




**ASEAN Regional Forum at Thirty:
A Commemorative Collection of Documents
for the 30th ARF**

东盟地区论坛成立三十周年纪念文集



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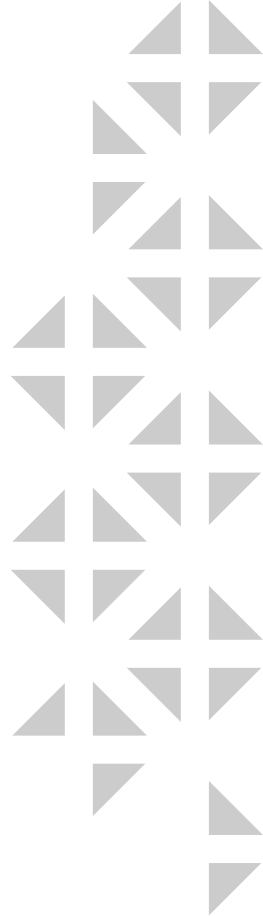
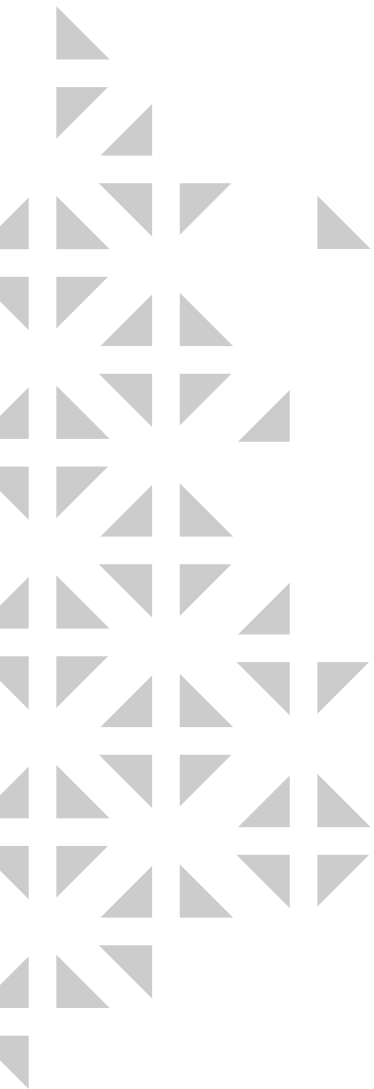
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The ASEAN Regional Forum: A Concept Paper

Introduction

1. The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity. For the first time in a century or more, the guns are virtually silent. There is a growing trend among the states in the region to enhance dialogue on political and security cooperation. The Asia-Pacific is also the most dynamic region of the world in terms of economic growth. The centre of the world's economic gravity is shifting into the region. The main challenge of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is to sustain and enhance this peace and prosperity.
2. This is not an easy challenge. The region has experienced some of the most disastrous wars of the twentieth century. It is also a remarkably diverse region where big and small countries co-exist. They differ significantly in levels of development. There are cultural, ethnic, religious and historical differences to overcome. Habits of cooperation are not deep-seated in some parts of the region.
3. ASEAN has a pivotal role to play in the ARF. It has a demonstrable record of enhancing regional cooperation in the most diverse sub-region of the Asia-Pacific. It has also fostered habits of cooperation and provided the catalyst for encouraging regional cooperation in the wider Asia-Pacific region. The annual ASEAN Ministerial Meetings have contributed significantly to the positive regional environment today. There would be great hope for the Asia-Pacific if the whole region could emulate ASEAN's record of enhancing the peace and prosperity of its participants.
4. Although ASEAN has undertaken the obligation to be the primary driving force of the ARF, a successful ARF requires the active participation and cooperation of all participants. ASEAN must always be sensitive to and take into account the interests and concerns of all ARF participants.

The Challenges

5. To successfully preserve and enhance the peace and prosperity of the region, the ARF must dispassionately analyse the key challenges facing the region. Firstly, it should acknowledge that periods of rapid economic growth are often accompanied by significant shifts in power relations. This can lead to conflict. The ARF will have to carefully manage these transitions to preserve the peace. Secondly, the region is remarkably diverse. The ARF should recognise and accept the different approaches to peace and security and try to forge a consensual approach to security issues. Thirdly, the region has a residue unresolved territorial and other differences. Any one of these could spark conflagration that could undermine the peace and prosperity of the region. Over time, the ARF will have to gradually defuse these potential problems.

6. It would be unwise for a young and fragile process like the ARF to tackle all these challenges simultaneously. A gradual evolutionary approach is required. This evolution can take place in three stages:
Stage I: Promotion of Confidence-Building Measures
Stage II: Development of Preventive Diplomacy Mechanisms
Stage III: Development of Conflict-Resolution Mechanisms

7. The participants of the first ARF Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok in July 1994 agreed on "the need to develop a more predictable and constructive pattern of relations for the Asia-Pacific region". In its initial phase, the ARF should therefore concentrate on enhancing, the trust and confidence amongst participants and thereby foster a regional environment conducive to maintaining the peace and prosperity of the region.

Stage I: Promotion of Confidence-Building Measures

8. In promoting confidence-building measures, the ARF may adopt two complementary approaches. The first approach derives from ASEAN's experience, which provides a valuable and proven guide for the ARF. ASEAN has succeeded in reducing, tensions among, its member states, promoting region cooperation and creating a regional climate conducive to peace and prosperity without the implementation of explicit confidence-building measures, achieving conditions approximating those envisaged in the Declaration of Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN). The concepts of ZOPFAN and its essential component, the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-

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Free Zone (SEANFWZ), are significantly contributing to regional peace and stability. ASEAN's well-established practices of consultation and consensus (musyawarah and mufakat) have been significantly enhanced by the regular exchanges of high-level visits among ASEAN countries. This pattern of regular visits has effectively developed into a preventive diplomacy channel. In the Asian context, there is some merit to the ASEAN approach. It emphasises the need to develop trust and confidence among neighbouring states.

9. The principles of good neighbourliness, which are elaborated in the concept of ZOPFAN, are enshrined in the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). One simple concrete way of expanding the ASEAN experience is to encourage the ARF participants to associate themselves with the TAC. It is significant that the first ARF meeting in Bangkok agreed to “endorse the purposes and principles of ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia as a code of conduct governing relations between states and a unique diplomatic instrument for regional confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, and political and security cooperation.”
10. The second approach is the implementation of concrete confidence-building measures. The first ARF meeting, in Bangkok entrusted the next Chairman of the ARF, Brunei Darussalam, to study all the ideas presented by ARF participants and to also study other relevant internationally recognised norms, principles and practices. After extensive consultations, the ASEAN countries have prepared two lists of confidence-building measures. The first list (Annex A) spells out measures which can be explored and implemented by ARF participants in the immediate future. The second list (Annex B) is an indicative list of other proposals which can be explored over the medium and long-term by ARF participants and also considered in the immediate future by the Track Two process. These lists include possible preventive diplomacy and other measures.
11. Given the delicate nature of many of the subjects being considered by the ARF, there is merit in moving, the ARF process along two tracks. Track One activities will be carried out by governments. Track Two activities will be carried out by strategic institutes and non-government organisations in the region, such as ASEAN-ISIS and CSCAP. To be meaningful and relevant, the Track Two activities may focus, as much as possible, on the current concerns of the ARF. The synergy between the two tracks would contribute greatly to confidence-building measures in the region. Over time, these Track Two activities should result in the creation of a sense of community among participants of

those activities.

Moving Beyond Stage 1

12. There remains a residue of unresolved territorial and other disputes that could be sources of tension or conflict. If the ARF is to become, over time, a meaningful vehicle to enhance the peace and prosperity of the region, it will have to demonstrate that it is a relevant instrument to be used in the event that a crisis or problem emerges. The ARF meeting in Bangkok demonstrated this by taking a stand on the Korean issue at the very first meeting. This was a signal that the ARF is ready to address any challenge to the peace and security of the region.
13. Over time, the ARF must develop its own mechanisms to carry preventive diplomacy and conflict-resolution. In doing so, the ARF will unique challenges. There are no established roads or procedures for it to follow. Without a high degree of confidence among ARF participants, it is unlikely that they will agree to the establishment of mechanisms which are perceived to be intrusive and/or autonomous. This is a political reality the ARF should recognise. However, it would be useful in the initial phase for the Track Two process to consider and investigate a variety of preventive diplomacy and conflict-resolution mechanisms. A good start was made with the three workshops organised by International Studies Centre (Thailand) and Institute of Policy Studies (Singapore) on ASEAN-UN Cooperation for Peace and Preventive Diplomacy, and the Indonesia-sponsored series of workshops on the South China Sea.

Stage II: Development of Preventive Diplomacy

14. Preventive diplomacy would be a natural follow-up to confidence building measures. Some suggestions for preventive diplomacy measures are spelled out in Annexes A and B

Stage III: Conflict Resolution

15. It is not envisaged that the ARF would establish mechanisms conflict resolution in the immediate future. The establishment of such mechanisms is an eventual goal that ARF participants should pursue as they proceed to develop the ARF as a vehicle for promoting regional peace and stability.

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Organisation of ARF activities

16. There shall be an annual ARF Ministerial Meeting, in an ASEAN capital just after the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The host country will chair the meeting. The incoming Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee will chair all inter-sessional Track One activities of the ARF.
17. The ARF shall be apprised of all Track Two activities through the current Chairman of the Track One activities, who will be the main link between Track One and Track Two activities.
18. In the initial phase of the ARF, no institutionalisation is expected. Nor should a Secretariat be established in the near future. ASEAN shall be the repository of all ARF documents and information and provide the necessary support to sustain ARF activities.
19. The participants of the ARF comprise the ASEAN member states, the observers, and consultative and dialogue partners of ASEAN. Applications to participate in the ARF shall be submitted to the Chairman of the ARF who will then consult the other ARF participants.
20. The rules of procedure of ARF meetings shall be based on prevailing, ASEAN norms and practices. Decisions should be made by consensus after careful and extensive consultations. No voting will take place. In accordance with prevailing ASEAN practices, the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee shall provide the secretarial support and coordinate ARF activities.
21. The ARF should also progress at a pace comfortable to all participants. The ARF should not move "too fast for those who want to go slow and not too slow for those who want to go fast".

Conclusion

22. ARF participants should not assume that the success of the ARF can be taken for granted. ASEAN's experience shows that success is a result of hard work and careful

adherence to the rule of consensus. ARF participants will have to work equally hard and be equally sensitive to ensure that the ARF process stays on track.

23. The ARF must be accepted as a “sui generis” Organisation. It has no established precedents to follow. A great deal of innovation and ingenuity will be required to keep the ARF moving forward while at the same time ensure that it enjoys the support of its diverse participants. This is a major challenge both for the ASEAN countries and other ARF participants. The UN Secretary-General’s “Agenda for Peace” has recognised that “just as no two regions or situations are the same, so the design of cooperative work and its division of labour must adjust to the realities of each case with flexibility and creativity”.

ANNEX A

I.CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Principles

1. The development of a set of basic principles to ensure a common understanding and approach to interstate relations in the region; and
2. Adoption of comprehensive approaches to security.

Transparency

3. Dialogue on security perceptions, including voluntary statements defence policy positions;
4. Defence Publications such as Defence White Papers or equivalent documents as considered necessary by respective governments;
5. Participation in UN Conventional Arms Register;
6. Enhanced contacts, including, high level visits and recreational activities;
7. Exchanges between military academies, staff colleges and training;
8. Observers at military exercises, on a voluntary basis; and
9. Annual seminar for defence officials and military officers on selected international security issues.

II.PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

1. Develop a set of guidelines for the peaceful settlement of disputes, taking into account the principles in the UN Charter and the TAC;
2. Promote the recognition acceptance of the purposes and principles of the TAC and its provisions for the Pacific settlement of disputes, as endorsed by the UNGA in Resolution 47/53 (B) on 9 December 1992; and
3. Seek the endorsement of other countries for the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea in order to strengthen its political and moral effect (as endorsed by the Programme of Action for ZOPFAN).

III. NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL

1. Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ).

IV. PEACEKEEPING

1. Seminars/Workshops on peacekeeping issues; and
2. Exchange of information and experience relating to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

V. MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

1. Disaster Prevention

ANNEX B

I.CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

1. Further exploration of a Regional Arms Register;
2. Regional security studies centre/ coordination of existing security studies activities;
3. Maritime information data bases;
4. Cooperative approaches to sea lines of communication, beginning with exchanges of information and training in such areas as search and rescue, piracy and drug, control;
5. Mechanism to mobilise relief assistance in the event of natural disasters;
6. Establishment of zones of cooperation in areas such as the South China Sea;
7. Systems of prior notification of major military deployments that have region-wide application; and
8. Encourage arms manufacturers and suppliers to disclose the destination of their arms exports.

II.PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

1. Explore and devise ways and means to prevent conflict;
2. Explore the idea of appointing Special Representatives, in consultation with ARF members, to undertake fact-finding missions, at the request of the parties involved to an issue, and to offer their good offices, as necessary; and
3. Explore the idea of establishing, a Regional Risk Reduction Centre as suggested by the UN Secretary-General in his Agenda For Peace and as commended by UNGA Resolution 47/120 (see section IV, operative para 4). Such a centre could serve as a data base for the exchange of information.

III.NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL

1. A regional or sub-regional arrangement agreeing not to acquire or deploy ballistic missiles.

IV. PEACEKEEPING

1. Explore the possibility of establishing a peacekeeping centre.

V. MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

1. A multilateral agreement on the avoidance of naval incidents that apply to both local and external navies;
2. Sea Level/Climate Monitoring System;
3. Establishment of an ASEAN Relief and Assistance Force and a Maritime Safety (or Surveillance) Unit to look after the safety of the waters in the region;
4. Conventions on the Marine Environment
 - Dumping of Toxic Wastes
 - Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution;
5. Maritime surveillance; and
6. Explore the idea of joint marine scientific research.

Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair

(Shared perspectives among the ARF members)

Objective

The 6th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in May 1999 agreed that the next ISO (1999-2000) would continue to explore the principles and procedures for an enhanced role for the ARF Chairman in good offices and co-ordination in between ARF meetings. The 6th Ministerial Meeting in July 1999 noted the common understandings reached on the four tabled proposals relating to the overlap between CBMs and PD. These common understandings includes the above agreement at the SOM.

Consistent with this request, the ARF ISG on CBMs of the 1999-2000 inter-sessional year at its meeting in Tokyo in November 1999 discussed these roles and agreed that such a role for the ARF Chairman in liaising with external parties should be further encouraged as far as it was carried out informally with prior consultation with all ARF members and their consent. The ARF ISG meeting in Singapore in April 2000 had a substantive exchange of views on this issue. The meeting agreed that the ARF Chair could serve as a useful conduit for information-sharing in between ARF meetings, and that members could utilise this on a voluntary basis.

The 7th Ministerial Meeting in July 2000 requested the ISG to continue its work in exploring the overlaps between CBMs and PD and strengthening the four CBM/PD overlap proposals already agreed upon, which include an enhanced role of the ARF Chair.

The aim of this paper is to help clarify and facilitate the ongoing discussions at the ISG on the Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair. The paper is mainly focused on the role of the ARF Chair in the CBM stage, and outlines principles and procedures that could serve as a basis for further discussions. These principles and procedures are shared perspectives that would apply only to the ARF and should be understood as representing the current status of an evolving consensus in the ARF as discussions continue.

1. Principles

In accordance with universally recognised basic principles of international law and inter-state relations embodied, Inter alia, in the UN Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and the TAG, including respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of a state, the Enhanced roles of the ARF Chair in good offices and co-ordination in between ARF meetings are aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and promoting the continuity and efficiency of the ARF process.

2. Roles and Procedures

(1) Definition of the ARF Chair

ARF Chair means the Minister for Foreign Affairs or its equivalent of the ARF Chair Country in the inter-sessional year. The ARF Chair could appoint a representative (such as the SOM Leader) to assist the Chair.

(2) Roles

The ARF Chair could perform a role in good offices and/or a role in co-ordination in between ARF meetings which includes:

- (a) Promoting confidence building among ARF members by facilitating information exchange and dialogue between and among ARF members, such as by holding conferences and workshops.
- (b) Fostering cooperation between ARF members by facilitating discussion on potential areas of cooperation.
- (c) Facilitating discussion on norms building in the ARF to enhance mutual trust and understanding.
- (d) Encouraging exchange of information and highlighting issues that can impact on regional security for consideration by the ARF by serving as a conduit for information sharing in between ARF meetings.
- (e) Serving as a focal point for consultations among ARF members on the basis of consensus of all the ARF members. Upon prior consent of directly involved states and the consensus of all ARF members, the ARF Chair may convene an ad hoc meeting of all ARF members at an appropriate level.
- (f) Liaising with external parties, such as heads of international organisations, and Track II organisations on an informal basis and with prior consultation with all ARF members and their consent.

(3) Mechanism to Support the ARF Chair The ARF should discuss an appropriate

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mechanism to support the ARF Chair so that the Chair can carry out the roles in good offices and co-ordination in between ARF meetings smoothly and effectively.

The following modalities of mechanism could be taken into consideration:

- (a) The ARF Chair will be supported by the resources of its country as is the current practice.
 - (b) The ARF Chair could draw on the expertise and resources of other ARF member (s). In this context, a particular attention should be paid to the need to ensure effective continuity during a transition period of chairmanship.
 - (c) The ARF Chair could call upon the Experts and Eminent Persons (EEP) to provide their views on issues of relevance to their expertise in accordance with the Terms of Reference of EEP to be established with the consensus of all ARF members.
 - (d) The ARF Chair could draw on the expertise and resources of external parties and Track II organisations as far as this was undertaken informally with consent of ARF members.
- (4) Reporting
- The ARF Chair should report to all ARF members on its activities in a timely manner.

Asean Regional Forum (ARF)

Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was established by ASEAN in 1994 to maintain peace and stability in the region and to promote regional development and prosperity. It was recognised that rapid development in the regional and global environment had impacted on the security and strategic concerns of countries in the region. It was also acknowledged that the region was remarkably diverse, and that there remained challenges to regional peace and prosperity.

