed CBMs to Basket 1. The proposed revision to the list is at [ANNEX L](#).
34. The Meeting received draft Concept Papers for the following proposed CBMs:
 - The United States proposed to hold an ARF Workshop on Civilian-Military Relations and the Rule of Law ([ANNEX M](#)).
 - The United States put forward a proposal for ARF Participation in the UN Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures and Circulation of Submissions among ARF Members ([ANNEX N](#)).

35. Malaysia advised the Meeting that its proposal on a CBM on travel advisories would not proceed at this time.
36. Participants welcomed the production of the ARF Register of CBMs and agreed that it should be updated and re-issued before each ARF meeting. New Zealand agreed to assist future ISG co-Chairs in this task. It was agreed that the register should also include on-going ARF CBMs. A database CD-Rom containing the register was distributed by to all delegations at the Meeting.
37. The meeting was briefed on the Second Subcommittee of the Tokyo Defence Forum on 28-30 January 2003, and noted that Japan would host the 8th Tokyo Defence Forum in 2003.
38. The ARF Chair encouraged participants to submit their Annual Security Outlook papers as quickly as possible.

Future Direction of ARF

39. Following the guidance given by Ministers for discussions on the future direction of the ARF and the nine recommendations of the stock-taking paper agreed at the Brunei Ministerial on achievements and shortfalls of the ARF, participants discussed the recommendations for strengthening cooperation against terrorism. The Meeting carried forward discussions on assisting the ARF Chair through the ASEAN Secretariat, developing the Register of Experts and Eminent Persons, strengthening CBMs, boosting the involvement of defence officials in the ARF process, enhancing linkages with Track II and other organizations and providing substantive follow-up to the ARF's work on preventive diplomacy.
40. The Meeting complimented the ARF Chair on efforts made to enhance the role of the Chair. Participants noted a paper on possible role for the ASEAN Secretariat in assisting the ARF Chairman to co-ordinate the work of the ARF attached as [ANNEX Q](#). Participants also discussed how to improve the process of informal consultations by the Chair with other regional and international organizations.
41. The Meeting considered a discussion paper from Canada on strengthening linkages between Track I and Track II in the ARF context ([ANNEX P](#)) and noted the conclusions of the Track II counter-terrorism workshop organised by IDSS Singapore and CSCAP Canada in Vientiane on 25 March 2003 ([ANNEX Q](#)). Participants recommended that efforts continue to enhance Track I-II linkages including through the organisation of appropriate adjacent and complementary Track I-II Meetings at future ISG. To this end, they asked the present incoming ISG Co-Chair and ARF Chair to consider arranging additional Track II meetings in association with upcoming ISG.

42. The Meeting welcomed the circulation of the first ARF Register of Experts and Eminent Persons at the ARF Ministerial Meeting and discussed further the development and utilisation of the Register. Participants considered a concept paper from the Republic of Korea on Guidelines for the Operation of the EEPs and presented revised Draft Guidelines ([ANNEX R](#)). Members were invited to submit further comments, with a view to finalising these Guidelines at the ARF Senior Officials Meeting in April 2003.
43. Participants agreed that good progress had been made with implementing Ministers' recommendations for the future direction of the ARF. Advancing work on these practical measures represented substantive follow-up to the ARF's work on preventive diplomacy. In this context, Japan proposed a workshop on preventive diplomacy to be held in February 2004 ([ANNEX S](#)).

Other Matters

44. The meeting took note of the following voluntary briefings made by ARF participants:
- Australia's White Paper on Advancing the National Interest;
 - Australia's National Security: A Defence Update 2003;
 - China's Defence White Paper;
 - Indonesia's offer to host the Asia Africa Sub-Regional Organisations Conference (AASROC) on 16-17 April 2004 in Bandung, Indonesia;
 - New Zealand informed the Meeting about the ICRC's interest in engaging a constructive partnership with ARF. The letter from ICRC appears as [ANNEX T](#);
 - Russia's Federation's "The Problems of Strategic Stability" ([ANNEX U](#));
 - Thailand's Participation in Regional Peace Keeping;
 - Status of Republic of Korea Support for the War Against Terrorism ([ANNEX V](#));
 - Japan's decision to expand contribution of supplies and services for countries operating under OEF in addition to USA and UK.

