



CO-CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY (ARF ISG ON CBMs AND PD)

31 May 2023, Dili, Timor-Leste

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Rolliansyah Soemirat, Director for ASEAN Political Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, and Ms. Elisa Maria da Silva, Director for ASEAN Political and Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Timor-Leste. The Meeting was attended by representatives from all ARF Participants, except for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

2. In their Opening Remarks, the Co-Chairs welcomed all ARF Participants to the first ARF ISG on CBMs and PD convened physically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Co-Chairs emphasised that for thirty years, the ARF has successfully served as a venue for exchange of views in the region that advocates the principles of dialogue and mutual respect, with ASEAN as the driving force. The Co-Chairs further underlined that through the lens of preventive diplomacy, these principles should be reinforced to further elevate the ARF's collective efforts to prevent conflict, mitigate risks, foster trust and understanding, as well as shape the future of regional peace and stability. In this regard, the Co-Chairs requested ARF Participants to refrain from touching on issues that are beyond the agenda of the meeting and expressed hope for an open, constructive, forward-thinking dialogue based on the spirit of confidence building measures and mutual respect, with the objective of providing sound recommendations to the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and subsequently to the ARF Ministers.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

4. The Meeting noted the Administrative Arrangements, which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORTS OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS, PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARF WORK PLANS, AND PREPARATIONS OF OTHER ARF MEETINGS

4.1. 5th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of ICTs and ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs

5. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 5th ARF ISM on ICTs Security, co-chaired by Indonesia, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Russia on 28 April 2023 in Moscow, Russia in hybrid format. It was noted that three proposals for ICTs Security related activities were submitted for the consideration of ARF Participants, namely the proposals for: (i) ARF Workshop on Capacity-Building in the Field of Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes proposed by Myanmar and Russia; (ii) ARF Concept Paper on National Survey of Implementation of UN Recommendations on Responsible Use of ICTs by States in the Context of International Security, proposed by Malaysia, Singapore and Australia; and (iii) ARF Workshop on Protection of Critical Infrastructures proposed by Singapore and the European Union (EU).

6. The Meeting further noted that as approved by the 29th ARF in 2022, the following activities are scheduled to be held in the current Inter-Sessional Year (ISY): (i) ARF Workshop Series on Terminology in the Field of Security of and in the Use of ICTs in the Context of Confidence Building, co-chaired by Cambodia and Russia, scheduled to be held in June 2023 via video conference; (ii) the ARF Series of Workshops on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes, co-chaired by Thailand, China and Russia, scheduled to be held in the Summer of 2023 in hybrid format; and (iii) the ARF Workshop on Fostering Professionals in the Field of Security of and in the Use of ICTs, co-chaired by Viet Nam and the ROK, scheduled to be held on 13 June 2023 in person in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

7. The Meeting was informed that Australia has made the decision to withdraw from the co-chairmanship of the ARF ISM on ICTs Security for the next ISY. Recalling the decision of the 28th ARF in 2021 on the special one-off arrangement for Indonesia, Australia, the ROK and Russia to take up the co-chairmanship of the ARF ISM on ICTs

Security on a rotational basis, the Meeting noted that withdrawal of co-chairmanship of ARF meetings and activities would only be applicable in this instance and will not set a precedent. The Meeting further noted that collective efforts to ensure continued cooperation in the area of ICTs Security are needed and looked forward to the successful convening of the next ARF ISM on ICTs Security in the ISY 2023-2024.

4.2. 14th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ARF ISM on NPD) and the ARF Work Plan on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

8. Co-chaired by Thailand, Sri Lanka and the United States, the Meeting noted that discussion at the 14th ARF ISM on NPD held on 16-17 May 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in hybrid format, were focused on the topics of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, disarmament, and non-proliferation with presentations on, among others, application of non-destructive testing such as radiation for cancer therapy, new advanced and clean nuclear technologies such as small modular reactor technologies, impact of climate change, the benefits of strategic trade management, as well as challenges to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It was also noted that members of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) Study Group on NPD briefed the ISM on their key findings on the importance of the Indo-Pacific region and global security future.