2. The ARF sought to meet these challenges by putting into place a three-stage process - Stage 1 on promotion of Confidence Building Measures, Stage 2 on development of Preventive Diplomacy and Stage 3 on Elaboration of Approaches to Conflicts. It was generally recognised that the ARF would have to establish itself, over time, as a meaningful forum to enhance the peace and prosperity of the region. To do so, the ARF process would have to adopt a gradual evolutionary approach, decision-making by consensus and move at a pace comfortable to all its members in order to achieve its long-term objectives. Discussions should be aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and trust among the Asia-Pacific countries, furthering their dialogue and cooperation, and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

3. Much progress has been made over the past six years, a relative short time in the life of regional organisations. Constant interaction among Ministers and senior officials of the ARF members, and confidence building measures that have been initiated, have helped to build up comfort levels. This has allowed for discussions among ARF members to be candid and frank, thereby encouraging greater transparency, mutual trust and understanding of each other's concerns and positions. It was stressed that the confidence building would continue to be the main thrust of the whole ARF process, since it is impossible to move the ARF forward without a high degree of mutual understanding and trust among ARF participants.

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4. Hence, at the 4th ARF, the Ministers instructed the ARF Intersessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) to identify areas in the overlap between CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy, and ways and means of addressing them while maintaining the focus on CBMs. In addressing the issue of overlap, a common understanding on a working concept of Preventive Diplomacy (PD) and the principles governing its practice is necessary to provide a common basis on which to explore this overlap and to enhance confidence in the process. Pursuant to this, the Ministers at the 6th ARF in Singapore instructed the ISG on CBMs to further explore the overlap between CBMs and PD, focussing inter alia on the development of the concepts and principles of PD.

Definition, Concept and Principles of PD by the ARF

5. Agreement on the definition and, more importantly, a common understanding of the concept of PD and the principles governing the practice of PD, would be useful for further progress on the development of PD within the ARF. The definition of PD by the ARF sets out very broad objectives, and the concept would serve as a guide as to the approach to take, while the principles would serve as a guide as to fundamental parameters for the practice of PD in the ARF.
6. The definition, concept and principles of PD as agreed by ARF members are not legal obligations. They are shared perspectives that would apply only to the ARF and should be understood as representing the current status of an evolving consensus in the ARF as discussions continue. These discussions should be aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and trust among ARF members, take into account the actual conditions of the region and be consistent with basic principles of international law and established ARF processes.

Definition of PD

7. The definition of PD has proven to be controversial. However, there appears to be general consensus that PD is consensual diplomatic and political action taken by sovereign states with the consent of all directly involved parties :
 - To help prevent disputes and conflicts from arising between States that could potentially pose a threat to regional peace and stability:
 - To help prevent such disputes and conflicts from escalating into armed

- confrontation; and
- To help minimise the impact of such disputes and conflicts on the region.

Concept of PD

8. Much academic work has been done within this broad definition of PD, and various concepts have been suggested. We can view PD along a time-line in keeping with the objectives; to prevent disputes/conflicts between states from emerging, to prevent such disputes/conflicts from escalating into armed confrontation, and to prevent such disputes and conflicts from spreading. Some measures could be taken even before a crisis has actually arisen.
9. PD measures could include the following:
 - a. *Confidence Building Efforts* i.e. efforts to build mutual trust and confidence between states. The successful application of PD has to be built upon continuous efforts to maintain and enhance trust and confidence. Without a high degree of trust among ARF participants, it is unlikely that PD in the later stages of any conflict can be carried out. While the ARF has succeeded in fostering dialogue among ARF members over the past few years, it is now time to look into strengthening the habit of cooperation. Cooperation among ARF members can preempt disputes as well as prevent disputes from developing into conflicts by enhancing trust and understanding.
 - b. *Norms building* i.e. nurturing of accepted codes or norms of behaviour guiding the relationships among states in the Asia-Pacific region. To the extent that the codes enhance predictability and strengthen cooperative behaviour in ensuring regional peace, norms building enhances trust between and among states in the region. The ARF could consider measures in this area, such as developing a code of conduct governing relations among ARF members which is consistent with existing codes such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAG) and the UN Charter.
 - c. *Enhancing Channels of Communication*: open, easy and direct communications or channels among ARF participants which serve to promote transparency with a view to avoid misperception or misunderstanding. Such channels would advance information-sharing, provide early warning and facilitate dialogue.
 - d. *Role of the ARF Chair*. The ARF Chair could play a role as determined by ARF members.

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10. At the onset of a crisis, further measures could be considered as appropriate. The ARF should continue to consider possible further measures with a view to reaching consensus on them.

Principles of PD

11. Principles to guide the practice of PD are necessary to increase understanding of the scope and mechanisms of PD and to provide consistency and reasonable expectations of the process. In formulating and applying these principles, it would be useful to draw on the approach that has contributed to ASEAN's success and resilience. This includes the non-use of force in inter-state relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of members, pragmatism, flexibility and consensus, consultation accommodation.
12. The following are 8 key principles of PD, drawn mainly from discussions in CSCAP:
 - It is about diplomacy. It relies on diplomatic and peaceful methods such as diplomacy, negotiation, enquiry, mediation, and conciliation.
 - It is non-coercive. Military action or the use of force are not part of PD.
 - It should be timely. Action is to be preventive, rather than curative. PD methods are most effectively employed at an early stage of a dispute or crisis.
 - It requires trust and confidence. PD can only be exercised successfully where there is a strong foundation of trust and confidence among the parties involved and when it is conducted on the basis of neutrality, justice and impartiality.
 - It operates on the basis of consultation and consensus. Any PD effort can only be carried out through consensus after careful and extensive consultation among ARF members, with due consideration for the need for timeliness.
 - It is voluntary, PD practices are to be employed only at the request of all the parties directly involved in the dispute and with their clear consent.
 - It applies to conflicts between and among States.
 - It is conducted in accordance with universally recognised basic principles of international law and inter-state relations embodied, inter alia, in the UN Charter the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the TAG. These include respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of a State.

Conclusion

13. The ARF's process should progress at a pace comfortable to all members on the basis of consensus. A step-by-step approach is needed to ensure consensual progress in order to secure the maintenance and continuing enhancement of commitment of all participants in the ARF process. We should seek to proceed with the possible while keeping an eye on what can be done in the longer term. For the ARF to further develop, it is important to achieve a common understanding and consensus on the concept, definition and principles of PD.

REVIEW OF THE ARF: A DISCUSSION PAPER

- 1 At the 14th ARF that was held in Manila on 2 August 2007, Singapore had proposed that the ARF conducts a comprehensive review of its achievements and processes, and provide recommendations on how it should move forward, given that the ARF is approaching a milestone of its 15th year of existence. This is the second time that the ARF is conducting a review.¹ ARF participants welcome this timely and important initiative. They also recognise that the ARF must continue to adapt its priorities and processes in line with ongoing developments in the region.
- 2 On the approach, it is proposed that the review would (i) stock take the forum's achievements since its formation; (ii) examine its challenges; and (iii) chart out the future direction of the Forum.

Section I: Stocktake of the ARF's Development - Achievements

- 3 The ARF has come a long way since its formation in 1994. Its membership has increased from 18 to 27 participants, during which time the Forum has vastly increased its scope and number of activities.
- 4 In recent years the region has witnessed rapid economic growth and seen productivity gains. With growing economic cooperation and regional integration a framework of

1 In 2002, Brunei Darussalam led the review of the ARF and prepared a paper on "Stock-taking of the ARF Process", which came up with nine recommendations on the future direction of the ARF. The report was adopted by the Foreign Ministers, who tasked the ARF officials to implement the measures. Most of the recommendations have either been carried out or are currently being implemented. These include: (1) consolidating and strengthening measures to combat international terrorism as an immediate step; (2) enhancing intelligence sharing, police cooperation and financial measures against international terrorism; (3) establishing an ISM on International terrorism and Transnational Crime; (4) enhancing the role of the ARF Chair and assign the ASEAN secretariat to assist the ARF Chairman in coordinating the work of the ARF; (5) developing and utilising the Register of Experts/Eminent Persons; (6) Strengthening CBMs; (7) widening engagement and involvement of security and defence officials, building upon the Singapore Concept Paper on Defence Dialogue within the ARF; (8) enhancing linkages between the ARF and ASEAN ISIS, CSCAP and other organisations; and (9) providing substantive follow up to the Paper on Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted in 2001.

regional cooperation seems to be emerging. This has contributed positively to regional and international security and is valuable especially in the light of some uncertain global economic trends. There is a general assessment by the individual states that despite various problems confronted by the region, it has been possible to maintain a stable security outlook through bilateral and multilateral efforts.

- 5 Since the ARF's inception, the regional security environment has changed significantly. The region has confronted significant non-traditional threats, including a financial crisis, the increasing acts of terrorism, a devastating Tsunami and other natural disasters, and the spread of communicable diseases. Major power relations and regional power balances have also undergone a period of change. While inter-state relations have been relatively stable, the countries in the region continue to be confronted with the threats of transnational crimes and terrorism, as well as other common areas of concerns, in particular in non traditional security areas such as natural disasters, energy security, and communicable diseases. These areas in fact present opportunities for useful regional cooperation.
- 6 The ARF was established to address regional security challenges by promoting dialogue; engaging in confidence building measures; and developing preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution mechanisms. In practice, ARF's focus has been on dialogue and developing practical areas of cooperation. This regional interaction has played a part in the overall peace, stability and economic success of the region. The ARF is now at the transitional phase in embarking on the development of preventive diplomacy, in line with the vision contained in the 1995 ARF concept paper, as well as the Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted at the 8th ARF in 2001. Both Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy will be important and integral elements of the ARF process.
- 7 On the whole the forum has fared well. In response to the new non-traditional security threats and other challenges of common concerns confronting the region, the forum has actively examined ways and means to address issues such as terrorism, disaster relief, energy security, non proliferation and disarmament, inter-faith dialogues as well as inter-civilisational dialogue, human and drug trafficking and management and security of small arms and light weapons (SALW). For instance, in response to the Tsunami which occurred on 26 December 2004, the series of ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) on Disaster Relief was reinstated. In the inter-sessional year 2006/2007 alone,

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the ARF undertook a total of 19 activities which for the most part addressed non-traditional security issues. These included table top exercises on maritime security and avian flu for the first time. However, the ARF's achievements lie not only in the number of participants and activities, but also in its ability to continue to engage the major powers, under ASEAN's leadership.

- 8 Since its formation, the ARF has facilitated the building of trust and in enhancing the level of confidence and comfort amongst its participants. This is instrumental in providing a stable regional environment conducive to economic growth. Over the years, the principles, such as decision-making by consensus, as well as moving at a pace comfortable to all participants have also contributed to norms building in the region, supported the maintenance of peace, and facilitated the formation of a new security concept based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination. The comfort level attained is exemplified by the increasing involvement of the defence officials, through the Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD), the ARF Security Policy Conference, and the publication of the Annual ARF Security Outlook.
- 9 The ARF had also taken several steps that still require effective implementation to strengthen its internal mechanisms and consolidate itself. The most significant step was the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Friends of the Chair (TOR FOC) at the 14th ARF. The ARF Fund has also been set up to support the implementation of projects, activities and decisions of the ARF. However, these mechanisms should be productively used for the purposes intended. The ARF looks forward to the productive use of these mechanisms in the future.
- 10 Apart from internally consolidating itself, the ARF has also adopted an outward looking approach by actively engaging other regional organisations and Track II in its discussions. At the 13th ARF in 2006, the Ministers welcomed the Concept Paper prepared by Thailand on 'Enhancing linkages with Track II; and enhancing linkages with other organisations.' To date, the ARF has invited to its meetings regional and international organisations such as the OSCE, SCO, APEC and UNESCO, academic and professional institutions such as ASEAN-ISIS, CSCAP, IAEA and IEA, as well as private sector representatives. In addition, the ARF member countries appointed Expert and Eminent Persons (EEPs) from Track II to provide inputs on the future direction of the ARF. Thus far, the EEPs have convened two meetings. On the whole, such interactions have not only boosted the ARF's credibility, but also provided unique and

useful perspectives to discussions.

Section II: Issues/Problems facing the ARF

- 11 The ARF has achieved much progress and continues to be regarded as a key forum to promote political and security dialogue in the regional architecture. There are nonetheless some issues/problems that could affect the forum's development in the future. These include:
- a) Relative lack of concrete and practical cooperation. A major part of ARF activities have been dialogues, exchanges of experiences and seminars. The ARF requires more concrete and practical cooperation projects based on the collective needs identified in the ARF processes. In this regard, the ARF has recently begun to explore joint table-top exercises in maritime security and avian influenza, and a training programme in maritime security with a view to capacity building. In this respect, the ARF could learn from the experience of other regional mechanisms such as the SCO, the OSCE and the OAS.
 - b) Diffused focus. With non-traditional security issues increasingly coming to the fore, the ARF has significantly expanded its range of activities. While it is laudable and perhaps necessary that the ARF should be comprehensive in coverage, particular focus or special expertise is necessary.
 - c) Slow decision making. Some participants have privately lamented that the ARF is slow in taking decisions and hence not responsive to fluid developments in the real world. Proposals for ARF activities are sometimes put forward as early as the first ISG in October/November, but cannot be implemented until it is approved by the ARF in July/August of the subsequent year. There are no clear provisions on how the ARF could quickly respond to an urgent situation or crisis. This process compounds funding problems as some countries must synch this slow decision-making process to their fiscal cycles.
 - d) Expansion of the ARF. The expansion of the ARF from 18 to 27 participants over the years has led some countries to complain that the forum has become too unwieldy, and that the dynamics have been affected with discussions becoming less informal and interactive. While reaffirming the principle of ASEAN centrality, the challenges confronting the ARF is to develop innovative ways and means to enhance its relevance to all of its participants. At the 13th ARF, Ministers noted ASEC's paper outlining three approaches, which need not be mutually exclusive,

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viz (i) Adopt a 'flexible moratorium' while consolidating and reviewing the criteria for participation instead of a firm 8 year moratorium as outlined in the previous paper; (ii) Admit new participants if their participation is clearly necessary on the basis of merit and strategic considerations while keeping in mind the need for a manageable and reasonably-sized ARF; and (iii) explore the possibility of inviting interested countries and Institutions as 'Observers' at appropriate levels. Despite the imposition of a 'flexible moratorium' on participation in order to allow for consolidation, this has not stopped the outstanding applicants from lobbying for admission.

- e) Impact of other regional organizations / cooperation mechanisms. The emerging roles of other regional organizations such as APEC's involvement in security issues, and the establishment of a Northeast Asia Peace and Security Mechanism Working Group by the Six-Party Talks, have raised questions about ARF's role and niche in promoting peace and security in the region particularly in light of the internal challenges facing the ARF outlined above.
- f) Proliferation of Meetings. With the increase in the number of meetings, some smaller countries find themselves unable to attend every single meeting.

Section III: Future Direction

- 12 Given the achievements and shortcomings as spelt out above, ARF Member Countries should consider how to reinvigorate the ARF in the dynamic regional security environment in which it operates. In this regard, key issues for the ARF at this stage in its development include (1) advancement towards preventive diplomacy in a phased and prudent manner, while continuing with confidence-building measures; and (2) engaging in regional cooperative activities that are of value to its participants. The ARF participants should consider the merits of the ARF developing institutional features (such as the OSCE and the SCO), in addition to those of a forum, so as to make it more effective in implementing the collective objectives, while bearing in mind that any changes will have to take into account regional characteristics.
- 13 To ensure that the ARF remains as the premier regional security institution, consideration could be made to the following broad thrusts:
 - a) Strengthen both ASEAN and non ASEAN participants' role in the ARF process. Although ASEAN has undertaken the obligation to be the "primary driving force" of the ARF, a successful ARF requires the active participation, support

and cooperation of all participants. ASEAN must always be sensitive to and take into account the interests and concerns of all ARF participants. Some ASEAN countries require additional resources and expertise to better fulfill their driving role. In addition, some countries, including ASEAN countries, also lack the necessary resources to organize or actively participate in ARF activities. In this regard, some ARF countries need the support of better-endowed ARF participants, especially funding and convening meetings where possible in ASEAN countries. ARF initiatives or activities should continue to be co-chaired by at least one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF country. Where possible, ARF activities could take place in the Asia Pacific region to facilitate participation by ARF countries. The ARF Unit could develop options for the co-shepherding of particular areas of cooperation by ASEAN and non-ASEAN ARF countries for review. A successful ARF requires the active participation, support and cooperation of all participants, and ASEAN must always be sensitive and take into account the interests and concerns of all ARF participants. For ASEAN, the ASEAN Political and Security Community blueprint should be the guiding basic principle to reaffirm the ASEAN's centrality in the Forum. A stronger, more action-oriented ARF can serve as one of ASEAN's hallmark achievements in its Political and Security Community and its wider regional role.

- b) Enhance concrete practical cooperation. We should encourage the convening of more joint/multi-agency exercises to help build up inter-operability and familiarity among ARF operational agencies and regional counterparts. Already, such cooperation is increasing, as exemplified by the ARF Seminar on Avian Flu (September 2006); ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise (January 2007); and the ARF Disaster Relief Desktop Exercise (held in May 2008). Moving forward, some countries are exploring field exercises deploying real assets, and in this regard, the proposal to conduct an ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response on Disaster Relief sometime in 2009 is a good beginning and should be supported. The ARF should also conduct exercises in disaster relief, maritime security and other areas at an appropriate time. Concrete technical assistance and capacity-building efforts is another area for cooperation in the ARF. Upon the request by a participating country, the ARF may assist one or a small group of countries in the ARF region. To facilitate such concrete cooperation, the involvement of defence officials and their role in the ARF process should be further expanded by tapping into the potential of the ARF Security Policy Conference to further initiate, coordinate and facilitate defence dialogues and exchanges among participating

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countries. Furthermore, the already established ISMs should be strengthened as the main venues to deepen the elaboration of their respective issues. Relevance should also be taken into consideration in convening the subsequent ISMs as a continuing process.

