

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum
Intersessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and
Preventive Diplomacy
Ottawa, Canada, 3-4 April 2008**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Manila on 2 August 2007, the second meeting of the Intersessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM and PD) was held in Ottawa on 3-4 April 2008. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Donald Sinclair, Director General of International Security, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, and Pengiran Dato Osman Patra, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.

2. Representatives from all ARF countries, except the DPRK, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste, attended the Meeting. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat was also present, as were representatives from the OSCE and CSCAP. The ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was held on 1 April. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as **ANNEX 1**, the Programme of Activities as **ANNEX 2**, and the List of Participants as **ANNEX 3**.

Briefing on the Outcome of the Defense Officials' Dialogue (DOD)

3. On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the ARF DOD, Major General Christopher Davis, Director General, International Security Policy, Department of National Defence, Canada, briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD Defence Officials' Dialogue, which was held at the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Canada, on 2 April 2008. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Major-General Christopher and Dr. Haji Emran Haji Bahar, Deputy Permanent Secretary 1, Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam. Participants shared views on current challenges being faced by ARF defence establishments and discussed how they can add further value to the ARF process in the future. Attached as **ANNEX 4** is the Co-Chairs' Summary report of the DOD.

**Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Security Situation,
and Non-Traditional Security Issues**

Regional Issues

4. Participants noted that the further integration of the ASEAN Community and the healthy relations between the major powers in the region have ensured a positive trend in regional security in the region. The Meeting welcomed and showed strong support for the landmark endorsement of the ASEAN Charter

which conferred a legal nature on the organisation and reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law. Participants agreed that the principles of the ASEAN Charter, and the development of ASEAN as a caring and sharing community, including the reliance on the peaceful settlement of disputes, the adherence to the rule of law, good governance, the principles of democracy, and constitutional government, and the respect for the different cultures, languages and religions of the peoples of ASEAN, are fundamental to the development of ASEAN as a unified and peaceful organization. The Meeting expressed support for the establishment of an ASEAN human rights body as a positive force in the development of regional standards of conduct on human rights protection. Participants encouraged the early ratification of the ASEAN Charter. Participants stressed strong support for the development of ASEAN's Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Community blueprints and desired to see their early adoption to complement the Economic Community blueprint already in place.

5. Participants congratulated Pakistan for conducting orderly, peaceful elections with fair results under very difficult circumstances. They expressed their belief that democracy and effective government offer the best hope not only for the Pakistani people but also for security for both the country and the region.

6. The Meeting welcomed the positive trends in the South China Seas and the ongoing follow-up towards the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea which should lead to the adoption of a Code of Conduct. The members welcomed ASEAN and China's willingness to coordinate further to promote cooperation in the South China Sea and to maintain a concerted effort to build peace and stability in the region.

7. A number of participants expressed their deep concern about the situation in Myanmar, including with respect to human rights. Myanmar briefed on the situation in that country, including the recent announcement that a referendum on a new constitution will be held and elections scheduled. However, some participants noted that in order to allow for true national reconciliation, all concerned parties, including members of the concerned parties and ethnic minorities, must be included in the constitutional and electoral process, but have not been to date. Participants called upon Myanmar to release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and stressed the need for meaningful national reconciliation leading to a government that is responsible and accountable to the people of Myanmar.

8. Participants urged Myanmar to work with the United Nations, ASEAN, and the international community to make meaningful and expeditious progress towards democratic reform and national reconciliation. The Meeting expressed its strongest support for the efforts of the United Nations' Secretary General's Special Envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, and for those of the Special Rapporteur on the

Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro. Participants particularly encourage the Government of Myanmar to work with Mr. Gambari to ensure his earliest return to Myanmar.

9. The Meeting reiterated the key importance of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula to regional stability. Participants renewed their calls for progress in the Six-Party Talks, confirming its vital contribution to the negotiation of a peaceful resolution to the nuclear issue. Participants expressed concern over the failure of the DPRK to meet the requirements for a declaration of its nuclear programmes. The Meeting expressed hope that further progress will be forthcoming expeditiously in accordance with the agreement on second-phase actions and encouraged all parties to fulfill all obligations under the agreements reached in the Six Party Talks. The Meeting also expressed the expectation that the completion of the second phase and the commencement of the dismantlement phase will help to lay the foundation for lasting peace and confidence in the region. Participants further urged the DPRK to address the humanitarian concerns of the international community.

10. Participants took note of the second inter-Korean summit between the Leader of the DPRK, Kim Jong Il and the President of the Republic of Korea, Roh Moo-hyun, in Pyongyang on Oct. 2-4, 2007.