9. The Meeting noted that two activities on NPD have been convened, namely the 2nd ARF Workshop on Nuclear Risk Reduction co-chaired by the Philippines and Australia in March 2023, and the ARF Workshop on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Safety and Security Standards and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology co-chaired by Viet Nam and the United States in April 2023. It was further noted that the ISM on NPD discussed the draft Guidance Document on Nuclear Risk Reduction and the draft ARF Statement on Nuclear Risk Reduction. The ISM on NPD also took note of Japan's proposal for the convening of an ARF workshop on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and that the United States is intending to propose a workshop on capacity building for the prosecution and investigation of proliferation cases. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 15th ARF ISM on NPD in the first half of 2024, to be hosted by the United States.

4.3. 21st ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ARF ISM on DR) and the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2021-2023

10. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 21st ARF ISM on DR held via video conference on 23 May 2023, co-chaired by Lao PDR, Canada and China, including the progress of the implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. It was noted that thus far, two activities have been convened under the ambit of this ISM including the ARF Earthquake Response Exercise on Urban Search and Rescue, co-

chaired by Cambodia and China in June 2022 and the 5th ARF Workshop on Urban Search and Rescue co-chaired by Lao PDR and China in November 2022. The ISM on DR also exchanged views on the importance of people-centred working mechanism and shared best practices on disaster relief efforts at the global level, and underlined the importance of disaster emergency logistics system in the region.

11. Noting the difficulties of disaster response during the pandemic, the ISM on DR was of the view that further efforts should be strengthened and proposed for the extension of the Work Plan until 2024. Taking into consideration that Lao PDR, Canada and China's term of co-chairmanship will end in this ISY, the Meeting encouraged other ARF Participants to express their interest in co-chairing the next term of this ISM to ensure continuity of the ARF's work in this area.

4.4. 19th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ARF ISM on CTTC) and ARF Work Plan for Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019-2023

12. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 19th ARF ISM on CTTC, co-chaired by Malaysia, the European Union and New Zealand on 24 May 2023 via video conference. It was noted that the ISM on CTTC was briefed on the work of the various ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and developments in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The ISM on CTTC also discussed developments on all priority areas of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC, including presentations on regional counter-terrorism trends, regional trends and capacity building in the area of illicit drugs, approaches to counter violent extremism, and noted the outcomes of several ARF workshops including the 3rd ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing, ARF Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on Response Capabilities to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents, and ARF Workshop on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, as well as preparations for the ARF Workshop on Strengthening CBRN Counterterrorism Legal Frameworks.

13. Noting that in the past few years, activities under the ambit of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC have been focused in the area of preventing and countering violent extremism, ARF Participants were encouraged to place more efforts in implementing activities in other areas of focus including on aspects of transnational crime such as Illicit Drugs and Trafficking in Persons. The Meeting took note that the ARF Work Plan on CTTC is being updated for the implementation period of 2023-2025, in which the priority areas of the previous Work Plan will be maintained due to its continued relevance and that comments and input should be submitted to the Co-Chairs of this ISM by 9 June 2023. Considering that the Co-Chairmanship term of this ISM is expiring, ARF Participants are encouraged to express their interest to take up the co-chairmanship of this ISM to ensure continuity.

4.5. 14th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security and ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2022-2026

14. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 14th ARF ISM on Maritime Security co-chaired by Cambodia and China on 25-26 May 2023 in hybrid format in Cambodia. It was noted that exchange of views was largely focused on coordination, consultation and synergy between regional maritime-related frameworks and initiatives. The ISM also discussed issues related to marine plastic management, marine environment protection, management of marine hazards, efforts for sustainable fisheries, as well as effects of climate change and coastal disaster mitigation. It was further noted that the region continues to face a spectrum of challenges including sea piracy, Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and environmental degradation. In this regard, the ISM on Maritime Security highlighted the need to ensure concerted efforts to address these challenges and reiterated the ARF Participants' commitment and strong aspiration to strengthen maritime cooperation.

