

## **ARF ISM on CTTC, Vietnam, 16-17 March 2012**

### **New Zealand intervention**

Thank you co-chairs. On behalf of the Government of New Zealand, I would like to express my thanks to our Vietnamese and Canadian co-chairs for the fine arrangements for this meeting, and for their gracious hospitality.

We are very pleased to be able to participate in these important discussions, to give our views on trends in counter terrorism and transnational crime, and to provide an overview of New Zealand's efforts to engage in this area.

New Zealand is a founding member of the ARF and recognises the valuable role it has played as a focal point for security discussions for many years. Within the ARF, New Zealand is currently Co-Chairing the ISG on Confidence Building Measures and Preventative Diplomacy.

Although significant progress has been made in countering the terrorist threat in Southeast Asia and further afield, the potential for further attacks and other terrorist activity clearly remains. The evolving nature of the threat towards ad hoc attacks, on occasion by small unaffiliated groups, is indicative of the enduring menace of terrorist activity, and poses new challenges for partners in working towards security in the region.

In a broader sense, the global terrorist threat is ongoing. New Zealand is committed to international cooperation efforts, but recognises that states' domestic approaches to law enforcement and countering violent extremism play an equally vital role in reducing this security threat.

Transnational crime is also an important feature of the regional security picture. Trafficking in persons, terrorist financing and border controls remain problematic, and the threat from cyber-crime and cyber terrorism is increasing.

New Zealand undertakes a variety of capacity building activities in South East Asia, many of which are tailored to align with the ARF's Work Plan for Counter Terrorism

and Transnational Crime. This is in addition to the ASEAN-New Zealand Work Programme, which falls under the NZ/ASEAN Framework for Cooperation on CT and Transnational Crime. Since last year's ISM on CTTC, for example:

- New Zealand has supported a range of initiatives aimed at countering extremist messages and recruitment into terrorism, including the recently-concluded 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue, for which the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia are also co-sponsors.
- We have cooperated with the United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate to provide a workshop on preventing the operation of cash couriers within Southeast Asia, and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to improve collaboration between police and prosecutors in the prosecution of terrorists.
- New Zealand provided expertise for an Australian-organised workshop on the Security of Homemade Explosive Precursors, and co-sponsored with the Australians a regional seminar and table-top exercise on public messaging and media crisis management in the event of a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack.
- In the area of law enforcement, New Zealand is once again looking to provide trainers to take part in the Model Police Station Project being undertaken in the Philippines this year.
- New Zealand is also active bilaterally with SE Asian partners with targeted CT cooperation activities.

New Zealand is also working to strengthen our maritime security presence. We hosted a Pacific Maritime Surveillance Workshop in Auckland in 2011, which provided an opportunity to improve coordination between maritime surveillance providers, Pacific Island countries and regional institutions. Our Defence Force is increasing its maritime surveillance for the Pacific, along with Australia's, and regionally, we continue to invest in Pacific Islands Countries' fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance capabilities.

New Zealand recognises the growing threats to maritime security such as international terrorism, people smuggling and trafficking in persons, natural disasters, sea piracy and the illicit production and trafficking in drugs and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We support the development of a constructive engagement on this cutting-edge issue in the ARF.

The issue of people smuggling, particularly by sea, and trafficking in persons is of real concern. New Zealand is working with regional partners to combat this scourge through the Bali process. In May/June this year New Zealand is sponsoring a people smuggling capacity-building workshop for Indonesia and other regional partners at JCLEC. The focus will be on training police forces in the people smuggling investigative field to improve the obtaining of useable evidence for trial with the objective of increasing the number of successful prosecutions of people smugglers.

Finally, New Zealand is a member of the new Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and looks forward to contributing to the South East Asia Working Group, co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia (for which the inaugural meeting took place last week).

New Zealand will continue actively to support CT work, particularly through capacity building in our region, bilaterally and regionally, and we look forward to our discussions on how we can work together to address these security issues.