Report of Defence Officials Meeting for Co-Chairs' Report

45. The second formal Defence Officials Meeting (DOM) was held following the Defence Officials Lunch on 25 March 2003. Major General Saway Xayasena; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Defence opened the meeting with some general remarks of welcome, followed by the Lao co-chair giving a presentation on civil-military relations within Lao society. There then followed a discussion on the role of defence forces in the region in meeting current security challenges. Some common themes emerged such as the upsurge in terrorism and transnational crime and the discussion raised issues faced by all countries as they contemplated the current strategic environment. The Report Second Formal Defence Officials Meeting (DOM) and Singapore's draft on Defence Dialogue Within the ARF are attached as [ANNEX W](#) and [X](#).

46. Some very worthwhile voluntary briefings were given on a range of topics including current updates on strategic level defence policy documents and contributions to regional security cooperation initiatives. Reports were given on several CBMs held over the past year and the meeting was advised of upcoming events. It was agreed that ARF Defence Dialogue, as an integral component of the ARF process, should now consider the way forward to ensure that its contribution continues to complement and add value to that process.
47. The Meeting noted that Timor Leste's application for ARF membership was to be referred to the ARF Chair for consultations with ARF participants ahead of the ARF Senior Officials' and Ministerial Meetings.

Arrangements for the 1st and 2nd ARF ISG on CBMs Meetings in 2003-2004

48. Participants welcomed the offer of China and Myanmar to Co-Chair the next ARF ISG on CBMs respectively in 2003/2004. The date and venue of the 1st and 2nd ARF ISG on CBMs Meetings for 2003/2004 would be communicated to ARF Member Countries at appropriate time. The Meeting welcomed the interest expressed by EU to Co-Chair ISG on CBMs in 2004/2005.

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

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 20-22 NOVEMBER 2002

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Brunei Darussalam on 31 July 2002, the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by New Zealand and Lao People's Democratic Republic, held the first meeting of the 2002/2003 inter-sessional year in Wellington on 20-22 November 2002.
2. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, 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 9th ARF Ministerial Meeting. The discussions were held in an open and free-flowing manner and covered a range of issues which had an impact on the region as a whole.
4. In the review of the regional and international political and security situation, the issue of terrorism remained the most significant focus for participants. The Meeting expressed its abhorrence of terrorism anywhere. The Meeting expressed its condolences to the people and the Governments of Indonesia and Australia and all other countries who suffered casualties in the terrorist bombings in Bali. The meeting also expressed condolences to the people and Government of Russia for the losses suffered in recent terrorist attacks.

5. The tragic events of Bali demonstrated that the Asia-Pacific region is a target for terrorists who seek to undermine global security. Participants agreed that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and subsequent terrorist incidents underlined new threats to global and regional security. There was agreement among ARF participants that all acts of terrorism are attacks against humanity and completely unjustifiable regardless of any motivations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever, and a profound threat to international peace and stability. Participants expressed their determination and resolve to continue the collective and concerted global campaign against terrorism and to implement all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.
6. The Meeting welcomed the Statement of 16 October 2002, issued by Cambodia as the ARF Chair on behalf of ARF participants, on the threat of international terrorism and condemning the terrorist attacks in Bali. It was noted that ASEAN Leaders at their 8th Annual Summit had adopted the Declaration on Terrorism and undertook to build on earlier measures to counter terrorism. Participants took note of the statements issued by Leaders at APEC, ASEM and at the International Conference on Anti-terrorism and Tourism Recovery held in Manila in November.
7. Participants noted with deep concern the negative impact on the situation on the Korean Peninsula of recent disclosures about the nuclear weapons programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). They noted the relevant statements at the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting of 27 October 2002 and the ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting of 4 November 2002, both of which called for a nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula and called upon DPRK to visibly honour its commitment to give up nuclear weapons programmes. They also reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful resolution of this issue. Participants recognized the importance of inter-Korean and Japan-North Korea dialogues as channels to pursue peaceful resolution to outstanding security concerns in the area.
8. The Meeting emphasized support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of Indonesia. Participants congratulated East Timor on its independence, noting that its integration into regional structures will be crucial both to its future stability and to that of the region, and stressed the need for continued international support.
9. Participants welcomed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea signed by Foreign Ministers from ASEAN and China in the margins of the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2002. 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.
10. Participants welcomed progress towards the re-establishment of constitutional government in Fiji. They noted that there would be an on-going requirement for support

from the international community to promote peace and stability in Solomon Islands. They also noted that peace agreements had paved the way for the eventual resolution of the conflict in Bougainville, and that the Bougainville experience provided a possible model for regional peace building.