11. Participants expressed their shock at, and condemnation of, the recent assassination attempts against the President and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and were glad to hear that the President is expected to make a full recovery. A number of participants deplored these attacks against the democratic institutions of the country, and voiced their confidence in the Timorese government and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, with the support of The International Stabilization Force, to maintain law and order during this difficult time, and bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice.

12. The Meeting further noted that ongoing international support to Timor-Leste is needed and that there was still much to be done to develop the country's security forces and that coordinated international assistance was likely to be required for some time to come.

International Issues

13. The Meeting underlined its continued support for the efforts to promote stability, good governance and reconstruction in Afghanistan and welcomed members' efforts to bring stability and security to Afghanistan. The Meeting recognised the efforts that Pakistan and other Participants are making to address issues such as trade and transport links, drug-trafficking, refugees, security and economic development and encouraged further efforts in this regard.

14. Some Participants welcomed the resumption of the peace process following the Annapolis Conference and commended the leadership of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert in working towards a peace agreement as the only means to a comprehensive solution. Participants recognised the important role of the Quartet and reaffirmed their support for the Roadmap as the basis of negotiations and urged the parties to fully implement their commitments to include the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security. They also welcomed the strong support of the international community for Palestinian reform and development, as demonstrated at the Paris donors' conference and called for coordination in implementing their pledges. The Meeting expressed deep concern about the recent violence, the deaths of Palestinian and Israeli civilians and the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

15. Participants welcomed the reduced levels of violence in Iraq and reaffirmed their support for the Iraqi government and its efforts in pursuit of a secure, stable, prosperous, and unified country and to further reduce sectarian violence. Participants acknowledged recent legislative progress while recognising the need for the Iraqi government to take further steps in order to address outstanding issues and achieve political reconciliation. Iraq's neighbours were encouraged to play a constructive role in promoting stability in Iraq and the wider region.

16. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1803 on March 3 2008, adopted in response to Iran's failure to comply with its international obligations under Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747, in particular, suspension of uranium enrichment. Participants also welcomed the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding its work with Iran to resolve outstanding questions with regard to its nuclear program. While non-conclusive, the Agency's latest report indicates notable progress which highlights the legitimacy of its efforts and demonstrates that a robust verification system can produce results. Recognising the rights and obligations of all nations to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Meeting called on Iran to cooperate fully and transparently with the IAEA on all outstanding issues. Participants also fully endorsed the IAEA Director General's calls on Iran to take steps to build confidence in its nuclear program by implementing its Additional Protocol. The Participants urged all parties to work for a peaceful, negotiated and diplomatic settlement to the issue and urged Iran to play a positive role in the region.

17. Some Participants expressed their concern for the political crisis plaguing Lebanon and their continued support for the Government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora during this difficult period. Support was also expressed for efforts to resolve the crisis including the Arab League Initiative led by Secretary General Amr Moussa, which calls for the immediate election of a Lebanese president. Some Participants stressed the urgent need to establish the Special Tribunal,

which is a key step in ending the culture of impunity that has taken hold in Lebanon.

18. Participants were encouraged by recent developments in the Solomon Islands and noted South Pacific regional encouragement for Fiji to return to constitutional and democratic governance.

Non-Traditional Security Issues

19. A number of participants underlined that the continued fight against terrorism was of paramount importance to the region and recognised the key role played by the ARF in combating terrorism. Participants stressed the need to forge regional and international cooperation to address counter-terrorism, and identified the need for greater cooperation to facilitate the fight against terrorism and related activities while respecting international law and human rights. The Meeting reaffirmed that terrorism is not associated with any specific religious, ethnic or cultural group.

20. Security threats also highlighted at the Meeting included: human trafficking as well as trafficking in illicit drugs and firearms; money laundering and the financing of terrorism; cyber-crime; and challenges to maritime security and cyber-security. The Meeting heard of recent efforts to address these challenges and encouraged continued cooperation through, among others, workshops, working groups, and international conferences (e.g. the sixth ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime in February 2008 and the Republic of Korea's proposal for an ARF Virtual Working Group on Cyber-Security and Cyber-Terrorism). Participants noted the importance of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and UN Conventions and relevant Security Council Resolutions in the fight against terrorism.

21. Participants stressed the importance of ensuring clarity in the roles and responsibility of actors at all levels in responding effectively to disasters within the region. In this regard, the ISG welcomed the outcome of the Seventh ARF Intersessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) held in Helsinki, Finland on 11-12 October 2007 and co-chaired by Indonesia and the EU. The Meeting highlighted the positive efforts of Australia, China, the European Union, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United States in contributing to interim efforts to further the work of the ARF in disaster relief. Members noted with appreciation the initiative by Australia and Indonesia to develop standard operating procedures for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and welcomed the ARF Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief, which will be held in Jakarta on 1 – 2 May 2008. They also took note of the Standby Arrangement being developed by Indonesia and the U.S. and welcomed plans by the Philippines and the U.S. for a 2009 Disaster Relief Exercise.

