

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM 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 recognised 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 emphasised 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 emphasised 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 organising 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 organisations 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 organisations and were briefed on enhancing linkages between the ARF and ASEAN-ISIS, CSCAP and other organisations.

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 organisations. 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 utilisation 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 finalising 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 Organisation.
- 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.