15. It was noted that several activities under the ambit of this ISM have been convened, including the 4th ARF Workshop on Implementing UNCLOS and other International Instruments to Address Emerging Maritime Issues; and the ARF International Ship and Port Facility Security Code Training Series and Manual. The Meeting further took note that the following activities will be convened in the next ISY: (i) ARF Seminar on Marine Debris; (ii) 2nd ARF Training on Ferry Safety Capacity Building; and (iii) ARF Workshop on Law of the Sea.

4.6. ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD)

16. The Meeting noted that discussions at the DOD co-chaired by Indonesia and Timor-Leste on 30 May 2023, were focused on the issues of: (i) defence sector's role in blue economy to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity, with Indonesia, Thailand and Australia as the lead discussants; (ii) emerging security challenges from global warming impacts, with Timor-Leste, the Philippines and Canada as lead discussants; and (iii) enhancing the region's resilience post-COVID 19 pandemic, with Cambodia, Japan and Russia as lead discussants. It was noted that the defence sector can play a critical role in supporting the blue economy, ranging from protecting marine biodiversity, conserving marine resources, and providing security for maritime trade, and that global warming also has implications to maritime security. Moving forward, it was emphasised that there is a need for continuous collaboration and strengthening civil-military cooperation to overcome the continuously evolving challenges.

4.7. 16th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting

17. The Meeting noted that the 16th ARF EEPs Meeting, to be co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and the ROK, will be carried forward into the ISY 2023 – 2024. The ROK

informed that it will tentatively host the Meeting during the first quarter of 2024, and that further information will be conveyed in due course.

4.8. 25th ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM)

18. The Meeting took note that the 25th ARF HDUCIM will be co-chaired by Malaysia and Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1-3 August 2023. Under the theme “Defence Education Diplomacy for Sustainable Peace and Security”, discussion is expected to focus on: (i) Infusing Peace Education into the Curriculum of Professional Military Education, (ii) Peace Education in Professional Military Education as a Pathway for Increasing the Role of the Military in Peacebuilding Operations; and (iii) Enhancing Collaboration among Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions for the Infusion and Integration of Peace Education. Taking into consideration that the 25th ARF HDUCIM is scheduled to be held after the ARF Ministerial Meeting, it was noted that this activity will fall under the next ISY and that the invitation letter would be circulated in due course.

19. The Meeting further took note that Sri Lanka is intending to host the 26th ARF HDUCIM in the next ISY and is seeking an ASEAN Member State to co-chair the 26th ARF HDUCIM.

4.9. 20th ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC)

20. Indonesia informed the Meeting that the 20th ASPC is scheduled to be held in Jakarta on 21 June 2023, under the theme “Navigating a Bright Future for Sustainable Peace, Prosperity and Security”, focusing on 3 topics: (i) Contemporary and Future Regional and Global Security Challenges; (ii) Regional Cooperation to Support Blue Economy and Mitigating Climate Change Impacts; and (iii) Confidence Building Measures towards Maintaining Peace, Prosperity and Security in the Region.

4.10. 8th ARF Peacekeeping Experts’ Meeting

21. The Meeting took note that the 8th ARF Peacekeeping Experts Meeting, to be co-chaired by Indonesia and Japan, will be carried forward to the ISY 2023-2024 and that further information on the meeting will be shared in due course.