22. The Meeting noted the forthcoming 2nd ARF Seminar on Energy Security in Singapore will provide important momentum to facilitate a dialogue and cooperative effort on a broad array of energy issues and policy concerns, with security implications, including: meeting trade, investment and infrastructure needs; diversification through developing renewable and alternative energy sources; promotion of clean and energy efficient technologies; and physical security. The Meeting noted the work of other organizations such as APEC on this issue.

23. Many participants stressed the importance of countering the spread of WMD and highlighted the important contributions ARF can make. They welcomed the positive progress on the proposal to establish an Intersessional Meeting on Non-proliferation and Disarmament and recent workshops on small arms and light weapons, landmines and the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

24. The Meeting welcomed further discussion on proposals to establish an Intersessional Meeting on Maritime Security in recognition of the importance of increasing technical cooperation and sustainable ARF action to address the increasing threats to shipping and similar issues. The Meeting looked forward to the ASEAN concept paper on the establishment of an ISM on Maritime Security and noted Indonesia's proposal to submit the draft before the SOM for review and further endorsement by ministers.

25. Some participants also noted the challenges arising from issues such as climate change and communicable diseases such as avian and pandemic influenza and indicated their continued interest in working to address these in cooperation with ARF members.

26. The Meeting welcomed the US presentation on the concept of a CTTC workplan. Participants will send their comments on the concept paper to the US by April 30. Both the concept paper and a presentation were submitted.

Review of the ARF

27. Singapore presented on the revised paper on the Review of the ARF, and expressed appreciation to all the ARF participating countries for providing comments which had helped make the paper more substantive. Singapore had incorporated as many comments as possible, and appealed to ARF members to exercise as much flexibility as possible. Key points included the emphasis on the important roles of both ASEAN and non-ASEAN ARF participants, and the proposed development of a Vision Statement for the ARF. Singapore requested that further comments be submitted by 18 April, so that a revised draft could be prepared in time for the ARF SOM on 9 May. Singapore also informed that in response to suggestions by some ARF members, it was prepared to table a draft Declaration to mark the 15th ARF in Singapore.

28. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance and timeliness of the paper, and stressed the need to finalise the paper in time for the Ministers' consideration at the 15th ARF. Participants also supported the proposal to develop a Vision Statement for the ARF over the next 12-18 months, which would help to articulate the forum's long term goals. In addition, participants agreed that a Declaration should be issued to mark the 15th ARF, and that this could reflect the achievements of the ARF and reaffirm the Minister's commitment to push the ARF process forward. Singapore affirmed that it would put up a draft Declaration for ARF members' consideration before the ARF SOM. The EU announced it intends to circulate a revised version of its proposal to improve ARF working methods in support of the review paper.

Review and Consideration of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Preventive Diplomacy

29. The Meeting noted a list of activities implemented or updated since the Brunei Darussalam ISG in November 2007:

- a. European Union / Cambodia – ARF Workshop on Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Cambodia December 13th-14th 2007. (Annex 5)
- b. Singapore – Second ARF Peacekeeping on Experts' Meeting in Singapore in March 2008, co-hosted by New Zealand. (Annex 6)
- c. European Union – Workshop on Confidence Building Measures and Preventative Diplomacy in Asia and Europe in Berlin, Germany March 12th – 14th, 2008, co-hosted with Indonesia. (Annex 7)
- d. Republic of Korea – 4th ARF Seminar on Cyber Terrorism in Busan, October 16-19th, 2007. (Annex 8)
- e. India – Maritime Security training Programme in Chennai March 24-29, 2008.
- f. Indonesia – 6th Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime in Semarang, Indonesia, February 21-22nd, 2008, co-hosted by India.

30. Remaining activities for the intersessional year 2007-2008, to be implemented before the July 2008 Ministerial meeting:

- a. Malaysia – to host with the European Union a meeting on Anti-personnel mines. (Annex 9)
- b. Indonesia – to host ARF Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief May 1-2nd, 2008, co-host Australia. (Annex 10) Draft ARF Standard Operating Procedures for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief were tabled. (Annex 11)
- c. Singapore – to host Energy Security meeting with the European Union April 15-17th, 2008.

