

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) NONPROLIFERATION 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 Nonproliferation and Disarmament (ISM-NPD) to address the threats posed by the spread of WMD. Through this step, Ministers sought to ensure that the new ISM 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 Participants' implementation of their Nonproliferation and Disarmament obligations as States Parties to the existing multilateral WMD instruments (NPT, BTWC, and CWC), including the 2004 ARF Jakarta Statement and UNSCR 1540. This workplan supports the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement, as adopted in July 2010.

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

- Promoting full implementation of participants' existing WMD nonproliferation 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 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 Workplan that addresses the goals identified above and that promotes balance to the three central pillars of the global nonproliferation regime:

preventing proliferation of WMD, promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology, and advancing global disarmament efforts.

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

- 1. Nonproliferation**
- 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 co-chairs may develop a roster of focal points of ARF Participants on WMD issues to facilitate networking and information sharing.

Implementation Timeline:

- June 2009: China, Singapore, and the United States hold first ISM in Beijing, focusing on nonproliferation.
- July 2010: China, Singapore, and the United States hold second ISM in Singapore, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology.
- February 2011: China, Singapore, and the United States hold third ISM in Las Vegas, focusing on disarmament.
- March 2012: Australia, Japan and Philippines hold fourth ISM in Sydney, Australia.
- 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.

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: NONPROLIFERATION

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 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their destruction.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Nonproliferation, July 2004
- Workshop on Export Licensing, November 2005 (Singapore and Canada)
- CBM on Nonproliferation of WMD, March 2006 (Singapore, China, and United States)
- First Workshop on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, February 2007 (United States, Canada, and Singapore)
- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement Supporting National Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, June 2007
- Second ASEAN Regional Forum CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, May 2013 (United States and Thailand)

Project proposals under consideration:

- (Pending submission of proposals by ARF 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 nonproliferation, safeguards, safety and security in accordance with their respective international legal commitments.

- Training program for officials from ARF countries on nonproliferation and disarmament issues.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Nonproliferation, July 2004
- Two IAEA Regional Seminars on the Agency's Safeguards System for countries in Southeast and South Asia, March 2011 (Singapore)
- Workshop on Nuclear Forensics, December 2011 (United States and Thailand)
- Second Workshop on Nuclear Forensics, September 2013 (United States, European Union, and Thailand)
- Tiger Reef: Cross-Disciplinary Training and Tabletop Exercise, February 2014 (Malaysia, United States)

Project proposals under consideration:

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- ARF Workshop on Radiological Terrorism
- Third Workshop on Nuclear Forensics, November 2014 (United States, European Union, and TBO, pending approval of Ministers, at 21st ARF)

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 GICNT.

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 CTBT.
- Encourage ARF participants which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their destruction.

Other goals:

- Encourage ARF Participants which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Non-proliferation, July 2004

- CBM on Missile Defense, October 2005 (United States, Thailand)
- CBM on Nonproliferation of WMD, March 2006 (Singapore, China, and United States)

Project proposals under consideration:

- (Brainstorming meeting on promoting Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status at the regional level)

Topics for future work:

- Training program for officials from ARF countries on nonproliferation 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.