- c) Maintain the 'flexible moratorium' on membership to ensure a manageable and reasonably sized ARF. There are outstanding applications from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Afghanistan. However, some countries suggested that we should look into the creation of observer status for those countries interested in ARF activities, and that the ARF Unit should look into this possibility. The views of all ARF participants must be sought and taken into account on membership issues. The Forum needs to consider carefully the criteria for its new participation[As spelt in the Chairman Statement of the 3rd ARF of 23 July 1996, those are: i) Commitment: All new participants, who will all be sovereign states, must subscribe to, and work cooperatively to help achieve the ARF's key goals. Prior to their admission, all new participants should agree to abide by and respect fully the decisions and statements already made by the ARF. All ASEAN members are automatically participants of ARF. ii) Relevance: A new participant should be admitted only if it can be demonstrated that it has an impact on the peace and security of the "geographical footprint" of key ARF activities (i.e. Northeast and Southeast Asia as well as Oceania). iii) Gradual expansion: Efforts must be made to control the number of participants to a manageable level to ensure the effectiveness of the ARF. iv) Consultations: All applications for participation should be submitted to the Chairman of the ARF, who will consult all the other ARF participants at the SOM and ascertain whether a consensus exists for the admission of the new participant. Actual decisions on participation will be approved by the Ministers.] and the views of all ARF participants must be sought and taken into account for participation issues. In that regard, to support the decision, the ARF Chair may request the ARF Unit to assess participation application and observer status on case-by-case basis.
- d) Focus on the following key areas: counter-terrorism and transnational crime, disaster relief, non-proliferation and disarmament, maritime security, and peacekeeping. Notwithstanding that traditional issues remain important, the ARF should venture boldly into appropriate non-traditional security issues, as well as develop expertise in some key areas where these activities can contribute to our collective security objectives. ARF should ensure that it keeps its focus on the security aspects of non-traditional issues on its agenda. The ARF convenes two

annual Inter-sessional Meetings (ISMs) on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime and Disaster Relief. It is also working to launch another ISM covering non-proliferation and disarmament issues, in place of the ad hoc but frequent ARF meetings on non-proliferation. We should also consider the establishment of an ISM on Maritime Security, given the strategic importance of the sea lanes connecting most ARF participants as well as the strong interest and annual meetings that have been held on this subject. Concept papers on these ISMs will be tabled for discussion in due course. This will also involve the ARF Unit undertaking a review of capacities of the ARF countries, in order to help ARF participants understand their needs and to enable the forum to formulate measures which would further strengthen existing capacities and explore sharing of capacities should the need arise. Besides the above-mentioned areas, future cooperation could also be explored in the area of information security in view of growing regional concern. We also need to focus on the quality of meetings, not quantity of meetings. In other words, we need to ensure that there is a value added for each ARF meeting.

- e) Strengthen the role of the ARF Chair and the ARF Unit. This will better facilitate and coordinate the implementation of ARF activities. In particular, the ARF Chair could activate the Friends of the Chair, in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Friends of Chair adopted by the 14th ARF in order to assist the ARF Chair in its work. The ARF Chair could also perform a role in exercising its good offices and/or in coordination in between ARF meetings, as spelt in the paper on “Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair” adopted by the 9th ARF in 2001¹ The ARF Unit should be augmented with more resources, manpower, and a greater mandate to support the enhanced role of the ARF Chair and to implement expanded tasks of the ARF Unit itself. Conceivable measures which could be further explored may include recruiting more staff for the ARF Unit and developing capacity building

1 The ARF Chair was accorded the following role:

- a) Promoting confidence-building among ARF participants by facilitating information exchange and dialogue between and among ARF participants, such as by holding conferences and workshops;
- b) Fostering cooperation between ARF participants by facilitating discussion on potential areas of cooperation;
- c) Facilitating discussions on norms building in the ARF to enhance mutual trust and understanding;
- d) Encouraging exchange of information and highlighting issues that can impact on regional security for consideration by the ARF by serving as a conduit for information sharing in between ARF meeting; Serving as a focal point for consultations among ARF participants on the basis of consensus. Upon prior consent of directly involved states and the consensus of all ARF participants, the ARF Chair may convene an ad hoc meeting of all ARF participants at an appropriate level; and
- e) Liaising with external parties, such as heads of international organisations, and Track II organisations on an informal basis and with prior consultation with all ARF participants and their consent.

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programs for the Unit's staff-training courses, seminars, or workshops with other organisations' secretariat and others. In this regard, the ARF Unit could be tasked to come up with a paper on means of strengthening the ARF Unit. In addition, the ARF Unit could be tasked to submit reports to the ARF Chair of any emerging or existing security issues that may adversely affect the peace and the security of the region. In this connection, the ASEAN Secretary-General can participate in the meeting of the Friends of the ARF Chair mechanism at the request of the ARF Chair.

- f) Enhance cooperation with Track II/other organisations. The Concept Paper on interaction between Track I and II and ARF and other international organizations adopted by the 13th ARF sets a framework for interaction between ARF and Track II. Contacts with Track II and external organisations should be followed up as they help bring in new and unique perspectives which could enrich ARF discussions. Such cooperation will also help increase the profile of the ARF. Deepening such engagement should be carefully considered on the basis of merit, value added and strategic considerations. Amongst the organisations, consideration could be made for the forum to strengthen its interaction with the organizations such as the OSCE, UN, SCO, CICA, NAM, and the OAS. In addition, the ARF could work to have CSCAP or EEP meetings back to back with certain ARF meetings, so that the ARF could take advantage of the discussions in these preceding Track II meetings, and continue to invite Track II representatives to participate in ARF meetings. The ARF could invite the UN Secretary-General to attend the annual ARF Ministerial Meeting because it is important for the UN and the ARF to cooperate and share views on a wide range of issues. The ARF could also explore cooperation with other organisations such as the OSCE, possibly through the establishment of working groups or MOUs between the organisations. Having relevant organizations, appropriate resource persons and non-ARF representatives regularly attend appropriate ARF meetings can help ensure that ARF's efforts are complementary and not duplicative with existing efforts by our governments. To this end, ASEAN and ARF should seek to collaborate more to learn what each other has accomplished in the security field in the respective institutional tracks. ASEAN should give briefings to ARF at relevant meetings on security activities to better enhance coordination.
- g) Improve ARF Working Methods through speeding up the decision making process. While ASEAN should continue as the primary driving force in the ARF, it is important to consider new processes to ensure that the ARF keeps up with

changing times. The decision making process could be sped up, while taking into account the internal procedures of participating countries. In this regard, the ARF, during its 15th ARF Meeting, should endorse the proposal to (i) Ease the administrative tasks of the ARF Ministerial by empowering the SOM with certain, limited powers to endorse ARF activities for the next cycle¹; and (ii) create an expedited procedure for endorsement of urgent ARF activities (limited to seminars and workshops) during the current ARF cycle by the Senior Officials, via written procedure². Ways to improve day-to-day communications, perhaps through the ARFNet or the establishment of email groups among ARF SOM Leaders and ISG officials should also be sought. The number of meetings may also be streamlined.

- h) Strengthening substantive aspects of the Annual Security Outlook (ASO). Since its first publication, the ASO has contributed to a greater appreciation and understanding of each country's regional security outlook. The current submission and format are not standardised. Hence, to enable all participants to better assess the real practical value of the submissions, a standardised reporting format could be outlined. In doing so, the ARF could explore the ideas of using survey forms and questionnaires. The ARF Unit could undertake the task of drawing up a standardised format in consultation with all ARF countries. SOM and the ARF Ministerial Meetings may encourage the Member States to contribute in greater details to the voluntary ASO Report.
- i) Develop an ARF Vision Statement. There should be a clear vision of the ARF's purposes, functions and direction up to the year 2020. Clear direction from Ministers can propel the institution further forward in defining its mandate for regional security. A Vision Statement can also help differentiate ARF's role from that of other regional and international organizations. This Vision Statement should be developed in the near future, taking into account the recommendations

1 The purpose of this proposal is to allow the Ministers to focus even more on the important political discussions. The SOM would in the future endorse established ISMs, ARF workshops and seminars while the Ministerial would remain competent for deciding about more general questions such as the creation of a new ISM or other new initiatives and kinds of activities.

2 There may be urgent ARF activities - urgent meaning that the issue cannot wait until the next ARF cycle, due to the subject matter concerned or due to other important considerations - that would benefit all ARF participants if undertaken during the current ARF cycle. The fight against avian influenza - which was a sudden and unforeseen serious challenge - could be cited as an example for an urgent issue the dealing with which could have been enhanced by a short-notice ARF activity. In order to avoid waiting until the next cycle in the future, the suggestion is to create an emergency or expedited procedure, i.e. i): a proposal for an activity requiring a decision during the current ARF cycle would be circulated by the ARF Chair through diplomatic channels to ARF Senior Officials (Email copy to the contact points of ARF participating countries); and ii) the decision would be taken by written procedure upon expiry of a silence procedure of an appropriate number of days in view of the given subject matter (that is the absence of a veto during a given deadline for response).

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in this Review paper, the Study of Best Practices and Lessons Learnt by selected International and Regional Organisations in Preventive Diplomacy, the 2002 review as well as the 1994 ARF Concept Paper. It should also take into consideration the ongoing developments in the ASEAN Charter and the development of the ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint, as they will necessarily impact on the ARF.

- j) Assess the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Study Outcomes. Central to ARF Preventive Diplomacy Study is a list of recommendations for the ARF. The ARF needs to consider the study's recommendations, and implement those which are suitable and appropriate to the region.

ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement

We, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants, gather today on 23 July 2009 in Phuket, Thailand to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the ARF after its establishment in Bangkok in 1994. Representing Participants located in or with a key stake in the wide expanse of the Asia-Pacific, we chart a Vision for ARF by 2020 and its place in the region to ensure that our peoples can thrive and prosper in a safe, peaceful and harmonious environment. In so doing, we reaffirm our commitments to the principles that have guided our cooperation well over the past 15 years.

Building a Region of Peace, Friendship and Prosperity

1. We see the ARF as a central pillar in the evolving regional security architecture. Taking into account other regional arrangements, for and cooperative frameworks that have emerged over the years, it is vital for the ARF to significantly contribute to the changing political landscape and evolving regional security architecture and make further efforts to raise its effectiveness.
2. We envision the Asia-Pacific as a region of lasting peace, stability, friendship and prosperity where States and organizations, both within and outside the region, work in a spirit of mutual trust, appreciation and respect to overcome security threats and challenges and prevent escalation of potential conflicts with a view to creating an environment conducive to sustainable development, social progress and improved quality of life for all peoples in the region.
3. We envision a region where States, institutions and other relevant organizations actively cooperate in promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, mutual understanding, respect and dialogue amongst peoples, cultures, religions and civilizations through the sharing and shaping of norms and values.

Guiding Approaches

4. We reaffirm ASEAN's role as the primary driving force in the ARF process. Noting

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the ASEAN Charter, we are committed to realizing enhanced synergies between the ASEAN Political-Security Community and the ARF. We also pledge close consultations with and the participation, support and cooperation of all ARF Participants in moving forward the ARF process.

5. We commit to move the ARF at a pace comfortable to all Participants in its evolution from the stage of confidence-building measures to the development of preventive diplomacy, while bearing in mind the ultimate stage where we can elaborate approaches to conflict resolution.
6. We envision the accession by all ARF participants to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) which contributes further to the region's long-term peace and stability and testifies to the deeper trust and higher level of cooperation between and among ARF Participants. We recognize the importance of fully adhering to the purposes and principles of the TAC.

Enhancing Cooperation for Action

7. Taking into account the principles and approaches mentioned above, including the UN and ASEAN Charters, we pledge to cultivate and nurture amongst the ARF Participants a habit of constructive dialogue, cooperation and greater transparency on political and security issues of common interest and concern and, as much as possible, to reconcile any differing views among us in order to address and reduce threats to regional peace and security, as follows:
 - Strengthen ARF's role in raising awareness on security challenges and intensifying confidence building and cooperation.
 - Develop preventive diplomacy in priority areas that directly affect our peoples and that are insurmountable through our individual actions alone, namely those pertaining to non-traditional, transboundary and inter-state security challenges including working towards mutually acceptable early warning mechanisms.
 - Make the ARF an action-oriented mechanism that develops concrete and effective responses to the common challenges confronting the Asia- Pacific region, such as terrorism and transnational crime, disaster relief maritime security and non-proliferation and disarmament, and those that may arise in the future.
 - Maintain comprehensive approaches to regional security issues, as appropriate,

including developing codes of conduct, guidelines, common standard operating procedures and best practices along with standby arrangements, effective interoperable collective responses and enhanced capability including through joint exercises in specific areas of activity agreeable to all Participants.

- Encourage greater participation in ARF activities by a broad spectrum of agencies and officials including defense and security.
- Develop feasible preventive diplomacy capabilities through, amongst others, norm-building and enhanced channels of communication.
- Promote the role of the ARF Chair including enhancing the Friends of the ARF Chair mechanism that, with the consent of the ARF Participants involved, can help address situations of common concern. The Secretary-General of ASEAN could also serve as a point of first contact in cases of emergency or crisis.
- Develop more advanced institutional features for ARF which could include the development of stronger secretariat support by providing necessary resources to the ARF Unit.

Building Partnerships for Comprehensive Security

8. We envision the ARF developing fruitful partnerships and networks of cooperation amongst various security organizations and fora in the Asia-Pacific region and other regions as well as with international organizations with a view to creating feasible synergies between them on issues of common concerns.
9. We believe that Track II organizations, including the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs), ASEAN ISIS and CSCAP, and with the consensus of ARF Participants, relevant accredited civil society groups can provide useful ideas and policy inputs and help raise public awareness of the ARF.

Implementation

To fulfill our Vision, we will develop a plan of action and undertake a regular review of its implementation.

ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)

We, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants, gathered today at the 27th ARF on 12 September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam to chart the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II 2020-2025.

1. Recalling the ARF Vision Statement (2009) and the Hanoi Plan of Action to implement the ARF Vision Statement (2010) and noting their progress of implementation.
2. Reaffirming the ARF as a central pillar in the evolving regional security architecture. Also reaffirming the commitment of the ARF in fostering constructive dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues of common interest and concern, enhancing mutual understanding and transparency, reconciling differing views to reduce the risk to security, promoting the shaping and sharing of norms and respect for international law, including the UN Charter, as well as promoting confidence building and preventive diplomacy to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.
3. Noting the efforts of all ARF Participants on proposing and implementing activities on confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy (CBMs and PD) and emphasising the importance of furthering this trend in accordance with the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy and consistent with the principles in the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy.
4. Recognising that the ARF principles and guiding approaches, including decision-making by consensus, have enabled the ARF Participants to move the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all, through ARF's evolutionary approach of promotion of confidence building measures, development of preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches to conflict resolution.
5. Reaffirming ASEAN's role as the primary driving force in the ARF process and that a successful ARF requires the active, full and equal participation and cooperation of all Participants.

6. Recalling the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its objective to build a united, inclusive and resilient community that is cohesive and responsive in addressing challenges to regional peace and security by the year 2025.
7. Acknowledging that the evolving regional security architecture and growing complexities of security challenges require the ARF to continue positioning and revitalising itself to address these challenges in a holistic and comprehensive manner to maintain its relevance and significance as an action-oriented Forum, and to synergise its work with other ASEAN-led mechanisms for greater concerted efforts and coherence, as well as to promote cooperation with other regional and international bodies.
8. Stressing that this Plan of Action should be implemented in accordance with the principle of consensus, on a voluntary basis, and in conformity with relevant international and national laws and regulations.

We hereby decide on the following guidance for the Forum to develop and implement concrete and practical actions:

1. Areas of Cooperation

1.1. Disaster Relief

Support the work of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Disaster Relief (DR) as an established ARF framework to effectively tackle regional disaster relief issues.

- 1.1.1. Support and contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response (OAOR) and the 2018 ARF Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation through concrete, practical and enhanced activities.
- 1.1.2. Support civil-military coordination that enhances regional capacity and strengthen preparedness and response, to provide effective and timely responses to major natural disasters, including through the holding of regular trainings/activities among ARF Participants and promote participation of military officials in the ARF ISMs on DR.
- 1.1.3. Support and promote tools such as regional protocols, a standby arrangement system, a model legal arrangement for foreign assistance, common standard operating procedures, best practices, a voluntary registration scheme of

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civilian and military capabilities, and innovative initiatives that ultimately create an effective regional disaster response framework complementary to internationally established guidelines.

- 1.1.4. Promote sharing of best practices and lessons learnt with other international bodies dealing with disaster risk reduction and disaster relief, public health emergencies, climate change adaptation such as the United Nations (UN), and other regional mechanisms to encourage complementarity.
- 1.1.5. Promote cooperation, information sharing and capacity building for an effective regional disaster response.
- 1.1.6. Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks as well as ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to assist the work of the ISM on DR to enhance cooperation.
- 1.1.7. Underline the importance of the ARF General Guidelines for DR Cooperation and ARF Work Plan on DR and enhance their implementation to promote the continuity of works in this area of cooperation.

1.2. Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

Support the work of the ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) as a framework to address regional terrorism, transnational crime including new and emerging forms of transnational crime and to enhance cooperation and exchange of best practices in the field of law enforcement, and strengthen cooperation, including in the area of border management and illicit drug trafficking, while ensuring respect for international law.

- 1.2.1. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among ASEAN Member States.
- 1.2.2. Encourage ARF Participants to accede, ratify, and implement relevant UN international instruments and conventions and to participate actively in international counter terrorism and transnational crime fora.
- 1.2.3. Support the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its annexed Plan of Action.
- 1.2.4. Strengthen the implementation of legal cooperation among ARF Participants to counter terrorism, and radicalisation to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
- 1.2.5. Support the implementation of the 2019 ARF Statement on Preventing and

Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT) and note ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (PCRVE) 2018-2025 and its complimentary Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN PoA to PCRVE (or the 'Bali Work Plan 2019-2025').

- 1.2.6. Support the development of national, multilateral and regional strategies and national legal frameworks in the field of counter terrorism and transnational crime, including anti-money laundering, and counter financing of terrorism, through information exchange and capacity building.
- 1.2.7. Encourage cooperation and collaboration to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, radicalisation to terrorism especially online, through exchange of experiences and best practices on de-radicalisation and disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration programs to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, including addressing the needs and perspectives of women and children associated with foreign terrorist fighters.
- 1.2.8. Promote and strengthen cooperation through information exchange and capacity building among competent national and regional authorities and law enforcement agencies in charge of countering terrorism and transnational crime, including but not limited to, detecting, preventing and suppressing the flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF), especially to address the threats and challenges posed by FTFs who return to home countries or relocate from conflict zones to third countries, bearing in mind the need to maintain a high level of data protection if personal information is to be exchanged.
- 1.2.9. Support the development of initiatives aimed at addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and the drivers of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), both internal and external, in a balanced manner, and transnational organised crimes that terrorists and perpetrators of transnational crimes can exploit, and build resilient inclusive communities able to resist terrorist and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
- 1.2.10. Promote information sharing on terrorism and transnational organised crimes, including operational methods, movements, terrorist financing and other relevant illicit activities such as money laundering, smuggling and misuse of weapons and explosives, as well as Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) materials.
- 1.2.11. Promote information sharing, capacity building activities and comparative study on the selection process, training and equipment of the Participants' anti-

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terrorist forces.

