

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 in 2008, Ministers agreed to the establishment of an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) to address the threats posed by the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Through this step, Ministers sought to ensure that the ISM on 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 Statement on Non-Proliferation and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540. This Work Plan supports the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement adopted in July 2010 in Viet Nam, the ARF Work Plan on NPD adopted at the 19th ARF in Phnom Penh in July 2012 and the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025) adopted in 2020.

Goals of the ISM on 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 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: To create 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 on NPD should allow for focused discussion on 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 on NPD co-chairs.

During the annual ISM on 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 Participants may seek assistance from donors as projects progress.

As necessary, the ISM on 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, July 2009, focusing on non-proliferation (Singapore, China and the United States).
- Second ISM, Singapore, July 2010, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology (Singapore, China and the United States).
- Third ISM, Las Vegas, February 2011, focusing on disarmament (Singapore, China and the United States).
- Fourth ISM, Sydney, March 2012, focusing on non-proliferation (Philippines, Australia and Japan).
- May 2012: ARF Senior Officials discussed the NPD Work Plan and endorsed for Ministerial consideration.
- July 2012: 19th ARF approves NPD Work Plan. Projects could begin.
- Fifth ISM, Manila, June 2013, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology (Philippines, Australia and Japan).
- Sixth ISM, Tokyo, July 2014, focusing on disarmament (Philippines, Australia and Japan).
- Seventh ISM, Kuala Lumpur, June 2015, focusing on non-proliferation (Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand).
- Eighth ISM, Putrajaya, April 2016, focusing on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology (Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand).
- Ninth ISM, Auckland, March 2017, focusing on disarmament (Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand).
- Tenth ISM, Seoul, April 2018, focusing on non-proliferation (Indonesia, Japan and Republic of Korea).
- Eleventh ISM, Bali, April 2019, (Indonesia, Japan and Republic of Korea).
- Twelfth ISM, Video Conference, June 2021, (Indonesia, Japan and Republic of Korea).
- Thirteenth ISM, Video Conference, April 2022, (Thailand, Sri Lanka and the United States)

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 Participants. 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 Ha Noi Plan of Action II:

- Consider to develop initiatives with a view to contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Where appropriate and consistent with national policies, support the compliance with and implementation by ARF Participants of international treaties on non-proliferation and disarmament and the Conventions on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism to which they are parties.
- Encourage Nuclear Weapon States and States Parties to the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty to work constructively with a view to ensuring the early accession of the nuclear weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty.
- Strengthen cooperation by encouraging compliance with and adherence to, as well as promoting exchange of views on universalisation, implementation, and strengthening of the BTWC and the CWC, and enhancing support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- Encourage the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the work of ISM on NPD as well as the implementation of the subsequent relevant UNSCRs. Promote the exchange of views, sharing of best practices and experiences, as well as cooperate to develop capacity in export controls to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, where appropriate.

- Promote the exchange of views on space security, in particular the prevention of an arms race in outer space as well as relevant transparency and confidence-building measures to ensure the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
- Utilize, where appropriate, the work of national, regional think tanks, including CSCAP as well as the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to assist the work of the ISM on NPD to enhance cooperation.
- Underline the importance of the ARF Work Plan on NPD and enhance the implementation to promote the continuity of works in this area of cooperation.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF 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 the United States).
- First ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, San Francisco, February 2007 (Singapore, Canada and the United States).
- ARF Statement Supporting National Implementation of UNSCR 1540, August 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 (Thailand and the United States).
- ARF Workshop on Countering Illicit Trafficking of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Materials, Manila, November 2013 (Philippines and Canada).
- 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 Participants)
- 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 Participants)
- Thailand Consortium: Trade Controls on Weapons of Mass Destruction related items (TCWMD) 2017, July 2017 (Thailand, New Zealand, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Australia, Philippines, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Japan, United States, Germany, China, Mexico, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mongolia)
- Regional Dialogue on "Promoting Global Peace and Prosperity through Chemical Safety and Security: Celebrating 20 Years of the CWC and the OPCW," July 2017 (Thailand with the support of Indonesia, Lao PDR,

Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Viet Nam, Japan, Republic of Korea and OPCW)

- Training for the 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia and Pacific Region, August 2017 (China, ASEAN participants, Timor Leste)
- South-East Asian Workshop on Global Challenges to Successful Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and Regional Efforts to Address Them, September 2017 (Thailand and UNRCPD)
- Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) “Destiny Elephant” Nuclear Forensics Exercise, March 2018 (Thailand, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, EU, Finland, Hungary, Indonesia, Interpol, IAEA, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam)

Project proposals under consideration:

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 Ha Noi Plan of Action II:

- Promote ARF contributions to the development of peaceful uses of CBRN technology, including in the energy, health, agriculture and manufacturing sectors through sharing of national experiences and best practices. Enhance assistance through capacity building in cooperation with relevant international and regional organisations, especially the IAEA, and the OPCW including on the relevant nationally applicable internationally agreed standards and guidelines on non-proliferation, safeguards, safety and security in accordance with their respective international legal commitments.
- Promote the sharing of national experiences and assisting in capacity building on nuclear security through regional Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres or Centres of Excellence, where appropriate. Explore the feasibility of further cooperation mechanism among ARF Participants in enhancing nuclear security through existing platforms and resources.
- Promote cooperation on information sharing and experience, best practices, capacity building activities, and exploring the possibility of developing early warning capacity on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear safety, security and risk reduction among ARF Participants.
- Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national, regional think tanks, including CSCAP as well as the ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ISM on NPD to enhance cooperation.
- Underline the importance of the ARF Work Plan on NPD and enhance the implementation to promote the continuity of works in this area of cooperation.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF 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 (Thailand and the United States).
- Second ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation Nuclear Forensics, Bangkok, September 2013 (Thailand, United States and European Union).
- Seminar on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Non-Proliferation and Security, June 2013 (Viet Nam and Japan).
- Tiger Reef: Cross-Disciplinary Training and Tabletop Exercise, February 2014 (Malaysia and the United States).
- Seminar on Nuclear Security Culture, March 2015 (Viet Nam and 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).
- Third Annual Meeting of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), August 2015 (Malaysia and ASEAN participants).
- Final Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Emergency Preparedness in South East Asia, February 2016 (Malaysia and ASEAN participants).
- Fifth ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety, March 2018 (China).
- Neutron Symposium with AONSA, November 2017 (Thailand and ASEAN participants).
- Workshop on Research Reactor's end users' community network in ASEAN, March 2018 (Thailand and ASEAN Participants).
- Second Meeting of the ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research (NPSR), March 2018 (Thailand and ASEAN participants).
- The ASEAN Next 2017: Smart Community through Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Collaboration & ASEANTOM Workshop on Capacity Building and Strengthening the Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security Network in the ASEAN Region, March 2017 (Thailand).
- Fourth Annual Meeting of ASEANTOM, December 2017 (Philippines).
- Moving Forward Together with Ionising Radiation Metrology: Workshop on Quality Audit for Radiation Protection Calibration for Standard Dosimetry Laboratory in South East Asia Region, March 2018 (Thailand).
- RAS9077 Supporting Regional Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Member States of ASEAN Region to develop and implement emergency preparedness and response arrangements both at the national and regional levels to protect the people and the environment, in case of a severe nuclear and radiological incident, 2016 – 2019.
- ARF High-Level Symposium on Nuclear Security Capability Building, November 2019 (Cambodia and China).

Project proposals under consideration:

- ARF Table-Top Exercise on Response Capabilities to CBRN Incidents (Philippines, Republic of Korea and the United States)
- ARF Training and on Developing Exercises to counter CBRN Terrorism (Philippines and the United States)

- ARF Workshop on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Safety and Security Standards and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology (Viet Nam and the United States)

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.
- Exchange of views on promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy in non-power areas including human health, food and agriculture, environment, as well as industrial applications.
- Exchange in views and mechanism formation regarding facility sharing, under the umbrella of the ASEAN Large Nuclear and Synchrotron Facility Network (LNSN) (Annual meetings with ASEAN delegates)
- Exchange in views and research cooperation under the umbrella of the ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research (NPSR) (Annual meetings with ASEAN delegates)

Priority Area 3: DISARMAMENT

Goals from the Ha Noi Plan of Action II:

- Consider to develop initiatives with a view to contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Where appropriate and consistent with national policies, support the compliance with and implementation by ARF participants of international treaties on non-proliferation and disarmament and the Conventions on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism to which they are parties.
- Strengthen cooperation by encouraging compliance with and adherence to, as well as promoting exchange of views on universalisation, implementation, and strengthening of the BTWC and the CWC, and enhancing support for the OPCW.
- Support regional and national efforts toward the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
- Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national, regional think tanks, including CSCAP as well as the ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ISM on NPD to enhance cooperation.
- Underline the importance of the ARF Work Plan on NPD and enhance the implementation to promote the continuity of works in this area of cooperation.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Non-Proliferation, July 2004.
- ARF Seminar on Missile Defense, Bangkok, October 2005 (Thailand and the United States).

- Seminar on Non-Proliferation of WMD, Singapore, March 2006 (Singapore, China and the United States).
- ARF Workshop on Promoting Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, September 2015 (Philippines and Mongolia).
- Third ARF Workshop on Space Security, Beijing, November-December 2015 (Lao PDR, China, Russia and the United States).
- ARF Workshop on Nuclear Risk Reduction, Video Conference, November 2020 (Philippines and Australia).

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 signing and 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.