4.11. ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy

22. The Meeting was pleased to note that implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy continued to progress through the convening of various activities and initiatives, including the recent ARF Workshop Series on Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Mitigation co-chaired by Indonesia, New Zealand and the

United States. Through this activity, ARF Participants gathered further understanding on the various preventive diplomacy methods to prevent and mitigate conflict, the applications of conflict-analysis skills, methodologies and coordination frameworks towards peaceful processes, and discussed various models for the role of government officials, both local and regional, in preventive diplomacy processes, including on the role of women and youth. The Meeting further noted that in the current ISY, Cambodia and China will be co-chairing the ARF Workshop on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Addressing Food Security Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region, and that planning is underway for the convening of the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy for Addressing Climate Change, to be co-chaired by Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the United States. Emphasising the ARF's success over the past thirty years, the Meeting also took note of the Co-Chairs' suggestion to consider exchanging ideas to move the ARF process forward from Stage 1 promotion of confidence building measures to focus on Stage 2 preventive diplomacy in achieving the objectives of the Work Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF CBMs AND PD INITIATIVES

5.1. Proposed ARF Statements and other Outcome Documents for the 30th ARF

5.1.1. ARF Statement on the Commemoration of 30 Years of the ARF

23. In light of the 30th Anniversary of the ARF, Indonesia informed the Meeting of its intention to put forth a draft Statement to commemorate this occasion. It was noted that the draft proposed Statement, intended to reflect on the ARF's achievements, reaffirm the ARF's commitment to instilling regional peace and stability, and shape the future direction of the ARF, will be circulated to all ARF Participants in due course for comments and input. Relatedly, Indonesia as the ARF Chair, further encouraged ARF Participants to engage in more activities that will create direct and concrete benefits to all Participants of the Forum, and to ensure that discussions and proposals at the ARF are in line with ASEAN interest and processes.

5.1.2. Statement of the 30th ASEAN Regional Forum on Strengthening Maritime Non-traditional Security Cooperation

24. The Meeting took note of China's proposal for the issuance of the Statement, which is aimed at encouraging practical measures towards progress on maritime non-traditional security cooperation, to promote marine sustainability, and promote cooperation to jointly address challenges. Several ARF Participants expressed reservations towards the scope of the Statement and some elements in the draft and suggested that some wording could be further refined and clarified. Noting the

divergent views, the Meeting agreed that feedback and comments to the draft should be submitted to the proponent. The Meeting further noted that in line with ARF processes and procedures, all proposed Statements would need to be co-sponsored by at least one ASEAN Member State and one non-ASEAN ARF Participant, and consensus on the content is required. In this connection, it was noted that confirmation of co-sponsorship and consensus should be acquired prior to the ARF SOM.

5.1.3. ARF Statement on Nuclear Risk Reduction

25. The Meeting took note that the draft Statement, proposed by Russia and tabled at the 14th ARF ISM on NPD in April 2023, is intended to stress the importance of strengthening cooperation on nuclear safety and security in a practical and realistic manner. The Meeting further noted Myanmar's intention to co-sponsor the proposed draft Statement. Several ARF Participants expressed reservations towards the proposed draft and suggested for discussion on the draft Statement be deferred to the next ISY, taking into consideration that another document on nuclear risk reduction is also being proposed for adoption this year.

5.1.4. Guidance on Nuclear Risk Reduction: In Pursuit of a World Without Nuclear Weapons

26. The Meeting noted that the Guidance document, proposed by the Philippines and Australia, was developed based on discussions at the earlier ARF Workshops on Nuclear Risk Reduction. Considering that not all ARF Participants were able to take part at the aforementioned workshop, some ARF Participants were also of the view that the proposed document may be too ambitious at this stage and requested that more time be provided for further discussion on the draft.

27. Whilst recognising the intertwining issues of both the draft Statement and Guidance Document, the Meeting noted that the two documents are of separate format and nature. On this note, the ARF Chair informed the Meeting that as the procedural aspects have been duly fulfilled, proponents of both documents are encouraged to continue discussion on its respective contents and to inform the ARF Chair on the status of the proposals prior to the ARF SOM.

5.1.5. Collection of Documents Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN Regional Forum

28. The Meeting was briefed on China's proposal to publish a collection of documents to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the ARF. It was noted that the publication is intended to collate official milestone documents that have been released by the ARF in the past thirty years and would include documents such as past ARF Statements, covering key issues such as disaster relief, counter-terrorism and

transnational crime, maritime security, preventive diplomacy, non-proliferation and disarmament, and ICTs security.