11. In relation to Myanmar, participants hoped that the process of national reconciliation and substantive dialogue with the National League for Democracy and other political entities would move forward, leading to systemic reform.
12. Participants welcomed the outcome of the 8th ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh on 4 November 2002. The ARF Chair informed the Meeting that the ASEAN Leaders agreed to further accelerate ASEAN's economic integration, to promote ASEAN as a single tourist destination and to enhance cooperation in natural resources management, including ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all ASEAN members. ASEAN Leaders and the Leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea agreed to enhance a close East Asian partnership in further contributing to regional peace, stability, and prosperity.
13. Participants also noted developments outside the region, including Iraq, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Participants were encouraged by the progress towards rebuilding and reconciliation in Afghanistan and expressed support for the provision of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance there. Participants expressed their determination to pursue eradication of the network of the Al Qaeda and the Taleban as an essential element in the global efforts to address terrorism. Participants also emphasized that the ongoing campaign against terrorism was not a fight against any country or against Islam.
14. The Meeting discussed disarmament issues from the perspective of the ARF region. It recalled that Ministers in Brunei in July 2002 had noted that preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery directly engaged the region's fundamental security interests. Most participants reaffirmed the importance of core disarmament treaties: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.
15. Participants noted that nuclear issues arose in the ARF in the context of regional concerns as well as globally. Reference was made in this context to South Asia. Particular attention was paid to developments in the Korean peninsula. Participants were of the view that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems posed significant risks to the security of the region.
16. Participants noted continuing work in a number of fields relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including the launch in The Hague on 25-26 November of a voluntary International Code of Conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

17. The importance of strict measures and a new focus on the physical security of nuclear installations and nuclear materials was addressed. The informal regimes for coordinating controls on exports of military goods and dual-use technologies had adjusted the scope of their schemes to include denial to terrorists of access to weapons and technologies. Participants referred to the UN-sponsored process on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons for its relevance in the region and agreed to explore measures at the national and regional level to address this problem.
18. It was noted that Ministers in Brunei had agreed that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 underlined the importance of participants fulfilling their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Participants underscored continuing concern for disarmament issues, acknowledged new dimensions to these issues, and understanding of the need to attend to them, even while acting to meet the urgent challenge of terrorism. To this end, they agreed to continue and deepen their discussions on non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control in future ISGs. They noted that Track II participants might be asked to address regional disarmament questions, including small arms.

Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime of Concern to the Region

19. The Meeting agreed there was an urgent need for more practical cooperation among ARF participants to counter the threat of terrorism and welcomed recommendations from the ARF Ministerial Meeting to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Participants noted and welcomed the increased cooperation that was already being undertaken in the areas of intelligence-sharing, police cooperation and financial measures against terrorism and that this was a necessary tool to combat terrorism effectively. In this connection, they recalled the joint declaration on counter-terrorism signed between the United States and ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference.
20. There was general agreement that early accession by all ARF participants to all UN Conventions against terrorism, as called for by UNSC 1373, and effective implementation of these obligations, would assist in fighting terrorism and would also constitute a confidence building measure. It was also agreed that ARF participants should further strengthen and enhance their cooperation to this end.
21. Participants were briefed on counter-terrorism cooperation. They were also briefed on the ARF workshop on counter-terrorism measures for international events, held in Tokyo in October 2002. The Meeting noted the agreement by Ministers to establish an ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC). Participants were briefed by delegations from the United States and Malaysia on preparations for the first meeting of the ISM on CTTC in Sabah, Malaysia on 21-22 March 2003. They welcomed this development as an important step towards

enhancing further ARF cooperation in counter-terrorism and noted a suggestion that law enforcement officials take part in the ISM.

