

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (NPD) WORK PLAN

Context:

Participants in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) have indicated the desire to advance the focus of the organization beyond confidence building measures towards more concrete cooperation in accordance with their respective national laws and on a voluntary basis, particularly in non-traditional and transnational security areas. Toward this goal, at the 15th meeting of the ARF, Ministers agreed to the establishment of an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM-NPD) to address the threats posed by the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Through this step, Ministers sought to ensure that the new ISM-NPD would not only include the sharing of views on addressing threats posed by WMD, but would also provide a venue for working-level officials to discuss capacity building activities aimed at facilitating ARF Participants' implementation of their non-proliferation and disarmament obligations as States Parties to the existing multilateral WMD instruments: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC), and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), as well as the 2004 ARF Jakarta Statement and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540. This Work Plan supports the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement, as adopted in July 2010.

Goals of the ISM-NPD, as endorsed by Ministers, include the following:

- Promoting full implementation of ARF Participants' existing WMD non-proliferation and disarmament commitments and obligations.
- Preventing the illicit trafficking, in all aspects, of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials in accordance with the national laws of ARF Participants.
- Implementing effective and appropriate national export control and border controls.
- Promoting implementation of UNSCR 1540.
- Promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and access to nuclear technology, equipment, and fuel for peaceful uses under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.
- Promoting implementation of the Bangkok Treaty, and encouraging dialogue between ASEAN and the Nuclear Weapons States on its Protocol.
- Preventing any costly and destabilizing arms race in the ARF region.

Objective: Creation of an NPD Work Plan that addresses the goals identified above and that promotes balance to the three central pillars of the global non-proliferation regime: preventing proliferation of WMD, promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology, and advancing global disarmament efforts.

Priority Areas: Consistent with this objective the ISM-NPD should allow for focused discussion of each of the following priority areas:

- 1. Non-proliferation**
- 2. Peaceful Use of Nuclear Technology**
- 3. Disarmament**

Framework: ARF Participants will propose projects and proposals that fit within the endorsed Priority Areas, and will serve as lead countries for those projects. These projects can cover any of the classes of WMD, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. The NPD Work Plan will continue to be updated as projects progress and new projects are included in the Work Plan. All ARF Participants are encouraged to submit project proposals to the ISM-NPD co-chairs.

During the annual ISM-NPD, the Work Plan will be reviewed to ensure continued relevance, additional activities will be added, and the Work Plan will be revised, if necessary. Major changes to the Work Plan, such as the addition or subtraction of Priority Areas, should be approved by the Ministers. Projects will be funded by sponsoring ARF Participants. As necessary, sponsoring nations may seek assistance from donors as projects progress.

As necessary, the ISM-NPD co-chairs may develop a roster of focal points of ARF Participants on WMD issues to facilitate networking and information sharing.

Implementation Timeline:

- First ISM, Beijing, June 2009, focusing on non-proliferation (China, Singapore, United States).
- Second ISM, Singapore, July 2010, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology (China, Singapore, United States).
- Third ISM, Las Vegas, February 2011, focusing on disarmament (China, Singapore, United States).
- Fourth ISM, Sydney, March 2012, focusing on non-proliferation (Australia, Japan, Philippines).
- Spring 2012: ARF Senior Officials discuss the NPD Work Plan and endorse for Ministerial consideration.
- July 2012: 19th ARF approves NPD Work Plan. Projects can begin.
- Fifth ISM, Manila, June 2013, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology (Australia, Japan, Philippines).
- Sixth ISM, Tokyo, July 2014, focusing on disarmament (Australia, Japan, Philippines).
- Seventh ISM, Kuala Lumpur, June 2015, focusing on non-proliferation (Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand).
- Eighth ISM, Putrajaya, April 2016, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology (Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand).

- Ninth ISM, Auckland, March 2017, focusing on disarmament (Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand).

Project Types: These projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular assistance needs and nature of the Priority Areas. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of activities with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- ARF-wide or sub-regional workshops, seminars, round-tables on the three priority areas.
- Capacity-building workshops that share information on experiences and bring in government, private sector, community and other relevant experts to brief, train, and/or develop best practices.
- ARF Pilot Projects that utilize funding given to the ARF Fund for a submitted technical assistance or capacity-building project(s) in one or more ARF countries. The ARF Pilot Project should be within the scope of the NPD Work Plan's Priority Areas.
- Multilateral tabletop or field exercises that build capacity for international cooperation at both the regional ARF and sub-regional levels.