5.1.6. ARF Work Plan for Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2023-2025

29. The Meeting took note that comments and input to the draft updated ARF Work Plan on CTTC are to be submitted to the Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on CTTC by 9 June 2023.

5.1.7. Concept Paper on the Establishment of an Expert Group on Ferry Safety

30. On China's proposal for the Establishment of an Expert Group on Ferry Safety, the Meeting noted that China would welcome Participating countries wishing to co-sponsor this initiative.

5.2. Draft List of ARF Track 1 Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2023-2024

31. The Meeting noted that at present, the draft List of ARF Track 1 Activities for the ISY 2023-2024 include thirteen activities carried forward from the current ISY and twelve annually held meetings. Noting that many of the new proposals are still under deliberation, the Co-Chairs underlined that in accordance with the Guide to ARF Processes, Procedures, Practices and Protocol, only activities with complete co-chairmanship/co-sponsorship and have received consensus would be included in the List of ARF Track 1 Activities to be submitted for Ministers' approval. In this regard, proponents are requested to finalise their proposals before the ARF SOM and inform the ARF Chair and the ARF Unit regarding the status of their proposal.

32. With regard to the ROK's query on convening the 16th and 17th ARF EEPs Meeting back-to-back in the ISY 2023-2024, the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that as the 16th ARF EEPs is considered as a carried-over activity from the current ISY, it is not recommended nor required for both meetings to be held in the same ISY.

33. The Meeting further took note that the following activities will be carried forward to the ISY 2023-2024: (i) the ARF International Ship and Port Facility Security Code Training Series and Manual: Part Three, co-chaired by the Philippines, India, Papua New Guinea and the United States; (ii) the ARF Seminar on Marine Debris – Solid Waste Management and Scalable Solutions (Part One and Two), co-chaired by Thailand, China and the United States; (iii) the ARF Training on Developing Exercises to Counter CBRN Terrorism, co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States; (iv) the ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy for Addressing Climate Change, co-

chaired by Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the United States; (v) ARF Workshop on Strengthening CBRN Counterterrorism Legal Frameworks, co-chaired by Viet Nam, Mongolia and the United States.

34. The Meeting noted that as announced at the 19th ARF ISM on CTTC, the United States is proposing for the establishment of an ARF Cooperative on Counter-Terrorism to facilitate open dialogue and collaborative approaches for countering terrorist use of emerging technologies, and that the concept paper will be circulated after the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD for comments and input. It was also noted that as announced at the 14th ARF ISM on NPD, the United States is proposing for an ARF workshop to promote strategic management and building the capacity to prosecute proliferation activities, which will be co-chaired by the Philippines. The Meeting noted that as many concept papers were only circulated recently, more time would be required to consider the proposals. In this connection, the Meeting acknowledged the recommendation that proponents of future activities should aim to ensure early circulation of concept papers to allow ample time for ARF Participants to consider the proposals. Additionally, it was also suggested that venues for workshops and activities should be prudently selected so as to ensure ease of access for all ARF Participants, particularly in relation to visa processing.

35. The Meeting noted that the Philippines and Japan as co-chairs of the 3rd ARF Workshop on Maritime Domain Awareness, have made the decision to withdraw the workshop from the List of ARF Track 1 Activities, as the co-chairs were of the view that the objectives of the workshop had been largely accomplished given that the utilization of satellite data in MDA was already ongoing among ARF members. Furthermore, it was noted that the Philippines has expressed interest to co-chair the proposed ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament against Ballistic Missile Proliferation alongside Japan and Australia in the ISY 2023-2024.

36. With regard to Sri Lanka's intention to host the 26th ARF HDUCIM in the ISY 2023-2024, the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that similar to the case of the ARF EEPs, it is suggested for the 26th ARF HDUCIM to be deferred to the ISY 2024-2025, particularly as an ASEAN Co-Chair for this meeting would need to be identified.