31. Announcements of activities for the intersessional year 2008-2009, to be reviewed by the SOM before being forwarded for Ministerial approval:
 - a. Australia - A draft statement on the Prevention of Diversion of Precursors in to Illicit Drug Manufacture was distributed. (Annex 12)
 - b. Australia – to host with Indonesia an ARF conference on Terrorist Use of the Internet. (Annex 13)
 - c. Indonesia – to host 8th ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on Disaster Relief in December 2008 in Banda Aceh, co-hosted by the European Union. (Annex 14)
 - d. European Union – First Draft measures to enhance Maritime Security, proposed activity for October 2008. (Annex 15)
 - e. United States – Workshop on Building Capacities on Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity, for Fall 2008 or Spring 2009. (Annex 16)
 - f. Thailand – Regional Workshop to coordinate on Stabilization and Reconstruction Issues in ASEAN Regional Forum, co-hosted by the United States to take place in Thailand in September, 2008. (Annex 17)
 - g. European Union – Proposed ARF Seminar on Climate Change and International Security in 2nd half of 2008. (Annex 18)
 - h. Vietnam – to host Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime ISM with co-chair Republic of Korea in 1st half of 2009.
 - i. China – ARF Seminar on Law and Regulations of International Disaster Relief in Beijing during first half of 2009.
 - j. India – to hold a follow-up event in 2009 to the Chennai Maritime Security Training Programme.

32. Proposed Activities to take place in 2008-2009:
 - a. Republic of Korea – Proposed the establishment of an ARF Virtual Working Group Network and presented a concept paper. (Annex 19)
 - b. Indonesia – Proposed establishment of ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on Maritime Security. (Annex 20)
 - c. United States – Proposal to establish an ISM on Non-proliferation and Disarmament in the ASEAN Regional Forum, co-chairs China and Singapore. Proposed activity in first half of 2009. (Annex 21)
 - d. United States – Workplan for Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime proposed. Second draft distributed. (Annex 22)
 - e. Japan – Proposed Best Practices Reference Paper for Peace-Building and co-hosting a Peacebuilding meeting with Singapore. (Annex 23)
 - f. China – 3rd Experts and Eminent Persons meeting in Beijing in October 2008.

33. Voluntary Briefings

- a. Japan – 7th Sub-committee of the Tokyo Defence Forum on Peacebuilding in February 2008. (Annex 24)

Future Direction of ARF

ARF Study on Preventive Diplomacy

34. On behalf of CSCAP and his Co-Chair, Mr Chong Guan Kwa of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Mr Ralph Cossa Pacific Forum CSIS and Co-Chair of the Study Group on Preventive Diplomacy and the Future of the ASEAN Regional Forum briefed the Meeting progress on the Study on Preventive Diplomacy their Institutes are conducting on behalf of the ARF and their initial recommendations. Participants welcomed the briefing and the opportunity to review the full study draft Study ahead of the SOM. Participants stressed the need for further ARF review and implementation of appropriate study recommendations. CSCAP expressed its willingness to consider establishing new study groups based on ARF needs and solicited feedback on Regional Security Outlook for 2007.

Links with other Organisations

Enhancing Ties between Track I and Track II

35. The Meeting welcomed a briefing by Chong Guan Kwa on behalf of the CSCAP Co-Chairs on the outcomes of the SCAP Steering Committee Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 December 2007, the activities of its study groups the Memorandum on Facilitating Maritime Knowledge and Awareness: Basic Foundations of Maritime Security adopted since the Brunei ISG.

Enhancing Ties Between ARF and other regional and International Security Organisations

36. Mr Oleksandr Pavlyuk, Head of the External Co-operation Section at the Secretariat of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) gave a presentation to the Meeting on the scope for further cooperation between the ARF and OSCE. Areas of common interest were noted and, in welcoming the briefing, Participants looked forward to further opportunities to share experiences.

EEPs

37. The Republic of Korea and the Philippines circulated the draft assessment of the practicability of the recommendations put forth as a result of the Second EEPs Plenary Meeting held in Manila in February, 2007 following the direction of the Ministers at the 14th ARF, and requested comments from Participants on the draft so it can be revised ahead of the SOM.

Other Matters:

Preparations for the SOM and Ministerial Meetings

38. Singapore briefed Participants on preparations for the ARF SOM that will be held 9 May, 2008 in Singapore and and the 15th ASEAN Regional Forum ministerial meeting that will be held on 24 July in Singapore.

39. Singapore reminded Participants to submit their input to the ARF Annual Security Outlook by 31 May, 2008 in order to allow for their submission to ARF ministers in July. The Meeting also welcomed Singapore's proposals to streamline the agenda for the SOM in order to facilitate more substantive and effective exchanges and supported Singapore's proposed agenda.

40. The Meeting welcomed Singapore and the Republic of Korea's assumption of the Co-Chairmanship of the Intersessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy for the 2008-2009 session.