- 1.2.12. Strengthen regional counter-terrorism preparedness and cooperation against CBR threats, including through the Network of ASEAN CBR Defence Experts.
- 1.2.13. Enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies, when appropriate, to counter the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, and their precursors, associated crimes, and strengthen the prevention of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances as well as to promote the implementation of the 2017 ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem.
- 1.2.14. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in line with its complementary ASEAN Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA).
- 1.2.15. Recognise the benefits of practical cooperation and sharing of information, intelligence and expertise, including best practices in addressing trafficking in persons, and people smuggling and support increasing links between the ARF and other related regional and international consultative processes in this regard.
- 1.2.16. Promote technical support and cooperation among ARF Participants through transfer of skills, knowledge and technology to enhance technical capabilities of all ARF Participants in conformity with international commitments and national laws.
- 1.2.17. Encourage networking among regional law enforcement and military agencies, where appropriate, as well as continue to use and improve existing platforms to build regional capacity to respond to terrorism and transnational crime threats.
- 1.2.18. Enhance cooperation on border management through dialogue, sharing of best practices and capacity building among relevant law enforcement and border control agencies to better address terrorism and transnational crimes.
- 1.2.19. Develop programs and activities aimed at the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance, respect for diversity and inter-faith, intra-faith and intercultural dialogue in the region.
- 1.2.20. Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks as well as ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ISM on CTTC to enhance cooperation.
- 1.2.21. Underline the importance of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC and enhance its implementation to ensure the continuity of works in this area of cooperation.

1.3. Maritime Security

Support the work of the ARF ISM on Maritime Security (MS) as an established regional framework that addresses maritime security issues.

- 1.3.1. Promote compliance and adherence to international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant international legal instruments and regional arrangements.
- 1.3.2. Forge close cooperation toward promoting freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, enhancing maritime security and safety of navigation, including through the implementation of standards, best practices, and in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, and the relevant Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), taking into account and without duplicating existing regional mechanisms and frameworks.
- 1.3.3. Promote cooperation on maritime issues, including maritime security and safety and search and rescue, maritime domain awareness (MDA), maritime risks arising from the use of ICTs and combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing through activities such as information sharing and technological cooperation in line with national and international law.
- 1.3.4. Promote regional maritime security capacity building, including through concrete activities, where appropriate, such as information sharing, exchanges of officials, and holding maritime security related table-top and joint training exercises among maritime law enforcement agencies and/or competent maritime authorities of the respective ARF Participants, at the same time, continue to promote the implementation of the 2016 ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies.
- 1.3.5. Promote and strengthen networking with other maritime-related fora, as part of a comprehensive and mutually beneficial approach to maritime cooperation.
- 1.3.6. Forge closer cooperation in combating crimes at sea such as piracy and armed robbery against ships, hijacking, smuggling, illicit drug and trafficking in persons, and illegal trade in marine wildlife, in accordance with national and international law through concrete and practical activities.
- 1.3.7. Promote shared awareness and exchange of information and best practices on ensuring maritime security, safety and freedom of navigation and overflight, sustainable development of marine environment, in accordance with

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international law.

- 1.3.8. Promote maritime confidence building measures and cooperation based on international and regional legal frameworks, arrangements and cooperation including the 1982 UNCLOS.
- 1.3.9. Promote closer maritime cooperation, including through information sharing, capacity building and training in the protection and preservation of the marine environment, including the sustainable use of marine resources, the protection and restoration of biodiversity, the prevention, reduction and management of marine debris including plastics as well as other types of sea-based and land-based pollution, promote scientific collaboration to strengthen scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine debris, and the prevention of accidental/deliberate releases of chemical, biological and radiological substances on mutually agreed terms.
- 1.3.10. Promote the sustainable development of coastal communities, including through raising the awareness of maritime issues including the impacts of climate change and promoting the sustainable management of marine resources in the region.
- 1.3.11. Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks and ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ISM on MS to enhance efforts in regional maritime security.
- 1.3.12. Underline the importance of the ARF Work Plan on MS and enhance the implementation to ensure the continuity of works in this area of cooperation.

1.4. Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

Support the work of the ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD) as a framework to address issues of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear technology towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

- 1.4.1. Consider to develop initiatives with a view to contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- 1.4.2. Promote ARF contributions to the development of peaceful uses of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (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 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Organisation for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (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.

- 1.4.3. 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.
- 1.4.4. Where appropriate and consistent with national policies, support the compliance with and implementation by ARF Participants of international treaties on non-proliferation and disarmament, 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.
- 1.4.5. Encourage nuclear weapon States and States parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) to work constructively with a view to ensuring the early accession of the nuclear weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty.
- 1.4.6. Strengthen cooperation by encouraging compliance with and adherence to, as well as promoting exchange of views on universalisation, implementation, and strengthening of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and enhancing support for the OPCW.
- 1.4.7. Encourage the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the work of ISM on NPD as well as the implementation of the subsequent relevant UNSCRs.
- 1.4.8. 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.
- 1.4.9. 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.
- 1.4.10. 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.

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- 1.4.11. 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.
- 1.4.12. Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national, regional think tanks, including Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) as well as the ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ISM on NPD to enhance cooperation.
- 1.4.13. 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.

1.5. Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies

Support the work of the ARF ISM on Security of and in the Use of ICTs and the ARF Open Ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures to Reduce the Risk of Conflicts Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in promoting and developing an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment to prevent conflicts and crises by developing trust, confidence and cooperation among ARF Participants. This can be achieved through confidence building measures, information sharing, capacity building and voluntary and non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour as well as through the work and consensus reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

- 1.5.1. Encourage voluntary sharing of information and exchange of best practices and strategies to address emerging threats stemming from the use of ICTs. Improve cooperation, including to develop capacity necessary to respond to criminal and terrorist use of ICTs and for the implementation of confidence building measures.
- 1.5.2. Promote mutual trust and develop and implement confidence building measures to enhance the understanding of the ARF in the ICT environment through the convening of practical activities to reduce the risk of misperception, miscalculation and escalation of tension leading to conflict.
- 1.5.3. Promote activities to raise awareness on threats to the security of and in the use of ICTs and on the methods for countering such threats.
- 1.5.4. Continue discussion on the terminology related to security of and in the use of ICTs to promote understanding of different national practices and usage.

- 1.5.5. Promote cooperation through information sharing, best practices, study visits and capacity building among national authorities in charge of the security of and in the use of ICTs.
- 1.5.6. Promote cooperation to protect ICT-enabled critical infrastructure with a view to enhancing security of and in the use of ICTs in the region.
- 1.5.7. Promote cooperation in awareness raising and information sharing on emergency responses to security incidents in the use of ICTs.
- 1.5.8. Encourage participation and update on a regular basis the ARF Points of Contact Directory on Security of and in the Use of ICTs.
- 1.5.9. Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks as well as ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ISM on Security of and in the Use of ICTs to enhance cooperation.
- 1.5.10. Underline the importance of the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs and enhance its implementation to ensure the continuity of work in this area of cooperation.

1.6. Defence Cooperation

Promoting defence and security dialogue as well as practical cooperation to enhance regional peace, security and stability.

- 1.6.1. Strengthen the effectiveness of the Defence Officials Dialogue (DOD) by developing a Terms of Reference (TOR) of the DOD.
- 1.6.2. Promote the alignment of the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) with ARF's activities to ensure practical and effective defence participation in the ARF process. Strengthen the role of the ASPC in fostering dialogue and cooperation on defence-related matters in the region with the support of the DOD.
- 1.6.3. Expand the capacity of the ARF Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges, and Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM) to exchange best practices in defence academic development, in order to foster dialogue and mutual understanding.
- 1.6.4. Enhance complementarity and synergy between ARF and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-plus) to avoid duplication of effort.
- 1.6.5. Promote joint training, planning and experience sharing activities, including, where appropriate, conducting desk-top and scenario- based planning exercises, joint exercise, workshops, and seminars for ARF defence officials on areas of common interest with the consent of ARF Participants.
- 1.6.6. Encourage the effective implementation of the Joint Statement on Promoting

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the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum, including to encourage the adoption of national policies, national action plans, and efforts of regional frameworks aimed at raising public awareness of women's rights and the importance of their role and participation in peace processes, the resolution and prevention of armed conflict, and peacebuilding.

1.7. Peacekeeping Operations

Promote and contribute to the UN peacekeeping and post-conflict peace building efforts, in accordance with the UN peacekeeping guiding principles and the capacity of respective ARF Participants.

- 1.7.1. Support the convening of ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting on a regular basis.
- 1.7.2. Promote networking among ARF Participants' peacekeeping centres to encourage cooperation among them in such areas as trainings and seminars.
- 1.7.3. Promote the implementation of the UN's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative through sharing of best practices among ARF Participants.
- 1.7.4. Promote women empowerment in peace and security processes by providing more training, increasing deployment and meaningful participation of women at all levels, and incorporating the WPS agenda into the relevant planning and implementation of peacekeeping operations.
- 1.7.5. Compile a list of peacekeeping best practices and lessons learned including inputs from the UN and other regional organisations inter alia, in the area of joint capacity building and training, safety and security of peacekeepers, protection of civilians, the use of new technology, performance and accountability, etc. for the reference of ARF Participants.
- 1.7.6. Update on a regular basis the list of ARF peacekeeping contact points to facilitate information sharing.
- 1.7.7. Promote practical cooperation in peacekeeping among ARF Participants, including enhancing peacekeepers' capabilities in responding to public health emergencies, especially by developing proper medical training programs, as well as training under the UN Triangular Partnership Project (TPP) for engineering and medical personnel.

2. Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Preventive Diplomacy (PD)

- 2.1. Continue the current practice of initiating and implementing CBMs by at least one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF Participant.
- 2.2. Compile best practices on confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution for further development by the ARF.
- 2.3. Improve the collection, dissemination, and exchange of information and analyses of regional security concerns.
- 2.4. Encourage ARF Participants to arrive at mutually agreed CBMs and support the promotion of their implementation to enhance peace, stability, economic growth and prosperity in the region.
- 2.5. Encourage ARF Participants to come up with initiatives to develop concrete and effective ARF responses to emerging challenges.
- 2.6. Encourage greater participation of ARF defence officials in ARF activities in order to promote understanding of regional defence policies and security perceptions.
- 2.7. Increase exchanges and cooperation among defence officials and military training institutions in order to promote trust and mutual understanding.
- 2.8. Encourage ARF Participants to propose concrete activities such as workshops, seminars, and the compilation and sharing of best practices on PD to enhance capacity and capabilities.
- 2.9. Utilise, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks and as well as ARF EEPs to assist the work of the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting (ISG) on CBMs and PD.

3. Institutional Enhancement

3.1. Role of the ARF Chair

- 3.1.1. Promote the role of the ARF Chair in fostering confidence building among ARF Participants by facilitating dialogue and information exchange.
- 3.1.2. Enhance the role of the ARF Chair in ensuring the effective and substantive contribution of the ARF Participants to ARF activities and improving the efficiency of its work processes.
- 3.1.3. Promote the role of the ARF Chair with the possibility of assistance from the Secretary-General of ASEAN as a point of first contact in cases of emergency or crisis.

3.2. Friends of the ARF Chair

Activate and exercise the Friends of the ARF Chair mechanism as and when needed.

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3.3. ARF Unit

- 3.3.1. Strengthen the expertise and personnel capacity of the ARF Unit to assist the ARF Chair in efficiently facilitating the work of the ARF.
- 3.3.2. Consider elevating the ARF Unit into a division of the ASEAN Secretariat through the increase of the number of officials working in the ARF Unit.
- 3.3.3. Encourage all ARF Participants to contribute funding, personnel, and expertise assistance to the ARF Unit on a project-by-project basis or through more comprehensive means.
- 3.3.4. Hold regular discussions to review the capacity of the ARF Unit and where appropriate, seek out additional resources from ARF Participants, and plan appropriate resource assistance to the ARF Unit.
- 3.3.5. Support the officials from the ARF Unit to update the directory list of ARF Focal Points and EEPs regularly.

3.4. ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Group (EEPs)

- 3.4.1. Utilise the ARF EEPs as an expert consultative resource in strengthening the ARF process.
- 3.4.2. Consider expanding the functions of the ARF EEPs to increase its relevance and to align its mission with that of the ARF.

3.5. ARF Fund

- 3.5.1. Encourage commitments from ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners to fund ARF activities through their respective ASEAN assistance programs.
- 3.5.2. Encourage ARF Participants to contribute to the ARF Fund and propose concrete activities or projects to further enhance the ARF's capacity.
- 3.5.3. Review the TOR of the ARF Fund to ensure effective utilisation of the Fund.

3.6. ARF partnerships and networks

- 3.6.1. Improve the networking of established regional security centres, think tanks, and the ARF Unit.
- 3.6.2. Encourage the development of an ARF consultation process with accredited and mutually acceptable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on regional security matters.
- 3.6.3. Support the work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) as the ASEAN institution for research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution in the region.

3.7. Regional and international security bodies

- 3.7.1. Develop concrete and mutually beneficial cooperation programmes, as appropriate, with relevant regional and international security bodies, including those of the UN system.

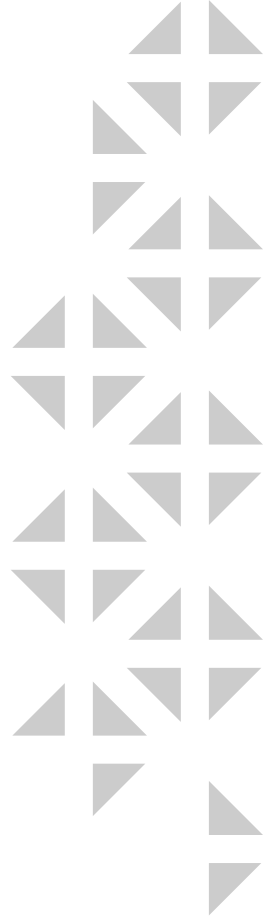
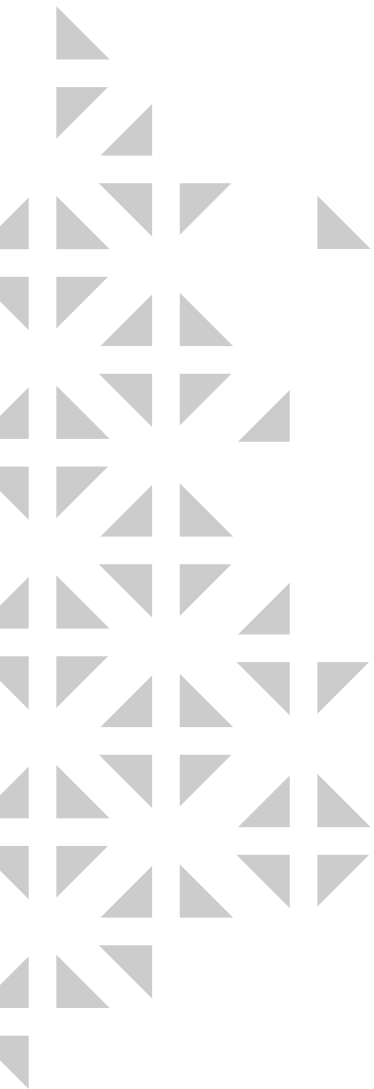
3.8. Track II organisations

- 3.8.1. Encourage joint research projects pertinent to new and emerging traditional and non-traditional security challenges as well as defence issues in the region with government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes.
- 3.8.2. Encourage the development of modality/guidelines for regular consultation with Track II organisations.
- 3.8.3. Encourage the development of an appropriate procedure that allows Track II participants to meaningfully contribute to the ARF, through the implementation of existing procedures to consider recommendations from ASEAN-Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN- ISIS), and CSCAP.
- 3.8.4. Encourage Track II organisations to enhance ARF's public profile and visibility.

4. Review and Implementation

- 4.1. The implementation of the POA will be monitored by the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and annually reported to the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and the ARF Ministers for evaluation and review to ensure that all its activities are responsive to the needs and priorities of the ARF. The ARF Unit will assist the ARF Chair in recording the implementation, based on input received from ARF Participants.
- 4.2. End of term reviews should be undertaken by the ARF SOM and reported to the Ministers. These reviews should be carried out by the ARF Chair with the assistance of the ARF Unit in the year 2025.
- 4.3. Co-Chairs of ARF ISMs will facilitate the development and implementation of action lines under the respective areas of cooperation and to review and brief the progress to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD. The Co-Chairs of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will then brief the ARF SOM.
- 4.4. The progress report of this Plan of Action will be prepared by the ARF Unit and submitted to the ARF Ministers for consideration.
- 4.5. The implementation of the POA should be maintained as one of the agenda items of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD.
- 4.6. Any amendment to the POA should be made with the consent of all ARF Participants and adopted by Ministers.

AREAS OF COOPERATION



Asean Regional Forum Export Licensing Experts Meeting

17 – 18 NOV 05, SINGAPORE

BEST PRACTICES IN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING

Export licensing experts from ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) met in Singapore, 17 – 18 November 2005, to exchange national experiences and identify strategies which the ARF can recommend to enhance export licensing capacity in the region. In this regard, and consistent with UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), participants identified the following best practices to be submitted to the ARF SOM for consideration of adoption.

- An export control system that is in harmony with international practices so as to minimize the uncertainty to industry from having to adjust to different national regulatory requirements of their trading partners.
- Comprehensive export control laws and regulations which enable export control authorities to implement the licensing requirements to control the transfers of items, technology and related services, including violations and penalties.
- Transparent regulations to ensure that legitimate trade is facilitated by minimizing the regulatory burden in complying with the export control law.
- Effective and transparent licensing organization and processes to ensure adequate review of license applications for nonproliferation and other security reasons.
- Licensing authorities would have procedures, databases, and watch lists for evaluating parties involved in transfers, paying particular attention to those considered to be suspicious, unreliable, or presenting a high risk of diversion.
- Processes to ensure that technical experts, intelligence experts and policy officials from all government agencies have the knowledge and opportunity to evaluate licence applications for proliferation and other security concerns.
- Procedures to confirm, as appropriate, the legitimacy of stated end-users and end-uses.
- Procedures to confirm, as appropriate, that licensed items have reached their stated

end-users and are being used for their approved end-use.