37. The Meeting was informed a concept paper for a workshop on combating telecommunications fraud, proposed by China, had been circulated with the initial intention for the proposal to be tabled under the ambit of the ARF ISM on CTTC. It was noted that the proponent has withdrawn the proposal from the ARF ISM on CTTC as the proponent was of the view that the topic of the proposal would be better placed under the ambit of the ARF ISM on ICTs Security. Taking into consideration that proposals tabled at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD should be on issues related to preventive diplomacy and in line with the ARF processes and procedures, the Meeting

noted that it is recommended for the concept paper to first be tabled at the relevant ISM in the next ISY.

38. In view of the above, the Co-Chairs encouraged for future proponents to put forth their proposals at the earliest opportunity so as to allow ARF Participants ample time to positively consider all proposals. The Co-Chairs also encouraged all ARF Participants to exercise the spirit of compromise and flexibility in considering inputs and comments to proposals, and underlined the need for proposals in the ARF to take into consideration the needs of ASEAN Member States. The Co-Chairs further reiterated that in line with the procedures of the ARF, proponents are requested to provide confirmation on the status of their respective proposals by 14 June 2023.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CO-CHAIRS OF ARF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL YEAR

6.1. ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and ARF DOD

39. The Meeting noted that Lao PDR as the incoming ARF Chair in 2024, would be co-chairing the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and ARF DOD alongside New Zealand in the next ISY. Noting that the meetings would be hosted by New Zealand in the first half of 2024, the Meeting noted that unhindered access for all ARF Participants to take part at the meetings should be ensured, including timely issuance of visas and circulation of relevant documents.

6.2. ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief

40. It was noted that following the end of Lao PDR, Canada and China's co-chairmanship tenure for the ISM on DR, a new set of co-chairs would need to be identified. Taking into consideration that no ARF Participant has expressed interest to co-chair the next cycle, the ARF Chair encouraged interested ARF Participants to volunteer co-chairing this ISM to ensure continuity of disaster relief cooperation in the ARF, and to indicate their interest at the ARF SOM.

6.3. ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

41. The Meeting noted Malaysia, the EU and New Zealand's term of co-chairmanship for the ARF ISM on CTTC ends in 2023. Considering that there is yet to be any indication of interest for co-chairmanship, ARF Participants are encouraged to express and confirm their interest prior to the ARF SOM.

42. In view of the above, the Meeting further noted that in the event no co-chairs are identified, both the ARF ISM on DR and ARF ISM on CTTC will not be convened in the next ISY.

AGENDA ITEM 7: FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE ARF

7.1. Implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II

43. The Meeting took note that as tasked by the 29th ARF in 2022, the ARF Unit has developed and circulated a matrix to all ARF Focal Points with the objective of seeking inputs to track the progress of implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II 2020-2025 (HPOA II). It was noted that based on inputs received thus far, the overall implementation of the HPOA II currently stands at 20.5%, with 22 action lines implemented and 85 action lines pending for implementation. The Meeting noted that more inputs are expected to be submitted to the ARF Unit by 9 June 2023, so as to allow ample time for the ARF Unit to carry out further assessment and duly report the results to the ARF SOM.

44. In an effort to further increase the implementation rate of the HPOA II, the Meeting noted the following recommendations: (i) Co-Chairs of each ISM are requested to review each section under their purview, as well as provide input and determine the progress of implementation. It was underlined that inputs provided should be those that are applicable to the ARF as a whole and/or those that are undertaken by the ARF as a collective and that individual country efforts or bilateral arrangements would not be considered at this stage; (ii) proponents of new activities, Statements and initiatives are requested to indicate the specific action line of the HPOA II that corresponds to their proposal; and (iii) Co-Chairs of workshops/seminars are requested to submit the Summary Report of their activity to the ARF Unit, as this would assist the ARF Unit in determining whether the outcomes of the activities contribute to the implementation of the HPOA II. In this connection, it was highlighted that whilst more than 35 activities have been convened since the adoption of the HPOA II in 2020, only less than half Summary Reports of these activities have been made available. Taking into consideration the ARF Unit's role as depository and institutional memory of the ARF, it was noted that the absence of Summary Reports hinders the ARF Unit's ability in fulfilling this role.