PRIORITY AREAS AND PROJECT PROPOSALS

Priority Area #1: NON-PROLIFERATION

Goals from the Hanoi Plan of Action:

- Support the implementation by ARF Participants of international treaties to which they are parties.
- Encourage the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the relevant recommendations of the UNSCR 1540 Committee.
- Exchange experience and promote the development of relevant best practices and with a view to building common approaches in strategic export controls where appropriate.
- Encourage ARF Participants which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the CWC.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Non-Proliferation, July 2004.
- ARF Export Licensing Experts' Meeting, Singapore, November 2005 (Singapore and Canada).
- Seminar on Non-Proliferation of WMD, Singapore, March 2006 (Singapore, China, and United States).
- First ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, San Francisco, February 2007 (United States, Canada, and Singapore).
- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement Supporting National Implementation of UNSCR 1540, June 2007.

- Two IAEA Regional Seminars on the Agency's Safeguards System for countries in Southeast and South Asia, March 2011 (Singapore).
- Second ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, Bangkok, May 2013 (United States and Thailand).
- ARF Workshop on Countering Illicit Trafficking of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Materials, Manila, November 2013 (Canada and Philippines).
- The Thirteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia and Regional Meeting on Education and Outreach in Asia, May 2015(China).
- Training for the 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia and Pacific Region, September 2015 (China).
- Malaysia-Thailand Table Top and Field Exercise On Combatting Illicit Trafficking of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials at National Border, June 2015 (other ASEAN countries were invited as observers).
- International Workshop on Chemical Trade: Current Practices and Challenges, June 2016, China (co-chaired by China and OPCW, attended by Malaysia, Myanmar and other ARF countries)
- International Workshop on the Eighth BWC Review Conference: Promoting BWC Implementation, Enhancing Global Biosecurity Governance, September 2016, China (co-chaired by China, Canada and BWC ISU, attended by Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and other ARF countries)

Project proposals under consideration:

- Regional Training Course on Developing a National Framework for Managing the Response to Security Events, June 2016 (Malaysia, ASEAN participants).

Topics for future work:

- Exchange of views, sharing of experience and development in export controls.
- Additional workshops on implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Priority Area 2: PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Goals from the Hanoi Plan of Action:

- Contribute to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy through sharing national experiences and assisting in capacity building in cooperation with the IAEA, including on the relevant nationally applicable IAEA standards on nuclear non-proliferation, safeguards, safety and security in accordance with their respective international legal commitments.
- Training program for officials from ARF countries on non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Non-Proliferation, July 2004.
- IAEA Regional Seminars on the Agency's Safeguards System

for countries in Southeast and South Asia, March 2011 (Singapore).

- ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics, Bangkok, December 2011 (United States and Thailand).
- Second ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics, Bangkok, September 2013 (United States, European Union, and Thailand).
- Seminar on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Non-Proliferation and Security, June 2013 (Viet Nam, Japan).
- Tiger Reef: Cross-Disciplinary Training and Tabletop Exercise, February 2014 (Malaysia, United States).
- Seminar on Nuclear Security Culture, March 2015 (Viet Nam, Japan).
- Ongoing assistance to the ASEAN Centre for Energy (2016-18) to coordinate work of the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network and support activities, measures and frameworks related to enhancing nuclear security in the region (Canada).
- 3rd Annual Meeting of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy, August 2015 (Malaysia, ASEAN participants).
- Final Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Emergency Preparedness in South East Asia, February 2016 (Malaysia, ASEAN participants).

Project proposals under consideration:

- ARF Workshop on Radiological Terrorism.
- Regional Workshop on the Development and Implementation of a Radioactive Waste Management and Annual Meeting, May 2016 (Malaysia, ARF Participants: Bangladesh, China, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam).

Topics for future work:

- Exchange of views and sharing of experience in nuclear safety, nuclear security, and nuclear non-proliferation safeguards.
- Cooperation to prevent acts of nuclear terrorism including through cooperation within the framework of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).
- Encourage effective application of LEU (low-enriched uranium) reactors instead of HEU (highly-enriched uranium) reactors.

Priority Area 3: DISARMAMENT

Goals from the Hanoi Plan of Action:

- Support the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and identify how ARF could contribute to its achievement.
- Support the implementation by ARF Participants of international treaties to which they are parties.
- With a view to contributing to the process of global nuclear

disarmament, ARF Participants might consider the merit of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

- Encourage ARF Participants which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the CWC.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Non-Proliferation, July 2004.
- ARF Seminar on Missile Defense, Bangkok, October 2005 (United States and Thailand).
- Seminar on Non-Proliferation of WMD, Singapore, March 2006 (Singapore, China, and United States).
- ARF Workshop on Promoting Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, September 2015 (Mongolia and Philippines).
- 3rd ARF Workshop on Space Security, Beijing, November-December 2015 (China, Lao PDR, Russia and United States).

Project proposals under consideration:

- Brainstorming meeting on regional Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) on nuclear disarmament
- Capacity-building workshops for any ARF Participants interested in ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Topics for future work:

- Training program for officials from ARF countries on non-proliferation and disarmament issues.
- Encourage ARF Participants to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education which contributes to raising public awareness of the tragic consequences of the use of WMD.
- Exchange of views on ballistic missile development and testing.