- Outreach to industry to ensure awareness of obligations and to encourage self-compliance as well as seek feedback on licensing procedures.
- Assist industry in identifying whether or not their goods and technology are controlled under the national control list.
- Information-sharing with other governments, as appropriate, to enhance international efforts against proliferation, while protecting the confidentiality of commercial information.

ARF General Guidelines for Disaster Relief Cooperation

In line with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality and based upon UN recognized standards, the General Guidelines aim to establish a basic framework for disaster relief cooperation among ASEAN Regional Forum participating countries, to promote more effective cooperation, and to reduce the losses due to frequent disasters.

1. Scope

- a) In this document, “disaster” refers to a situation which requires assistance among the ARF participating countries in certain region where a natural or man-made event has caused significant human injuries and fatalities, serious damage to properties, livelihood, essential services, lifelines and public infrastructure, disruptions to the functioning of a community or society and threats to public health, and surrounding environment. The provision of humanitarian assistance in situation of armed conflict is beyond the scope of these guidelines.
- b) “Relief” refers to resources and humanitarian action that the ARF participating countries could offer, which include, but are not limited to personnel, equipment, relief supplies, and actions related to transit facilitation.

2. Basic Principles

- a) Mutual Assistance on Equal Footing. In carrying out disaster relief cooperation, ARF will recognize the centrality of saving human lives and alleviating suffering where it is found. The Assisting Country will, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, provide relief to the Receiving Country, and shall respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Receiving Country without any racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination. The Receiving Country, upon receipt of relief from the Assisting Country, should ensure the timely, fair and transparent distribution of relief, and give timely briefing on how the relief is being used. The ARF participating countries will, within their capabilities, facilitate the disaster relief operation, such as, but is not limited to, the rapid and unimpeded delivery of relief consignments, equipment and

personnel, the protection of such consignments.

- b) Respect for Receiving Country's Decision. The Receiving Country has the first and foremost responsibility to take care of the victims of disasters occurring on its territory. The Assisting Country will provide disaster relief only with the consent of the Receiving Country. All disaster relief activities by the Assisting Country within the territory of the Receiving country should be supportive of the guidance, coordination, and arrangements of the government of the Receiving country.
- c) Decision by Mutual Agreement. The Receiving Country and the Assisting Country are ready to discuss and resolve differences and related issues that emerge during the preparation, launch, implementation, and conclusion of disaster relief operations, by seeking mutual agreement in ways comfortable to both sides.
- d) Enhancing Coordination. Recognizing the central role of the United Nations, in particular the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in coordinating the international humanitarian assistance efforts, the ARF participating countries will enhance coordination among themselves and with the humanitarian disaster relief activities of the United Nations and other international, regional, and local governmental and non-governmental organizations.

3. Launch of Disaster Relief Operations

- a) The disaster relief operations should be launched with the consent of the Receiving Country. The national disaster relief contact points of the ARF participants, or international organizations should be informed by the Receiving Country or the UN agencies through diplomatic channels after a disaster has stricken. Taking into account the speed with which assets and personnel need to be on the ground to have practical effect at saving lives and alleviating human suffering, the designated lead agencies for disaster relief of the ARF participants will undertake the coordination of disaster relief efforts within its territory. ARF participants are encouraged to stock-take and inform the contact points of their lead agencies and resources and capacities for overseas disaster relief to facilitate the process.
- b) The Receiving Country, in its request, should make clear the details of the disaster, such as location, time, nature, and magnitude of the disaster, as well as the relief needs and priorities, and where applicable, may seek assistance from the international post disaster damages and needs assessment (PDNA) teams in identifying the areas of greatest need.
- c) Upon receipt of the request for disaster relief, the ARF participating countries

should, in a timely manner, review such requests and inform the Receiving Country as soon as possible whether it can provide assistance and, if applicable, of the nature, amount, and terms of the relief. All forms of relief from the Assisting Country should conform to the aim and requirement for disaster relief of the Receiving Country and be conducive to rehabilitation and be compatible with the long-term development of the Receiving country.

- d) The ARF participating countries should adopt all necessary measures to, as far as possible, prevent disaster within their territories from spreading abroad, and will immediately inform the relevant countries and international organizations when the danger of such spread emerges, so that coordinated measures can be undertaken to mitigate the effects.
- e) In accordance with their domestic legislation and regulations, the ARF participating countries in the proximity of emergencies, upon receipt of the request by the Assisting Country or the Receiving Country, are encouraged to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of PDNA and disaster relief teams, equipment, facilities, and material supplies that are bound for the Receiving Country.

4. Management of Disaster Relief

- a) Unless otherwise agreed, the Receiving Country should exercise the overall direction, coordination and supervision of the foreign disaster relief teams within its territory. Disaster relief teams of the Assisting Country should follow the general plan of the Receiving Country for disaster relief operations.
- b) The government of the Assisting Country retains the full competence and responsibility for the internal management of all personnel, equipment and resources in disaster relief operations. The government of the Receiving Country should facilitate the work of foreign disaster relief teams within its territory, and do its utmost to ensure the safety of these personnel, equipment, and material supplies in the disaster relief operations. ARF participating countries will work together on importation, clearances, transfers, or exportation to accommodate disaster relief operations with the least possible delay.
- c) During their stay in the Transit Country and the Receiving Country, members of the disaster relief team should strictly abide by all the laws and regulations and respect the customs of these countries, implement relief impartially on the basis of need, not become involved in local disputes, and will seek to avoid having an adverse effect on the local economy.
- d) Military assets should only be requested for disaster relief as a last resort where

there is no comparable civilian alternative and when their use can meet a critical humanitarian need. The use of such assets will be subject to mutually agreed arrangement between the Receiving and Assisting Countries, including, if applicable, to the appropriate status of forces arrangements.

- e) The Receiving Country and the Assisting Country should coordinate with each other to determine the length of stay of the disaster relief team. The Receiving Country has the right to ask the Assisting Country to withdraw any of its personnel, equipment or materials from the territory of the Receiving Country, within time frame agreed by both countries.
- f) Following the principle of friendly consultation, the Assisting Country and the Receiving Country should coordinate and consult to resolve the issues arising from disaster relief operation.

5. Cost of Disaster Relief

Disaster relief assistance should be provided at no cost to the Receiving Country, unless otherwise agreed between concerned States or regulated by international agreements.

6. Amendment and Relations with Other Instruments

- a) The Guidelines are of a non-binding nature and will not, in any way, affect the rights, obligations or responsibilities of States and where relevant, individuals under the Charter of the United Nations and, where applicable, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977 or under other applicable international laws. The Guidelines may be amended by consensus as the situation requires.
- b) To strengthen regional disaster relief collaboration and apply the Guidelines more effectively, the ARF participating countries are encouraged to enhance their disaster relief capacities through such cooperative activities as joint exercises, training programs, and partnerships with relevant bodies of ASEAN, UN and other international organizations, to reach a bilateral or regional understanding on the use of disaster relief resources, as well as to support the efforts for establishing a regional arrangement for the facilitation of the provision of the immediate humanitarian assistance.

ASEAN Regional Forum Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan

Introduction

- 1 The ASEAN Regional Forum's (ARF) founding document, the 1995 *ARF Concept Paper*, identified a three-stage process for ARF to develop a more predictable and constructive pattern of relations for the Asia-Pacific. It was agreed that ARF would progress from Stage I - Promotion of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs); through Stage II - Development of Preventive Diplomacy Mechanisms; and ultimately Stage III - Development of Conflict-Resolution Mechanisms. Noting ARF's success in implementing CBMs, the 8th ARF in July 2001 judged that the time was right to begin a discussion on preventive diplomacy. At the 8th ARF, Ministers adopted the paper *ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy*.
- 2 The 14th ARF in August 2007 welcomed the Track II *Study of Best Practices and Lessons Learnt by Selected International and Regional Organisations in Preventive Diplomacy* (the PD Study). At the 16th ARF in July 2009, Ministers mandated officials to begin development of an ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan by drawing on the PD Study and other relevant ARF documents. The 16th ARF also tasked the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to provide their views on the elements of such a Work Plan. The 4th Meeting of the ARF EEPs was held in December 2009 and prepared a paper entitled *Draft Elements of a Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy*. This ARF *Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan* has been prepared taking into account the above discussions and papers.

Objectives

- 3 The objectives of the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan are as follows:
 - To establish appropriate preventive diplomacy measures/mechanisms for the ARF;
 - To move the ARF process forward from Stage I - Confidence Building Measures to Stage II - Preventive Diplomacy, on the basis of consensus through action-oriented cooperation and activities, while continuing confidence building measures, mindful of ARF's intention ultimately to move to Stage III and;
 - To increase the capacity and capabilities of the ARF and its participants in the area

of preventive diplomacy.

Definition

4 ARF's agreed definition of preventive diplomacy is contained in paragraph 7 of the 2001 paper, *ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy*.

"Preventive diplomacy is consensual diplomatic and political action taken by sovereign states with the consent of all directly involved parties:

- To help prevent disputes and conflicts from arising between States that could potentially pose a threat to regional peace and stability;*
- To help prevent such disputes and conflicts from escalating into armed confrontation; and*
- To help minimise the impact of such disputes and conflicts on the region."*

Principles

5 Preventive diplomacy measures/mechanisms in the ARF should be subject to a step-by-step approach and applied subject to the following principles:

- Those agreed by Ministers in the Concept and Principles of the Preventive Diplomacy document adopted at the 8th ARF;
- based on consultation and consensus;
- the application of existing CBMs and the development of new CBMs should be continued;
- the application of preventive diplomacy measures/mechanisms should be non coercive, and voluntary upon specific request and clear consent of all parties directly involved in a particular dispute;
- Preventive diplomacy should be conducted in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law embodied, inter alia, in the UN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

Work Plan

- Strengthen concrete cooperation in the ARF areas of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Maritime Security, Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and Peacekeeping Operations.
- Continue to implement and enhance CBMs.
- Encourage ARF participants to contribute to the ARF Annual Security Outlook with review and analysis of it conducted when practical to identify possible areas of ARF PD work.

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- Develop standardised formats and reporting criteria for CBMs.
- Identify and partner with mutually agreeable organisations, such as the UN, on preventive diplomacy capacity building programmes, experience sharing and training.
- Conduct workshops and training programmes for ARF participants on preventive diplomacy.
- Strengthen the ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat by providing it with the necessary manpower, expertise and resources to support and monitor ARF activities as well as to support the ARF Chair.
- As appropriate, utilise the ARF EEPs, CSCAP and ASEAN-ISIS as expert consultative bodies for monitoring and identifying potential flashpoints.
- In the longer term, consider the establishment of a regional risk reduction centre to monitor regional trends.
- On the basis of consensus, identify and develop optional and voluntary preventive diplomacy mechanisms that could be utilised by ARF participants. These could include:
 - ◇ capacity-building such as technical assistance;
 - ◇ good offices role consistent with the Hanoi Plan of Action (ARF Chair, ASEAN Secretary-General, and Friends of the ARF Chair);
 - ◇ consider expanding the functions of the ARF EEPs;
 - ◇ fact-finding and observer missions; and
 - ◇ those identified in the TAC.
- Over time, with the consent of all directly involved parties, explore and consider the potential for:
 - ◇ mediation/facilitated dialogue;
 - ◇ conciliation.

Review and Implementation

- The implementation of the work plan should be reviewed and evaluated as appropriate by the ISG and SOM to ensure that its activities are responsive to the needs and priorities of the ARF.
- Any amendment to the work plan should be made with the consent of all ARF participants and adopted by ministers.

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 workinglevel 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.

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- 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

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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)

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- 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

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- 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 nonpower 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,

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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.

Best Practices for Implementation of a Disease Surveillance System

The 2011 ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance was held from 13-15 September 2011 in Manila, Philippines. This workshop provided a forum to share technical and logistical best practices related to human and animal disease detection and surveillance. The workshop focused on strategies to strengthen and integrate infectious disease detection and surveillance to ensure early warning for effective control of outbreaks, whether natural, accidental or intentional in origin. The workshop built upon the 2010 ASEAN Regional Forum workshop, which focused specifically on laboratory biorisk management. Similar to the 2010 workshop, participants recommended a list of key considerations as guidance for implementation of a disease surveillance system. This list of voluntary activities can be a useful tool for national governments, assistance providers, and ARF in their respective implementation of surveillance policies and assist in discussions on regional cooperation. This list is not exhaustive and not all of these practices are applicable to all countries; rather this list is intended to provide useful reference points for countries in developing their own national systems.

Key Considerations:

- **Implement WHO International Health Regulations (2005) and Codes of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) core capacities for surveillance and response**
 - For human health, focus on program areas in the WHO Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Disease (APSED)
 - Implement disease surveillance programs
 - Consider ways to strengthen the existing disease surveillance system including disease detection and reporting in-country
 - Develop robust mechanism for interagency coordination and planning efforts for disease surveillance
 - Build upon past coordination efforts, including national responses to A/H1N1.

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- Ensure the lead agency is sufficiently empowered to address conflicts among line agencies
- Consider syndromic/indicator vs. event-based surveillance
- Develop priority list of diseases with strong case definitions
- Link clinical reporting to laboratory confirmation
- Deploy Field Epidemiology Programs
 - Consider existing models, including the field level participatory epidemiology pilot projects conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Strengthen linkages between disease surveillance and nutritional surveillance systems
- Develop laboratory capacity in country or through partnerships
 - Develop laboratory capacity for diagnosis of key diseases
 - Employ laboratory biorisk management best practices
 - Implement laboratory quality management systems
 - Establish proficiency testing for laboratories
 - Support ISO Accreditation of laboratories
 - Harmonize diagnostics/ protocols to ensure standardization and quality results
 - Establish regulatory board guidelines on use of new techniques such as molecular assays for diagnosis
 - Develop information systems for disease reporting
 - Create infection control standard operating procedures
 - Set standards, based on the pathogen and diagnostic method, for time from sample receipt into the laboratory to diagnostic confirmation
 - Implement quality assurance mechanisms to assure timely and accurate reporting
 - Improve human resources base
 - Provide more training on basic lab methods and new diagnostics
 - Involve universities to improve training in new laboratory settings and methods
 - Provide biosafety training
 - Develop a regional pool of animal and human health experts to address emergencies of international concern
 - Develop local capacity to certify lab equipment
 - Ensure sufficient number of qualified veterinarians

- Address need for specialized personnel (ex. lab engineer) to assist in designing laboratory infrastructure and support of ongoing laboratory operations
 - Develop regional reference laboratory for confirmation, training and advisory on new techniques/ testing
 - Establish minimum institutional capacity on an intranational and international/regional level
 - Improve lab capacity of animal labs
 - Improve basic lab (e.g. microbiological) capacity
 - Optimize usage of laboratories (e.g. prioritizing limited BSL 3 capacity as needed)
 - Establish guidance for use of BSL 2 for emerging infections
 - Create mechanism for regional funding for emergencies to address surge capability
 - Develop private sector industries for manufacture of basic laboratory supplies/ materials/ reagents to lower costs
 - Perform horizon scanning/ risk assessment for pathogens to be tested aside from routine diagnostic tests
 - Consider developing regional and national strategic framework for both human and animal laboratories
- Improve coordination among laboratories
 - Establish linkages, agreements with reference labs for sharing of information, expertise and capabilities at the regional level
 - Consider shared testing using specialized high-throughput labs to minimize cost of testing
 - Ensure security and tracking of shipments
 - Meet regularly in order to share information, ideas and new techniques
 - Encourage twinning of laboratories
 - Encourage south-south cooperation
 - Disseminate information to stakeholders
- **Reporting: Facilitate regional and international outbreak reporting, and laboratory confirmation, if requested**
 - Coordinate outbreak reporting at the National level to WHO, FAO and OIE, as appropriate, as well as to other countries in the region
 - Network through existing national, regional, and international mechanisms

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- including the IHR National Focal Points, Ministries of Health, ASEAN Plus Three partnerships on laboratories, and others as appropriate
- Provide daily reporting through websites
- **Response**
 - Develop protocol for regional preparedness, alert and response
 - Develop protocol for public health emergency preparedness
 - Ensure capability to investigate and respond to outbreaks
 - Encourage joint response to cross-border epidemiology emergencies
- **Encourage joint health and law enforcement criminal investigations of infectious disease events, and recognition of indicators of possible intentional misuse of biological agents**
 - Enhance existing forensics laboratory and human capacity to investigate natural and intentional outbreak scenarios; organize regional network of forensic labs
 - Promote regional response collaborations and emergency resource sharing, including exchange expertise, curriculum development, and capacity building
 - Need for joint training/exercises at all levels to ensure awareness, recognition, response and coordination using common case definitions
 - Trainings should reflect appropriate roles and responsibilities
 - Identify existing laboratory capacity throughout region and enhance capabilities
 - Consider use of coordinating bodies at all levels to share resources, maximize benefit
 - Must tailor specific systems to each locality/nation/region
 - Common guidelines can be useful.
 - Recognize role of professional judgment.
 - Develop notification triggers and mechanisms at all levels.
 - Enhance cooperation under ASEAN and international mechanisms, including WHO, OIE, FAO, BWC ISU, and UNSCR 1540, as appropriate
- **One Health: Integrate human and animal infectious disease surveillance for zoonotics, and emerging infections**
 - Encourage sharing of experience and competencies between human health and animal health experts
 - Define how related Ministries will work together and share information
 - Regular meetings—both formal and informal

- Define how laboratory confirmation of zoonotic and other illnesses will be performed, e.g., under Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, jointly, etc.
 - Coordinate outbreak reporting between relevant Ministries in country
 - Promote regional/international forum in enhancing One Health implementation
 - Develop list of priority diseases between sectors
 - Mandate strategies from the highest political level
 - Enhance risk communication, both horizontally and vertically
 - Define responsibilities of each agency
 - Set up One Health taskforce for zoonotic disease campaigns
 - Strengthen policy and laws to encourage one health approach
 - Identify and build upon existing one-health structures—such as quarantine facilities at borders
 - Conduct surveillance and capture data at points of entry including human, animal, wildlife, and plant
 - Share information between points of entry & between countries-horizontal and vertical
 - Establish and monitor key performance indicators
 - Establish one health rapid response teams
 - Encourage One Health submission of human and animal samples to specialized reference laboratories for specific diseases
- **Conduct monitoring and evaluation of surveillance and response capacity**

ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

Background

The Work Plan has been developed following the adoption of the Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security by the ARF Foreign Ministers at the 19th ARF Ministerial Meeting, 12 July 2012, Phnom Penh. The Statement sets out a number of measures to intensify regional cooperation. Ministers requested “a work plan on security in the use of ICTs focused on practical cooperation on confidence building measures”. This plan gives effect to that request and is a step towards the implementation of Ministerial statement of 2012. As set out in the Chairman’s Statement of the 21st ARF Ministerial Meeting on 10 August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Ministers tasked officials to submit the plan to the 22nd ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2015.