45. In light of the ARF's 30th anniversary, the Meeting was of the view that it is all the more imperative for ARF Participants to strengthen cooperation and collaboration to reaffirm the ARF's role as a key platform for dialogue in the region. In this connection, the Meeting exchanged views on the current and emerging security challenges in the region and underlined the need for open channels of communication to reduce risks of misunderstanding and miscalculation and strengthened efforts and

enhanced dialogue in the ARF to maintain peace and stability in the region, as well as to ensure the full implementation of the ARF HPOA II by 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

8.1. ARF Annual Security Outlook

46. The Meeting noted Indonesia’s request for contributions to the 2023 Annual Security Outlook (ASO) should be submitted by 5 June 2023 for further consolidation.

8.2. Date of the ARF SOM

47. Indonesia informed the Meeting that the ARF SOM would be held via video conference on 14 June 2023 and that the invitation package has been circulated to all ARF Participants.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

48. In their Closing Remarks, the Co-Chairs thanked the ARF Participants for their active participation, contribution and towards the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat for the support rendered towards the convening of this Meeting. The Co-Chairs were pleased to note that despite various challenges, cooperation in the ARF continue to progress. The Co-Chairs further expressed hope that the ARF will continue to be utilised as a platform for constructive dialogue and exchange of views to tackle emerging security challenges and promote peace and stability in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

49. The Meeting expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Co-Chairs for the effective co-chairmanship and to the Government of Timor-Leste for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. The Meeting also commended the fruitful discussion and active participation of all ARF Participants and the ASEAN Secretariat that contributed to the success of the Meeting.

ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

No.	Key Decision/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	Identification of Co-Chairs for the next cycle of the ARF ISM on Disaster Relief	By the ARF SOM	ARF Participants

2.	Identification of Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime	By the ARF SOM	ARF Participants
3.	Finalisation of the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2023-2025	By the ARF SOM	Malaysia, the EU and New Zealand
4.	Circulation and finalisation of the draft ARF Statement on the Commemoration of 30 th Year of the ARF	Prior to the 30 th ARF	Indonesia
5.	Finalise the draft Statement of the 30 th ASEAN Regional Forum on Strengthening Maritime Non-traditional Security Cooperation and seek ASEAN co-sponsorship	Prior to the 30 th ARF	China
6.	Finalise the draft ARF Statement on Nuclear Risk Reduction	Prior to the 30 th ARF	Russia
7.	Finalise the draft Guidance on Nuclear Risk Reduction: In Pursuit of a World Without Nuclear Weapons	Prior to the 30 th ARF	The Philippines and Australia
8.	Finalise the Collection of Documents Commemorating the 30 th Anniversary of the ASEAN Regional Forum	Prior to the 30 th ARF	China
9.	Finalise the Concept Paper on the Establishment of an Expert Group on Ferry Safety	Prior to the 30 th ARF	China
10.	Finalisation of proposals and confirmation by proponents on the status of their respective proposals, i.e. whether consensus has been reached and whether the proposals have complete co-chairmanship.	By the ARF SOM	Proponents of respective proposals
11.	Finalise the List of ARF Track I Activities for the ISY 2023-2024.	By the ARF SOM	ARF Chair and ARF Unit
12.	Submission of Summary Reports of ARF activities in the ISY 2021-2022 and 2022-2023	Prior to the 30 th ARF	Co-Chairs of respective activities and workshops
13.	Submission of contributions to the 2023 ARF Annual Security Outlook	By 5 June 2023	ARF Participants