22. A draft ARF Chairman's Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security was tabled and discussed ([ANNEX D](#)). Participants concurred that threats to maritime security were a serious concern. They agreed to discuss the draft Statement further at the next ISG meeting with the intention of forwarding it to Senior Officials.
23. The Meeting noted that Singapore would hold an aviation security training workshop for members of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and invited ARF participants to attend as observers. Participants were briefed on a Workshop on Counter-terrorism, followed by a Police Expo, to take place in Jakarta from 24-27 January 2003, and a meeting co-hosted by Indonesia and Australia in Bali in December 2002 on combating money-laundering and terrorist financing. ARF participants were strongly encouraged to attend.
24. The Meeting agreed that transnational crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and cyber crime continued to pose challenges to the peace and security of the region and that the subject of transnational crime should remain on the ARF's agenda. Participants agreed that all these issues were intrinsically linked to each other and to the counter-terrorism agenda. It was agreed that the ISM on CTTC was an important forum for consideration of these issues.
25. Participants exchanged views on the issue of travel advisories.

Consideration of CBMs

26. The Meeting took note of the implementation of agreed CBMs and reports by organizing countries on the following activities:
 - Workshop on Defence/Military Officials' Co-operation within the ARF, Seoul, 28-30 August 2002.
 - Sixth ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions, Moscow, 16-20 September 2002.
 - ARF Seminar on Military Logistics Outsourcing Support, Beijing, 25-27 September 2002.
 - Second Workshop on Counter-terrorism Measures, Tokyo, 1-2 October 2002.
27. Participants noted that two further CBMs would be held this inter-sessional year:
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar, Singapore December 2002.
 - Workshop on Maritime Security Challenges, India February/March 2003 ([ANNEX E](#)).

28. The Meeting revised the list of proposed CBM activities, removing those already implemented and adding new proposed CBMs to Basket 1. The proposed revision to the list is at [ANNEX F](#).
29. The Meeting received draft Concept Papers for the following proposed CBMs:
 - Australia proposed an ARF Workshop on Consequence Management, to be co-hosted with Singapore this inter-sessional year ([ANNEX G](#)).
 - The United States proposed to hold an ARF Workshop on Civilian-Military Relations and the Rule of Law ([ANNEX H](#)).
 - The United States put forward a proposal for ARF Participation in the UN Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures and Circulation of Submissions among ARF Members ([ANNEX I](#)).
30. Malaysia proposed a CBM on travel advisories and informed that it is consulting with a non-ASEAN country to co-chair this CBM. The Meeting also took note of India's proposal to host the 7th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions in 2003.
31. The first ARF Register of CBMs was circulated as agreed by Ministers in Brunei. Participants welcomed the production of the Register and agreed that it should be updated and re-issued before each ARF meeting. New Zealand agreed to assist future ISG Co-Chairs in this task. It was agreed that the register should also include on-going ARF CBMs.
32. The meeting was briefed on the 7th Tokyo Defence Forum and noted that Japan would host the Second Subcommittee of the Tokyo Defence Forum on 28-30 January 2003, and the 8th Tokyo Defence Forum later in 2003.

Future Direction of the ARF

33. The Meeting welcomed the guidance given by Ministers for discussions on the future direction of the ARF and the nine recommendations of the stock-take paper prepared by Brunei on achievements and shortfalls of the ARF. Participants discussed the recommendations for strengthening cooperation against terrorism, assisting the ARF Chair through the ASEAN Secretariat, developing the Register of Experts and Eminent Persons, strengthening CBMs, boosting the involvement of defence officials in the ARF process, enhancing linkages with Track II and other organizations and providing substantive follow-up to the ARF's work on preventive diplomacy.
34. Participants agreed that while there had already been good progress with counter-terrorism cooperation, much more needed to be done. It was noted in this context that the CBM agenda was being strengthened through successive meetings of the ISG.