Purpose

The purpose of the Work Plan is to promote a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative ICT environment and to prevent conflict and crises by developing trust and confidence between states in the ARF region, and by capacity building.

Objectives

The objectives of the work plan are to:

- (a) promote transparency and develop confidence building measures to enhance the understanding of ARF Participating Countries in the ICT environment with a view to reducing the risk of misperception, miscalculation and escalation of tension leading to conflict;
- (b) raise awareness on threats related to the security of and in the use of ICTs;
- (c) enhance practical cooperation between ARF Participating Countries to protect ICT-enabled critical infrastructure with the view to also developing resilient government ICT environments; and
- (d) Improve cooperation including develop regional capacity to respond to criminal and

terrorist use of ICTs through improved coordination and coordinated response.

Relationship to the Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC)

The Work Plan is a living document. It forms part of the CTTC Work Plan.

The ARF Unit will review its implementation progress annually and report to the Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime and to the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy. The work plan shall be reviewed initially three years after its adoption.

The outcome of the review shall be endorsed by ARF Senior Officials' Meeting and be approved by Ministers.

Implementation

This Work Plan sets out activities which participants have identified as meeting the purpose and objectives of the plan. These activities will be implemented in accordance with ARF practices and procedures under which ARF participants put forward a concept paper for consideration and approval by the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy, by ARF Senior Officials and ARF Foreign Ministers. Each implementation activity will have an ASEAN and a non-ASEAN host. Concept papers will set out the parameters of the activity. Participants taking forward an activity will be responsible for arranging financing. Lead countries, co-sponsors and participants are invited to bring forward concept papers, selected from the list of activities, and to implement the Work Plan. New proposals for activities are also welcomed. The sharing of information by ARF Participating Countries in connection with an activity will be voluntary.

Proposed Activities

- 1) Establish an open ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs. The Group will comprise ARF Members. The Study Group could submit consensus reports recommending confidence building measures, drawing on previous ARF discussions and reviewing relevant work in other regional and international forums, taking in account the suggested activities set out in this Work Plan.
 - The Study Group should develop processes and procedures for sharing information between ARF contact points on preventing ICT crises, and criminal and terrorist use of ICTs; establishment of a contacts database (without duplicating existing CERT networks).
- 2) Conduct workshops and seminars for ARF Participating Countries.

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The focus of these workshops and seminars, which would support the work of the Study Group, could include the following:

- i. the voluntary sharing of information on national laws, policies, best practices and strategies as well as rules and regulations related to security of and in the use of ICTs as well as the procedures for this sharing of information;
- ii. discussion exercises involving cooperation among ARF participating countries, on how to prevent incidents related to security of and in the use of ICTs becoming regional security problems;
- iii. conduct of surveys on lessons learnt in dealing with threats to the security of and in the use of ICTs and creation of ARF databases on potential threats and possible remedies, taking into account the work that is already done in the commercial computer security sector and in the CERT community in this regard;
- iv. capacity building related to security of and in the use of ICTs and to combating criminal use of the internet;
- v. promotion of and cooperation in research and analysis on issues relevant to security of and in the use of ICTs;
- vi. discussion on rules, norms, and principles of responsible behaviour by ARF Participating Countries and the role of cultural diversity in the use of ICTs;
- vii. raising awareness for non-technical personnel and policy makers on threats in the use of ICTs and methods for countering such threats;
- viii. measures to promote cooperation among ARF Participating Countries against criminal and terrorist use of ICTs including, inter *alia*, cooperation between law enforcement agencies and legal practitioners, possible joint task force between countries, crime prevention and information sharing on possible regional cooperation mechanism;
- ix. discussion on the terminology related to security of and in the use of ICTs to promote understanding of different national practices and usage;
- x. consideration of establishment of senior policy Point of Contacts between ARF Participating Countries to facilitate real time communication about events and incidents in relation to security of and in the use of ICTs of potential regional security significance; and
- xi. consideration of establishment of channels for online information sharing on threats in ICT space, global ICT incidents and sources of ICT attacks threatening critical infrastructure, and development of modalities for real time information sharing (leveraging activities conducted by CERT networks).

It is important to establish relationships and cooperation, between government- mandated

authorities on national security of ARF Participating Countries, through establishment of senior policy point of contacts between ARF Participating Countries to facilitate real time communication about events and incidents in relation to security in the use of ICTs of potential regional security significance.

The ARF will build on relevant work underway in other forums including the United Nations, the UN Group of Governmental Experts on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and the UN Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime. It is not the intention of the ARF to duplicate this work.

Proposed Projects:

1. *ARF Workshop on Operationalising Confidence-Building Measures for Cooperation During Cyber Incident Response* (proposed by the EU and Malaysia), first half of 2016, location tbc.
2. *ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building* (proposed by China and Malaysia), 29-30 July 2015, Beijing.
3. *ARF Seminar on Operationalising Confidence-Building Measures in the ASEAN Regional Forum* (proposed by the United States and Singapore), fall 2015, Singapore.

Implemented Projects:

1. *“ARF Workshop on Cyber Confidence Building Measures”* by Australia and Malaysia, 25-26 March 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
2. *“ARF Workshop on Measures to Enhance Cyber Security-Legal and Cultural Aspects”* by China and Malaysia, 11-12 September 2013, Beijing, China.
3. *“ARF Seminar on Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace”* by Republic of Korea and Malaysia, 11-12 September 2012, Seoul, Republic of Korea.
4. *“ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response”* by Australia and Singapore, 6-7 September 2012, Singapore.
5. *“ARF Workshop on Proxy Actors in Cyberspace”* by the United States and Vietnam, 14-15 March 2012, Hoi An, Vietnam.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, Phnom Penh, 12 July 2012.
- ARF Cybercrime Capacity-Building Conference by United States and Viet Nam, held in Brunei, April 2010.

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- ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts on Cybersecurity and Cyber terrorism.
- The 1st - 4th ARF Seminars on Cyber Terrorism, 2004-2007:
(13-15 November 2004, Busan, Republic of Korea; 3-5 October 2005, the Philippines; 6-8 September 2006, New Delhi, India; and 16-19 October 2007, Jeju, Republic of Korea)
- ARF Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space, Kuala Lumpur, 28 July 2006.

Reference documents:

- ARF Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, Phnom Penh, 12 July 2012.
- ARF Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space, Kuala Lumpur, 28 July 2006.
- Report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, 24 June 2013 (A/68/98).
- Initial Set of OSCE Confidence Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the use of Information and Communication Technologies, Decision No. 1106, PC.DEC/1106, 3 December 2013.
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 2013 Resolution 22/7, "Strengthening International Cooperation to Combat Cybercrime"; and Resolution 22/8 "Promoting Technical Assistance and Capacity-building to Strengthen National Measures and International Cooperation Against Cybercrime".

ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan for Disaster Relief (2021-2024)

ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan for Disaster Relief (2021-2023) consists of Concept Paper and Implementation Annex. Concept Paper consists of context, objectives, priority areas and project types, leadership, management and funding structure, and relationship with other regional/global efforts. Implementation Annex elaborates each priority areas into implementation plans, including scope, potential project themes, lead countries, proposed Projects, references and past relevant activities.

Part I. Concept Paper

I. Context

In 2020, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) participants helped each other to overcome the difficulties and jointly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters in the region. With the intensification of global climate change and the increasing disaster risk, it is urgent to enhance disaster risk reduction capability. Disaster management has become one of the most pressing areas of cooperation in the ARF, and all participants need to reach more consensus through internal dialogue to continuously enhance regional capabilities for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response .

In July 2008, the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore tasked the co-chairs of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (Indonesia and the European Union), to work with ARF participants to draw up the first ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan, aimed at coordinating ARF-wide cooperation on disaster relief.

In July 2009, the 16th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held in Thailand, at which the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2009-2011 was adopted; In July 2010, the 17th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam adopted the Hanoi Plan of Action on the Implementation of the ARF Vision Statement ("Hanoi Plan of Action "); In July 2012, the 19th ARF Ministerial Meeting

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was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2012-2014 was adopted; In August 2014, the 21st ARF Ministerial Meeting was held in Nay Pyi Daw, Myanmar. The ministers stressed that civil-military cooperation and coordination were crucial to effective disaster response and supported more engagement among military, government and non-governmental organizations through participation in the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx); In August 2015, the 22nd ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia adopted the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2015-2017. The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management was endorsed at the third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in the same year; In 2016, ASEAN leaders adopted the One ASEAN, One Response Declaration, and in 2017, ASEAN leaders adopted the Declaration on Disaster Health Management; In August 2018, the 25th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held in Singapore, adopting the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2018-2020 and the ARF Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation. In September 2020, the 27th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held via videoconference, adopting the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II for 2020-2025.

II. Objectives

Drawing on the experience of ARF participants, taking guidance from ARF documents including *the 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action, the ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the General Guidelines on Disaster Relief Cooperation and the Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)*, and taking into account the latest developments in the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025* and *One ASEAN One Response* and other initiatives, we have updated the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2018-2020 and formulated the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2021-2023.

The key objective is to ensure long-term coordination and comprehensive planning among ARF participants, and to continue to:

- Assist in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional exercises and emergency response training to improve disaster preparedness capacity.
- Capture and build on shared experience and lessons learned, including from joint exercises.
- Maintain and build on existing ARF government efforts in capacity-building endeavors, technical support and information exchange.
- Complement and coordinate with existing regional and global initiatives.
- Strengthen existing government to government, regional and global disaster

- management networks; and
- Promote networking and partnerships between and among state and non-state actors.

III. Priority areas and project types

Priority areas are the cooperation areas of key concerns that are relevant and operable. The Work Plan and priority areas will be reviewed and updated or modified as necessary every two years at the ISM on Disaster Relief.

A project may take many forms. It can be single events or a series of activities with complexities. Some examples include but not limited to:

1. Capacity-building workshops that share information on experience and bring in government, private sector, community and other relevant experts to train and develop best practices, including the use of information technology on disaster management and emergency response.
2. 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 agreed Priority Areas and could be implemented by government agencies in cooperation with civil organizations or private sector agencies.
3. Multilateral tabletop or field exercises. that test the implementation of international and regional agreements, or modes of communication among ARF and sub-regional participants. Future exercises should take into account not only capacity building and technical support needs, but also modes of communication and information sharing among exercise participants.

IV. Leadership, Management and Funding Structure

Lead Countries

Lead Countries will be composed of one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF participant. Lead Countries will be responsible for briefly updating each ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG), Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and annual ISM DR meeting on recent and future progress in their Priority Area. The ISM DR Co-Chairs will monitor the effectiveness of the activities based on the reports given by the Lead Countries.

Lead Countries will be responsible for coordinating the input provided by ARF participants to their respective Priority Area, proposing their own projects, coordinating the work of their

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Priority Area, and seeking out Co-Sponsors to fund and host projects in need of assistance.

Lead Countries will be responsible for:

1. Liaising with the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs on the coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements;
2. Updating the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs on Work Plan contributions; and
3. Working with the ARF Unit to de-conflict projects, as appropriate.

ARF Unit

An essential element of this Work Plan continues to be the strengthened mandate of the ARF Unit. In order to effectively implement the Work Plan and specific projects, the ARF Unit will be requested to:

1. Provide administrative and technical support to ISM DR and appropriate project meetings;
2. Liaise regularly with Lead Countries to ensure adequate coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements;
3. Serve as a depository of incoming project proposals for countries;
4. Coordinate the implementation of certain projects including financial coordination of ARF contributions, contract services, and, if and as appropriate, engage in project monitoring, as directed by Lead Countries and in consultation with the ARF ISM DR Co-Chairs; and
5. Coordinate and de-conflict ARF projects, as appropriate with Lead Countries, Co-Sponsors, training centers, and other regional/international organizations.

Project application, implementation and review

The ISM DR Co-Chairs should seek to create an ISM DR agenda and meeting conducive to substantive discussion of and overall guidance to the Work Plan. All ARF participants are encouraged to submit appropriate project proposals to contribute to the development of functional cooperation in line with the Priority Areas of this Work Plan. ISM DR Co-Chairs should also be consulted in the development of Priority Area projects.

With a view to visualizing the connection between ARF official events and this Work Plan, when submitting project proposals to acquire the status of ARF official event, ARF participants should indicate the linkages, as appropriate, between their projects and Priority Areas of the Work Plan. ISM DR Co-Chairs should encourage ARF participants to organize ARF official events in line with Priority Areas of this Work Plan. Events will have one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF participant Co-sponsor associated with them.

Every Lead Country and Co-Sponsor should set a voluntary goal for introducing and contributing towards one project within the framework of the Priority Area during their two-year tenure. Lead Countries are encouraged to coordinate outside of ARF plenary meetings in order to manage their Priority Area.

The involvement of all ARF participants continues to be encouraged, although the Work Plan will not impose mandatory obligations upon any participants and will operate on the basis of consent. Projects will be funded by ARF participants unless noted otherwise. If necessary, sponsoring nations may seek assistance from donor nations or outside organizations.

During the annual ISM DR, the Work Plan will be reviewed in depth every two years to ensure continued relevance. Additional activities will be added and the Work Plan will be revised, as needed. Major changes to the Work Plan, such as the addition or subtraction of Priority Areas, should be approved by the Ministers. ISM DR Co-Chairs, Lead Countries and the ARF Unit will be responsible for updating and maintaining the implementation annex.

V. Relationship to Other Regional/International Efforts

The 15th ARF recognized the need for the Work Plan to be complementary to and coordinate appropriately with relevant regional and global efforts on disaster relief coordination and disaster risk reduction. Such efforts include, but not limited to, the efforts of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Emergency Preparedness Working Group, the ASEAN Coordination Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Framework, the United Nations Office for the Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus, and various disaster centers throughout the region. ARF activities should also comply with international guidance such as the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" and International Disaster Response Law Guidelines. Other important mechanisms are the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM).

Through this Work Plan, the following actions will be taken to ensure activities are complementary to and in coordination with other regional and global efforts:

1. The participation, as far as possible, of regional/international organizations in annual

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- ISM DR meetings, including co-chairs of the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
2. The participation, where possible, of the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs in relevant meetings of other forums;
 3. If possible, back-to-back meetings of the ISM on DR with the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on HADR;
 4. Consistent sharing of organization reports, strategies and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations;
 5. Consultation by Lead Countries, the ARF Unit, and ISM DR Co-Chairs with representatives of other forums; and
 6. Once approved by ARF Ministers, publication of the Disaster Management Work Plans on ARF and ASEAN public websites.

Part II. Implementation Annex

Rationale/Strategy:

The 18th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief was held in Vientiane, Laos from April 1 to 4 2019. Participants reviewed the progress of the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2018-2020 in the past year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 19th ISM on Disaster Relief, originally planned to be held in China in July 2020, was postponed to 2021.

In November 2020, ASEAN adopted the “ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response” 2021-2025 Work Programme (AADMER Work Program 2021-2025), proposing 5 priority areas including Risk Assessment and Monitoring, Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Resilience and Recovery and Global Leadership. This Work Plan fully considers the 5 priority areas in the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and the principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which will help achieve the outcomes and objectives of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025. However, given the ARF’s broader membership (including 10 ASEAN participants and 17 non-ASEAN participants), projects that do not directly contribute to the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 may still be considered.

Building on the preparedness and response activities under the AADMER Work Program 2021-2025 and other ASEAN-related mechanisms including the EAS and the ARF, this Work Plan focuses on the need to improve regional capabilities for disaster monitoring, early warning and response coordination, helps realize One ASEAN, One Response Declaration

as well as implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and AADMER Work Program 2021-2025 at regional and national levels.

The priority areas of this Work Plan will be as follows: 1. Promote Information Sharing to Jointly Enhance the Capacity for Disaster Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning; 2.Promote Rapid Deployment and Acceptance of HADR and Cooperation on Recovery and Reconstruction; 3.Promote Interoperability and Coordination in HADR operation.

As ASEAN member states and ASEAN dialogue partners, in most cases, are members or participants of ASEAN-related mechanisms, such as ASEAN Plus Three (10+3), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (AMDD+) and East Asia Summit (EAS), activities under this Work Plan will fully consider activities in ASEAN-related mechanisms and those organized by United Nations agencies or other regional organizations.

Priority Area 1:

Promote Information Sharing to Jointly Enhance the Capacity for Disaster Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning

A. Scope

Information sharing and networking among relevant national agencies as well as among countries have been recurring themes in HADR cooperation among ARF participants. These are important elements in improving disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacities. Existing mechanisms/systems, in particular, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), should be further utilized to facilitate exchange of real-time information and networking. Closer collaboration between these mechanisms/systems would help to enhance the capacities of the ARF participants in HADR operations.

Disaster risk reduction is an integral part of social and economic development and essential for sustainable development, including by integrating gender perspective in the promotion of information sharing. Unless disaster risks are effectively managed, increasing loss and damage will continue to undermine efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Close attention should be paid to the content related to risk assessment, monitoring and early warning in the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 to raise awareness and understanding disaster risk.

Risk assessment, monitoring and early warning are one of the priority areas of the AADMER

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Work Programme 2021-2025. There is still room for improvement of all countries. There is a need to further strengthen disaster risk information and experience sharing and enhance regional disaster management capacity.

B. Potential Project Themes (include, but are not limited to)

1. Exploring networking among existing mechanisms (such as the AHA Center, the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Center) to promote sharing of real-time information among ARF participants in times of disaster emergencies; improving the communication mechanism among ARF participants;
2. Conducting joint research on major natural disasters, risk assessment of multi-hazards and disaster chain, standards and specifications, technologies and methods; promoting the sharing of related data and results on disaster risk assessment and improving disaster risk identification and response capacity of ARF participants;
3. Conducting risk assessment of trans-regional natural disasters that covers entire cycle with all factors included, so as to improve regional coordination and collective response capabilities;
4. Carrying out technological exchanges and cooperation on comprehensive disaster risk monitoring and early warning;
5. Promoting cooperation on the monitoring and early warning of disasters such as typhoons, floods and droughts; exchanging information in a timely manner, and building early warning and forecasting platform;
6. Strengthening the exchange of working mechanisms and practices in the early detection, reporting, and handling of disaster risks, to improve effectiveness of information reporting and processing;
7. Sharing typical cases and practices in disaster risk reduction, case studies and tabletop exercises;
8. Jointly building earthquake monitoring and early warning network, carry out scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation in geodynamics, seismic risk assessment and prevention, as well as technical training on earthquake observation and prevention;
9. Raising risk awareness and improving understanding of disaster risk reduction and its relationship with sustainable development;
10. Promoting sharing of best practices and lessons learnt with other international bodies dealing with disaster risk reduction and disaster relief, public health emergencies and climate change adaption;
11. Strengthening the exchange and cooperation in regulations, policies and standards on

disaster risk reduction;

12. Promote Information Sharing to Jointly Enhance the Capacity for Disaster Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning.
13. Integrating gender perspective and promoting gender empowerment in disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacities.

C. Lead Countries (To be determined)

D. Proposed Projects (To be determined)

E. References – AADMER/AADMER Work Program/ARF

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025.
2. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum vision Statement 1. 2, Support and contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) through concrete and practical activities.
3. 6th ARF ISM on DR. Qingdao, 18-20 September 2006. Noted the recommendation for ARF countries to strengthen regional disaster preparedness through such measures as holding joint training and exercises, and (ii) developing risk monitoring and early warning capabilities through sharing information, expertise and technologies, as well as contributing and utilization of the UNESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund.
4. ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (ARF-DRMS). a practical tool termed the ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (ARF-DRMS) Initiative was developed by Australia and Singapore. The Mapping Service contains geospatial data which will be voluntarily contributed by ARF participants and readily available in the event of emergency. The Mapping Service had become operational in July 2010 and can be accessed through the Links section of the ARFNet.

F. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (ARF-DRMS).
2. Development of systems in the area of RAEWM developed under the purview of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for the AHA Centre. These include:
 - (i) ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) with the Pacific Disaster Center supported by the United States:

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- (ii) ASEAN Standby Arrangements Database with the United States (to be connected to the DMRS);
 - (iii) Web EOC and the ICT capabilities of AHA Centre and the ASEAN member States through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF);
 - (iv) ASEAN-Wide Disaster Risk Assessment Strategy supported by UNDRR and GFDRR;
 - (v) Knowledge Management (KM) system led by Singapore as ASEAN's lead country;
 - (vi) Database development and flood risk management with JICA;
 - (vii) ASEAN Earthquake Model being developed by academic/scientific institutions based in ASEAN region led by Singapore NTU and supported by Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR), etc;
3. Application of Satellite Technologies for Emergencies Preparedness, Management and Response (EPMR) in Asia-Pacific Region, August 2013, Indonesia.
 4. International workshop within the framework of Russia-ASEAN strategic partnership on improving the interaction of national crisis management centers, in Russia, 2013.
 5. ARF Workshop on Typhoon Disaster Risk Reduction and Damage Mitigation on 5-6 December 2017 in Guangzhou, China.

Priority Area 2:

Promote Rapid Deployment and Acceptance of HADR and Cooperation on Recovery and Reconstruction

A. Scope

Facilitating better disaster relief coordination among ARF participants requires several elements such as defining protocols on requesting, offering and accepting of assistance, and overcoming procedural bottlenecks to expedite transit procedures for assisting entities to bring in relief assets and capacities to the affected country. Efficient systems for issuing permits/rights/licenses to assist in disasters are needed. Customs clearance, immigration and quarantine procedures for bringing in relief supplies and personnel must be prepared. Privileges and immunity for assisting countries' personnel and their assets are in conformity with domestic procedures, effective laws and regulations.

This priority area should look into gaps and bottlenecks in deployment and acceptance of assistance in HADR operations without resorting to creation of new mechanisms. Rather, existing ARF mechanisms such as the ARF Strategic Guidance on HADR and the ARF Voluntary Model Arrangement on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets

(MCDA) in Disaster Relief should be re-examined to meet the current needs. The ASEAN's operational mechanisms such as the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Operations (SASOP) as well as the IDRL "Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance" developed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement could be reference.

Moreover, post-disaster reconstruction is crucial to the restoration of the normal life of the population in the affected areas. Therefore, ARF should carry out more relevant activities to improve its participants' capacity for post-disaster reconstruction, especially with a view to preventing recurrence of disasters by Building Back Better (BBB).

B. Potential Project Themes (include, but are not limited to):

1. Reviewing existing domestic policies, procedures and regulations to identify gaps and propose amendments as appropriate to facilitate the entry of international assistance and make it easier for the ARF participants and other assisting entities to provide assistance, if needed;
2. Developing, examining or implementing tools (such as protocols, model arrangements, training, etc.) to facilitate rapid deployment and enhance the efficiency of the entry of assistance in HADR operations;
3. Developing mechanisms for joint or complementary ways of working with the other humanitarian actors;
4. Sharing experience and practices on the evacuation of the population in dangerous areas to minimize casualties and on the resettlement and relief of those evacuated, e.g., the selection of resettlement sites, material support, resettlement sites management, etc.;
5. Sharing practices on post-disaster recovery and reconstruction and on the rapid restoration of normal life in the affected areas, e.g., through financial subsidies, engineering projects and infrastructure support;
6. Promoting "First Responder" program to improve disaster response capacity at community level.
7. Integrating gender perspective and promoting gender equality in the deployment and acceptance of assistance in HADR operations.

C. Lead Countries: (To be determined)

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D. Proposed Projects (To be determined)

E. References:

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025;
2. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement 1.4. Develop and refine tools such as regional protocols, a standby arrangement system, a model legal arrangement for foreign military assistance, common standard operating procedures, best practices, a voluntary registration scheme of civilian and military capabilities, and innovative initiatives that ultimately create effective regional disaster response framework complementary to internationally established guidelines;
3. 10th ARF ISM-DR, Bangkok 2-3 September 2010 Develop synergies, share lessons, and ultimately institutionalize coordination between ARDEX and the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx);
4. 2nd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulations on Armed Forces' Participation in International Disaster Relief, Beijing, 30-31 August 2010. In the future, ARF can improve and complete the ARF Strategic Guidance for HADR in regards to civil-military cooperation with the aim of strengthening national and regional disaster response capabilities among ARF participants, as well as improving the speed and effectiveness of ARF multinational disaster relief responses.

E. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) implemented on an annual basis (2005-2008) and bi-annual basis (2013 onwards);
2. Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Operations (SASOP);
3. ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
4. IDRL "Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance" developed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
5. ARF Workshop on Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (Beijing, Yunnan, 23-27 November, 2014).

Priority Area 3:

Promote Interoperability and Coordination in HADR operation

A: Scope

Similar regional initiatives are being implemented within several ASEAN Sectoral bodies, such as the ACDM, as well as other related mechanisms such as ADMM-Plus and EAS. This priority area should focus on facilitating synergy between these initiatives and those of the ARF to minimize duplication of efforts.

The ARF should take advantage of the participation of military and defense departments to promote civil-military cooperation and coordination. Specific activities involving military assets and capabilities can be carried out in this priority area, such as the ARF DiREx. The outcomes of these exercises should also be able to address gaps and bottlenecks in HADR operations, and promote interoperability and civil-military coordination among the ARF participants, as well as relevant ASEAN mechanisms, such as the AHA Centre and the ACMM in HADR operations.

B. Potential Project Themes (include, but are not limited to)

1. Identifying and understanding key elements of the smooth progress of civil-military cooperation and coordination, such as organization, mechanism, procedures and laws;
2. Promoting civil-military consultation, coordination and dialogues between ARF, the EAS, ADMM, ADMM-Plus, ACDM, and relevant HADR parties, which include AHA Centre and UNOCHA to set policy directions and methods to strengthen civil- military cooperation and coordination in HADR;
3. Conducting tabletop exercises (TTX), simulation exercises, assessments and emergency rescue training activities to improve the disaster preparedness and response capability of the ARF participants, as well as further enhance interoperability and coordination;
4. Synchronising outputs of ARDEX and ARF DiREx to ensure synergy between ASEAN and ARF mechanisms;
5. Reviewing the outcomes of the ARF DiREx in the annual ISM DR and other relevant forums; discussing the future direction to ensure practical and operational exercise by pursuing possible synergy with other HADR parties;
6. Studying the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which includes coordination among different SOPs;
7. Strengthen urban search and rescue coordination capabilities by participating in Asia-Pacific earthquake emergency exercises.
8. Integrating gender perspective and promoting gender equality in the promotion of civil-military cooperation and coordination.

C. Leading country (to be determined)

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D. Proposed projects (to be determined)

1. Support experience sharing from other ASEAN-led mechanisms on HADR.
2. Support other civil-military coordination dialogues or training programs within the region which relate to HADR operations.
3. Support AHA Centre initiatives such as ERAT and multilateral AMS civil-military coordination training on HADR operations.

E: References

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025.
2. The 19th and 20th ASEAN Summits, and First Meeting of Conference of the Parties (COP) of AADMER: AADMER should remain as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN, and for other agencies and mechanisms relate to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, EAS, ARF, ADMM and ADMM Plus, and synchronize their policies using AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality.
3. "Hanoi Action Plan to Implement the Vision Statement of the ASEAN Regional Forum".
 - a. The ARF aims to coordinate regional cooperation in Disaster Relief/Management and strengthen the interoperability of civil-military relief operations.
 - b. 1.3. Support civil-military coordination that enhances regional capabilities to provide effective and timely responses to major natural disasters, including regular exercises commensurate with the capacity of ARF Participants.
4. ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance for Disaster Relief (HADR).
5. ARF Seminar on Civil-Military Operations (Makati City, September 2005).
 - a. Standardize operating principles/procedures for use of both civilian and military disaster relief officials and materials within ARF participants, such as visa, diplomatic permits, landing permits, etc;
 - b. ARF participants could establish a registration procedure for relevant NGO participants to minimize confusion, duplication, etc.
6. The 6th ARF ISM-DR (Qingdao, September 2006) recognized the urgency of initiating the ARF regional cooperation on disaster relief, and agreed that the ARF participants could identify relevant priority areas for cooperation, such as civil-military coordination, and the modality of cooperation should complement rather than duplicate the existing regional arrangements.
7. The 2nd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International

Disaster Relief by Armed Forces (Beijing, August 2010). Laws and regulations on HADR by armed forces should cover six aspects: legal norms of conduct on the subject, activity, procedure, legal liability, coordination issues, and the safety and security of the troops involved in HADR operations.

8. The 3rd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces (Beijing, June 2012).
9. The 13th ARF Ministerial Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, July 2006). The ARF Statement on Disaster Relief and Emergency Response calls for the formulation of ARF General Guidelines on disaster management and emergency response for civilian and military personnel within ARF participants.

F. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ARF Workshop on Civil-Military Operations (Makati City, September 2005).
2. The 1st Non-Traditional Security Workshop within ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO): Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), (Bangkok, June 2009).
3. The 2nd Non-Traditional Security Workshop within ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO): Disaster Management, (Bangkok, June 2010).
4. The 3rd Non-Traditional Security Workshop within ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO): Table-Top Exercise on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (Bangkok, September 2011).
5. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Manado, Indonesia, March 2011).
6. The 1st Workshop on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in HADR (Jakarta, October 2009).
7. The 2nd Workshop on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in HADR (Jakarta, March 2011).
8. ARDEX 2005-2008 in Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore and Thailand (ARDEX 2009 in the Philippines and ARDEX 2010 in Indonesia were cancelled in view of actual disasters in the host countries).
9. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Thailand, May 2013).
10. ASEAN Leader's Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management (Seri Begawan, October 2013): Designate ACDM as the driver of maintaining ASEAN's Centrality in HADR efforts, and established a Joint Task Force.
11. ARF Multi-year Strategic Exercise Plan Workshop (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 7th-8th).
12. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Indonesia, March 15th-19th, 2011).

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13. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Kedah, Malaysia, May 2015).
14. ASEAN Military Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Workshop (Thailand, August 2015).
15. The 27th ACDM Meeting and the 4th Joint Task Force Meeting: to Promote Synergy with other relevant on HADR (Phnom Penh, December 2015). Cambodia agreed to test the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Facilitation and Utilization of Military Assets for HADR submitted by the ASEAN Defense Senior Officials Meeting (ADSOM) to be included as SASOP Chapter VI.
16. ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue (Shanghai, China the first half of 2016);
17. The 5th meeting of the ASEAN Civil-Military Coordination Technical Working Group (Singapore, September 2016): Promote "One ASEAN, One Response" and strengthen ASEAN civil-military coordination.
18. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (Seri Begawan, Brunei, November 2016).
19. Meetings on the ASEAN Military Ready Group on HADR (TOR Military Representative at AHA Centre and SOP AMRG on HADR) on 8-9 May 2017 and 9-11 Aug 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,).
20. The 10th ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 2017); the 11th ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (September 2017); the 12th ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (Hawaii, USA, 31 January till 2 February 2018).
21. The 2nd ARF Training Course on Urban Search and Rescue (Singapore, 19-21 November 2018).
22. Workshop on Global Multi-Hazard Early Warning Capacity Development in Asian Region (Haikou, China, 18-19 November 2019).
23. ARF Enhancement Training on USAR Capacity Building and Comprehensive USAR Drill (Beijing & Shanghai, China, 6-14 January, 2020).
24. ARF Enhancement Training on USAR Capacity Building and Drill (Online, 15 July 2021, China and Thailand).
25. ARF Earthquake Response Exercise on USAR (Online, 22-24 June, China and Cambodia) .
26. 5th ARF Workshop on Urban Search and Rescue (Online, 21-25 November 2022, China and Cambodia)

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Work-Plan for Maritime Security

2022 – 2026

Context

The challenges to maritime security within the ASEAN Regional Forum require a holistic, and comprehensive approach to address them. Sharing best practices, developing confidence building measures and capacity building programs are some such measures towards enhancing our collaborative efforts and capabilities in dealing with maritime security issues.

The ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) was established by the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in July 2008. Ministers at the 18th ARF in Bali, Indonesia adopted the first ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security in July 2011 in order to build common perceptions of threats and challenges in maritime security. The Work Plans have been updated regularly following the current co-chairmanship of the ISM. The last Work Plan was endorsed at the 25th Meeting of the ARF in Singapore, on 4 August 2018.

Regional heads of government and ministers continue to place high importance on maritime security issues, as reflected in the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies at the 23rd ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 26 July 2016 in Vientiane, Laos; and the East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Marine Sustainability, on 14 November 2020.

The range of maritime security issues is not limited to traditional security issues, but also extends to non-traditional maritime security issues relevant to the region. The dynamic nature of the regional security landscape, coupled with recognizable progress made in confidence building, best practice exchanges and practical cooperation under the ARF ISM-MS and other fora, underscored the need for the ARF to keep the Work Plan under review.

Objective

As a guiding document approved by the ARF Ministers, the principal objective of this Maritime

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Security Work Plan is to create a practical, coordinated and comprehensive plan to develop ASEAN Regional Forum's cooperation and coordination in accordance with international law, including 1982 UNCLOS, on issues related to the maritime security that:

- ◇ prioritizes the issues on which the ARF ISM-MS should concentrate its future efforts;
- ◇ creates a compilation of shared experiences and lessons learnt;
- ◇ strengthens existing networks to share and exchange information;
- ◇ assists in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional capacity-building exercises and training related to maritime security;
- ◇ maintains and builds on existing ARF participants' efforts in capacity-building, technical support and information exchange;
- ◇ complements and coordinates with existing relevant regional and international agencies, arrangements and initiatives; and
- ◇ advances ARF Maritime Security efforts in a direction that contributes to the goals of the ARF Vision Statement endorsed by Foreign Ministers in July 2009 and the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action - II (2020 – 2025) endorsed by Foreign Ministers on 12 September 2020.

A key issue is the extent to which the ARF ISM-MS should balance its work between traditional and non-traditional security issues. Non-traditional security issues are recognized as useful early building blocks, which are conducive to the cultivation of mutual trust and consensus in the region. Consistent with the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan and based on consensus, potential measures of Preventive Diplomacy and confidence building in the maritime domain have a place in the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security.

Framework

Consistent with the long-term goals of the ARF Vision Statement, including the development of the ARF into an action-oriented mechanism, the Work Plan should identify Priority Areas for the ARF's maritime security efforts and distinguish the ARF's role in the context of other regional efforts. While there are various important aspects of international maritime security cooperation, the ARF should focus its own work in the fields where it can bring the most benefit given its geographic focus, participation, and past work, as well as the specific interests of its members. Accordingly, within the framework of the ARF, this Work Plan will seek to complement, as appropriate, other ARF work plans, including on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime; Disaster Relief; Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies; and Preventive Diplomacy.

Priority Areas

The following Priority Areas will serve as the primary guideposts for cooperative efforts under this ARF Maritime Security Work Plan:

- 1) Shared awareness and Exchange of Information and Best Practices; Co-leads: [tbc]
- 2) Confidence Building Measures based on relevant International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation, including the 1982 UNCLOS; Co-leads: [tbc]
- 3) Capacity Building and Enhancing Cooperation of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region. Co-leads: [tbc]

When developing a proposal for an official ARF maritime security activity, ARF participants are encouraged to consider the said Priority Areas.

ISM-MS

In order to facilitate active participation by ARF participants at the annual ARF ISM-MS, Annex A: Guide to 2022-2026 ISM-MS provides details on the key topics that the 2022-2026 ISM-MS Co-chairs will feature in the ISM agenda.

ARF Maritime Security Project Proposals

With a view to strengthening the connection between ARF official events and this Work Plan, in submitting project proposals to acquire the status of an official ARF event, ARF participants are encouraged to indicate, as appropriate, how their project can contribute to the Priority Areas of the Work Plan.

Projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular 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:

1. ARF-wide or sub-regional training focused on minimizing direct and indirect negative impacts on the marine environment;
2. Capacity-building workshops that share information on experiences to maximize the capacity of regional governments to uphold international law, and enhance maritime domain awareness for peaceful purposes only; and anchored in international law;
3. Multilateral tabletop and/or field exercises that would enhance maritime security and maritime cooperation and combat transnational organized crime.

Co-Chair and Lead Countries' Responsibilities

The Co-chairs of the ARF ISM-MS and Lead Countries for each priority area will work to implement this Work Plan through, inter-alia, encouraging ARF participants to organize ARF official events in line with the Priority Areas and taking into consideration the ISM-MS Topics. Along with co-chairing the annual ARF ISM-MS, the Co-chairs are responsible for updating the Work Plan and encouraging complementarity between the ARF ISM-MS and other regional/sub-regional maritime fora. The Co-chairs will also cooperate with the ARF Unit to update the list of ARF Points of Contact for Implementation of the Maritime Security Work Plan in Annex C.