35. The Meeting agreed that the issuing of statements by the ARF Chair in response to terrorist attacks represented a move towards enhancing the role of the Chair. The Meeting discussed ways in which the ASEAN Secretariat might assist the ARF Chairman in co-ordinating the work of the ARF. Participants also discussed how to improve the process of informal consultations by the Chair with other regional and international organizations and were briefed on enhancing linkages between the ARF and ASEAN-ISIS, CSCAP and other organizations.
36. The Meeting considered a discussion paper from Canada on strengthening linkages between Track I and Track II in the ARF context ([ANNEX J](#)). They agreed to enhance linkages with Track II and other organizations. To this end, they asked Lao PDR and Cambodia to consider arranging Track II meetings in advance of the upcoming ISG or SOM.
37. The Meeting welcomed the circulation of the first ARF Register of Experts and Eminent Persons at the ARF Ministerial Meeting and discussed further the development and utilization of the Register. Participants considered a concept paper from the Republic of Korea on Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEPs and referred a set of Draft Guidelines ([ANNEX K](#)) for further consideration at the next ISG meeting, with a view to finalizing these Guidelines at the ARF Senior Officials Meeting in May 2003. They noted a suggestion that a Trial Meeting of EEPs be held and agreed to discuss this further.
38. Participants agreed that good progress had been made with implementing Ministers' recommendations for the future direction of the ARF. Advancing work on these practical measures represented substantive follow-up to the ARF's work on preventive diplomacy.
39. The meeting took note of the following voluntary briefings made by ARF participants:
- Briefing by Thailand on Sri Lanka peace talks and on a plan to deploy military engineers to Afghanistan and further military personnel to East Timor.
 - Briefing by Russia on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
 - Briefing by Canada on the Multinational Standby High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) ([ANNEX L](#)) and on the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, "The Responsibility to Protect" ([ANNEX M](#)).
 - Briefing by Australia on Australian bilateral counter-terrorism Memoranda of Understanding with regional countries ([ANNEX N](#)).
 - Briefing by Indonesia on the Southwest Pacific Dialogue.
 - Briefing by Japan on the extension of the basic plan related to the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law.
 - Briefing by Cambodia on the outcome of the 8th ASEAN Summit, ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the ASEAN Plus One Summits with China, Japan and the ROK,

and the first ASEAN India Summit, as well as the South African President's Briefing.

- Briefing by Malaysia on its contribution to international efforts in the fight against terrorism (ANNEX O).
- Briefing by the EU on EU policy and initiatives in the fight against terrorism (ANNEX P).

Arrangements for the next ISG Meeting

40. Lao PDR informed the Meeting that the next ISG meeting would be held in Vientiane from 26-28 March 2003 and briefed on arrangements.

Other Matters

41. Defence officials briefed the ISG on the outcome of their discussions at the Defence Officials' Lunch and Meeting held on 19 November 2002. The discussions covered New Zealand's recent experience of establishing a joint forces headquarters, enhancement of cooperation in peacekeeping, improving the value and efficiency of peacekeeping operations and security cooperation in the campaign against terrorism. A report on the Defence Officials' Meeting is attached at ANNEX Q. Participants agreed that the holding of a separate meeting of Defence Officials prior to the ISG plenary was a positive development. The ISG encouraged the continued holding of the Defence Officials' Meetings as a useful confidence building measure.
42. The Meeting noted that East Timor had approached participants regarding its application for ARF membership. This matter was referred to the ARF Chair for consultations with ARF participants ahead of the ARF Senior Officials' and Ministerial Meetings.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARF ON THE TRAGIC TERRORIST BOMBING ATTACKS IN BALI

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 16 OCTOBER 2002

His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of participating member-states and organization issues the following statement:

The death toll of both foreign tourists and Indonesians claimed by terrorist bombing attacks in Bali, Indonesia, over the weekend sent a very shocking news all around the world. It is always the innocent people, as in this case both the foreign tourists and Indonesians, who were victims from these barbarous crimes that resulted in the loss of hundreds of innocent lives.

The member-states and organization participating in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) condemn these premeditated acts of terrorism in the strongest terms. These most criminal acts of bombing have no justification whatsoever and they must be fully condemned by every member of a civilized world.

The member-states and organization participating in the ARF wish to extend their deep condolences and sincere sympathy to the Indonesian Government and the families of the victims of these tragic terrorist acts.

The ARF, once again reaffirms its determination to further step up their cooperation and collective efforts to combat more effectively these barbarous crimes against humanity.