Lead Countries for each Priority Area (one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN) are responsible for coordinating and presenting input provided by ARF participants in their respective Priority Area, proposing projects, coordinating the work in their Priority Area, and seeking out funding and hosts for projects in need of assistance. Lead Countries are also responsible for:

- ◇ Liaising with the ARF Unit on the coordination and implementation of Priority Area requirements;
- ◇ Updating the ARF Unit on Work Plan contributions every six months; and
- ◇ Working with the ARF Unit to ensure maximum synergies among projects, as appropriate.

Relationship with Other Regional/International Efforts

There is an obvious need for the Work Plan to be complementary to and coordinated appropriately with relevant regional and global efforts on maritime security. These efforts include those undertaken by various regional and international organizations (see Annex B). The following actions will be taken to ensure activities do not create unnecessary redundancy but are complementary to and in coordination with other regional and international efforts.

- ◇ The participation, as appropriate, of regional/international organizations acceptable to all participants in annual ISM-MS meetings;
- ◇ The ARF Unit and ISM-MS Co-chairs may also seek participation in relevant meetings of other regional/international efforts;
- ◇ Consistent sharing of organizational reports, strategies, and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations is encouraged;
- ◇ Lead Countries, ARF Unit, and ISM-MS Co-Chairs may consult when needed with representatives of other fora;
- ◇ The ARF Unit should publish the ARF MS Work Plan on ARF and ASEAN public websites; and,

- ◇ A priority for maritime security in the ARF is to ensure that it is complementary with the various fora/mechanisms in the region. The ASEAN Maritime Forum has reported that there are currently 13 different bodies associated with ASEAN that deal with maritime issues.

Implementation Timeline:

The current Co-Chairs (Indonesia, India and the United States) at the 13th ARF ISM-MS held on 12 May 2022, presented the draft Work Plan 2022-2026, before submitting the draft to the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) held on 17 May 2022, and the ARF SOM scheduled on 09 June 2022 for consideration and subsequently to the 29th ARF in 2022 for adoption.

Co-chairmanship cycle:

1. Inter sessional year 2021-22: (Indonesia/India/US), 13th ARF ISM on MS 12 May 2022, video conference
2. Inter sessional year 2022-23: (Cambodia/China), 14th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]
3. Inter sessional year 2023-24: (Indonesia/India/US), 15th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]
4. Inter sessional year 2024-25: (Cambodia/China), 16th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]
5. Inter sessional year 2025-26: (Indonesia/India/US), 17th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]

The Annexes to this Work Plan will be reviewed annually and updated, as necessary.

ANNEX A

Guide to 2022 – 2026 ISM-MS

In order to facilitate active participation by ARF participants at the annual ARF ISM-MS, this Annex provides details on the key topics that the 2022-2026 ISM-MS will feature in the ISM agenda.

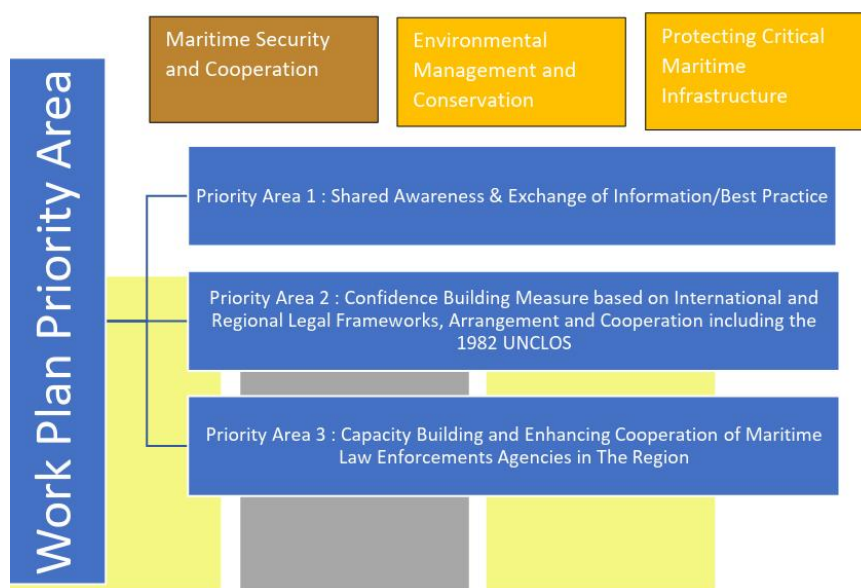
There are non-traditional challenges such as piracy and armed robbery against ships, people smuggling, terrorism, money laundering and terrorist financing, illicit drugs and illicit small arms trafficking, and human trafficking.

Other maritime-related challenges where cooperation can be enhanced including search and rescue, piracy and armed robbery, safety of seafarers, marine litter, IUU fishing, natural disasters, climate change, marine conservation and resource management, autonomous vessels and drones.

As such, the following are specified as Topics for guiding the development of the ISM-MS agenda during the 2022-2026 co-chairing cycle:

1. Maritime Security and Cooperation;
2. Environmental Management and Conservation;
3. Protecting Critical Maritime Infrastructure.

As an important mechanism for implementing this Work Plan, the ISM-MS agenda will address these topics from the perspective of the Work Plan Priority Areas: Shared Awareness



and Exchange of Information and Best Practices; Confidence Building Measures based on relevant International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation including the 1982 UNCLOS; and Capacity Building and Enhancing Cooperation of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region. This method will establish a mechanism to link the ISM-MS agenda to the Work Plan.

ISM-MS Topic#1: Maritime Security and Cooperation

Scope:

The topic should strengthen the cooperation in advancing the ability of the governments, including through partnerships with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations and stakeholders, towards implementation of state's international obligations including those under the 1982 UNCLOS. Build trust, coordination, and interoperability, and implement practical solutions to maritime security challenges through greater engagement and information sharing and a common understanding of regional security issues.

The topic will also be in line with the effort to: (a) Improve understanding and build cooperation among various maritime security agencies and organizations; (b) Improve understanding and application of UNCLOS and other multilateral maritime instruments and related mechanisms; (c) Enhancing understanding as well as cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies and industry in addressing piracy and armed robbery; (d) Improve understanding on opportunities and challenges associated with autonomous vessels whether operating on surface, sub-surface or air, in the maritime domain; (e) Enhance regional cooperation on ferry safety, maritime search and rescue, and improve capacity for addressing maritime accidents; and, (f) Share latest experience on maritime digitalization and explore technical cooperation on smart maritime, marine dynamic awareness and maritime single window.

Proposed Projects under consideration:

Implemented Projects:

1.

Past ARF Work:

1. 4th ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety, video conference, 6-7 July 2022.
2. 4th ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation, video conference, 6-7 April 2022.
3. 3rd ARF Workshop on implementing UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, in a hybrid format, Ha Noi, 01-02 June

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- 2021.
4. ARF Training on Ferry Safety Capacity Building, video conference, 22-25 June 2021 and 05-09 July 2021.
 5. 3rd ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation, video conference, 16-17 March 2021.
 6. 3rd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety, Guangzhou, 12-13 November 2019.
 7. 2nd ARF Workshop on implementing UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, Ha Noi, 12-14 November 2019.
 8. 2nd ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation Da Nang, 12-13 March 2019.
 9. ARF Workshop on implementing UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, Nha Trang, 26-27 February 2019.
 10. 2nd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety, Guangzhou, 26-28 November 2018.
 11. ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation Nha Trang 18-19 January 2018.
 12. ARF Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies, Vientiane, Laos, 26 July 2016.
 13. ARF Workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact Cebu 28-29 April 2016.
 14. ARF Seminar on Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) Security, Beijing, 07-09 December 2014.

ISM-MS Topic#2: Environmental Management and Conservation

Scope:

The topic should explore ARF efforts to prevent and minimize direct and indirect negative impacts on the marine environment with the goal of sustaining the health and resilience of the regional maritime ecosystem.

The topic will also develop cooperation to: (a) Raise awareness and understanding of threats emanating from the maritime domain in conjunction with and/or in support of IUU fishing activities and improve cross-agency collaboration on tools and authorities needed to confront these potential threats; (b) Enhance cooperation on fishery development and sustainable conservation of fishery resource, and safeguard food security; (c) Promote public education and outreach as well as increasing partnerships throughout the region and with local governments, communities, and industries to cooperatively address marine pollution including marine litter and oil pollution; and, (d) Improve capacity of dealing with

marine conservation and resource management issues – improve the conservation of marine biodiversity and blue carbon, early warning of marine disasters, sea level rise and marine de-oxygenation, response of marine ecosystem to climate change, as well as development and utilization of marine renewable resource.

The topic may also discuss on the potential cooperation related to: a. Sustainable development of fisheries sector in line with existing laws and regulations and conservation of fish and their habitats; b. Development of small scale aquaculture for socio-economic development of rural people and extending of commercial fish farming; c. Food security, production of safety fishery products and improvement of the production of value added fisheries products.

Justification:

This topic was selected based on trends of cooperation in the ARF. See below for list of proposed, implemented, and previous ARF projects/activities that are related to this ARF-ISM Topic.

Relationship to Work Plan Priority Areas:

The Work Plan Priority Areas will help guide the discussions under each of the ISM-MS Topics.

When developing a proposal for an official ARF maritime security activity, ARF participants are encouraged to consider the said Priority Areas as well as the fields of cooperation identified.

Proposed Projects under consideration:

1.

Implemented Projects:

1.

Past ARF Work:

1. ARF Workshop on Law of the Sea and Fisheries, on 07-08 December 2021 on video- conferencing, by Australia, Indonesia and India.
2. 2nd ARF Workshop on International Cooperation Maritime Domain Awareness, Tokyo, 20 February 2020.
3. ARF Workshop on Marine Debris Management for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security in Southeast Asia Nha Trang 13-15 May 2019.

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4. ARF Workshop on Regional Climate Change and Coastal Disaster Mitigation, Tianjin, 01-02 November 2018.
5. ARF Workshop on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security in Southeast Asia on 13-14 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.
6. ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness, Tokyo, 7-8 March 2018.
7. ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Manila, the Philippines, 7 August 2017.
8. ARF Workshop on Management of Marine Hazards in the Asia-Pacific Beijing 6-8 December 2016.
9. ARF Workshop on Green Shipping, Hangzhou, 29-30 March 2016.
10. ARF Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management, on 22-23 March 2016 in Honolulu, USA.
11. ARF Workshop on Marine Oil Spill Emergency Response Management and Disposal Cooperation Kunming 17-18 December 2015.
12. ARF Seminar on Regional Cooperation on Offshore Oil Spill, Qingdao, 26-28 March 2014.
13. ARF Maritime Security Workshop on Marine Environmental Protection Cooperation: Preparedness and Response to Pollution Incidents Involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances Honolulu 4-5 March 2014.

ISM-MS Topic#3: Protecting Critical Maritime Infrastructure

Scope:

The topic should discuss the measures to combat transnational organized crime through enhanced port and vessel information sharing and technical cooperation throughout the region. The topic should discuss the measures to combat transnational organized crime through enhanced port and vessel information sharing and technical cooperation throughout the region.

The topic may also develop the discussion in the effort to: facilitate achieving the optimum balance between ports and waterways security and the recovery of maritime transportation capabilities; and Maximize the Maritime Transportation System's (MTS) continued operational equilibrium.

Justification:

This topic was selected based on trends of cooperation in the ARF. See below for list of

proposed, implemented, and previous ARF projects/activities that are related to this ARF-ISM Topic.

Relationship to Work Plan Priority Areas:

The Work Plan Priority Areas will be used to help guide the discussions under each of the ISM-MS Topics.

Proposed Projects under consideration:

1.

Implemented Projects:

1.

Past ARF Work:

1. ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Using Maritime Data to Combat Transnational Organized Crime Bali 17-19 July 2018.
2. ARF Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation Beijing 13-15 December 2015.
3. ARF Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation on Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue, on 9 August 2014 at the 21st ARF, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

ANNEX B

List of Regional and International Maritime Organizations and Fora

Regional Organizations/Fora

1. ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)
2. Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)
3. ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)
4. ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Maritime Security
5. ASEAN Center for Biodiversity
6. ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)
7. ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)
8. ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)
9. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF)
10. ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME)
11. ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME)
12. Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) Forum
13. Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM)

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14. Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MoU)
15. Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)
16. North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCG)
17. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
18. Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)
19. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
20. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
21. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
22. Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IO MoU)
23. Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
24. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC)
25. Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystems (YSLME) Project
26. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWAP)
27. East Asia Summit (EAS)
28. Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)
29. ASEAN Chiefs of Police Association (ASEANAPOL)
30. Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC)
31. Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

International Organizations/Fora

1. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
2. International Maritime Bureau (IMB)
3. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
4. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
5. Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)
6. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
7. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)
8. Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOMFC)
9. East Asia Hydrographic Commission
10. .IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) Sub- Commission for the Western Pacific
11. Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (Jakarta)
12. International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
13. International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

14. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
15. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

ANNEX C

List of ARF POCs for Implementation of the Maritime Security Work Plan

ARF Participants	Name	Designation	Agency	Contact Details
Australia				
Bangladesh				
Brunei Darussalam				
Cambodia				
Canada				
China	Mr. ZHAO Shuai	Attaché	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	zhao_shuai@mfa.gov.cn
Democratic People's Republic of Korea				
European Union				
India	Mr. Anmol Bedi	Under Secretary	D&ISA Division, Ministry of External Affairs	dsdisa@mea.gov.in Tele: +91-11-23012927
Indonesia	M. Robbi Firly	Attaché	Directorate of ASEAN Political and Security Cooperation – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	arf.indonesia@kemlu.go.id
Japan	Mr. KURAGANE Kei	Assistant Director	Space and Maritime Security Policy Division – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kei.kuragane-2@mofa.go.jp
Lao PDR				
Malaysia				
Mongolia				

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ARF Participants	Name	Designation	Agency	Contact Details
Myanmar	Mr. Tin Myo Kyaw	Assistant Director	ASEAN Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	myokyawmofa2014@gmail.com
New Zealand				
Pakistan				
Papua New Guinea				
Philippines	Mr. Reinir C. Padua	Principal Assistant	Office of ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs	asean.div2@dfa.gov.ph
Republic of Korea				
Russia				
Singapore				
Sri Lanka				
Thailand	Mr. Yanapat Pattanakeaw	Attaché	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand	asean03@mfa.go.th
Timor-Leste				
United States	Calvina Coleman	Political-Security Officer	U.S. Department of State	colemanca@state.gov
Viet Nam	-	-	ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	asean.mfa.vn@gmail.com

ASEAN Regional Forum Framework on Inclusive Processes for the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas in Confidence Building Measures, Preventive Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution

Furthering the “Concept Paper on Inclusive Processes for Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution” approved by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers at the 27th ARF in Hanoi, Vietnam on 12 September 2020;

Building on the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum” adopted at the 26th ARF in Bangkok, Thailand on 2 August 2019;

Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crises on women and youth and the increased occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls, including but not limited to sexual violence, trafficking in persons, and exploitation prior to, during, and after armed conflict; the important roles of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and peacekeeping; the importance of supporting the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes at all levels of decision-making; and the importance of engaging men and boys in support of women’s empowerment within the broader WPS agenda;

Building on the recognition of the role that youth play in regional peace and security issues and the impact of those issues on youth as reflected by the “Joint Statement to Promote the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (YPS) at the ASEAN Regional Forum” adopted at the 28th ARF in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in 2021;

Noting that UNSC Resolution 2250 defines youth as 18 to 29 years of age but that the definition of youth is nationally determined;

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Reaffirming the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, adopted at the 27th ARF on 12 September 2020 in Hanoi, Vietnam, which encourages the effective implementation of the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum” and promotes women empowerment in peace and security processes by providing more training, increasing deployment and meaningful participation of women at all levels, and incorporating the WPS agenda into the relevant planning and implementation of United Nations peacekeeping operations in accordance with their mandates;

Building on Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)” to encourage the development of an ARF consultation process with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations on regional security matters in the ARF and to encourage networking and consultations with Track II organizations;

Advancing Sections 1.1.6, 1.2.20, 1.3.11, 1.4.12, 1.5.9 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, respectively, to utilize, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks, as well as the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs), to assist in the work of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) on Disaster Relief, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Maritime Security, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs Security);

Recognizing that Track II organizations continue to contribute to the work of the ARF through the implementation of existing procedures;

Acknowledging the progress made on strengthening linkages between Track I and Track II diplomacy;

Understanding that the inclusion and meaningful participation of women and youth is beneficial to peace, security, and preventive diplomacy efforts undertaken by the ARF;

Reaffirming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda laid out in UNSC Resolutions 1325 (2000); 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009); 1960 (2010); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015); 2467 (2019); 2493 (2019); the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda advanced in UNSC Resolutions 2250 (2015); 2419 (2018); and 2535 (2020); and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;

Understanding that inclusion of women and youth in the ARF refers to efforts, opportunities,

and practices in the ARF that both facilitate the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and youth in decision-making processes that affect their peace and security and enhance the institutional capacities of the ARF to engage with women and youth in decision-making processes related to peace and security;

Recognizing the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies, and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace and that inclusivity, including by ensuring full, effective and meaningful participation of youth without discrimination of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, disability, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, is key to advancing peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account;

Noting that inclusion is defined differently by each respective ARF participant and emphasizing that, based on the principles of consensus, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference and on a voluntary basis, this Framework seeks to address the inclusion of women and youth as related to the ARF and to recommend guidelines for cooperation among ARF participants consistent with relevant international and national laws and regulations;

Recognizing that this Framework supports the advancement and implementation of inclusivity in the ARF.

I. Inclusion in the ARF

The ARF seeks to advance confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, and conflict resolution to address regional political, peace, and security issues of common interest and concern. Many of the peace and security issues of regional concern on which the ARF cooperates are complex, interconnected, and affect a variety of stakeholders, including women and youth.

As a key forum for dialogue on such issues, the ARF is designed to be inclusive of all ARF Participants' perspectives by adhering to the principles of consensus and consultation and should not exclude any Participants' equal participation. By exploring opportunities to include women and youth through dialogue and consultation, the ARF can better advance preventive diplomacy in the region.

II. Women, Peace and Security

Building on the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2019) at the ASEAN Regional Forum” and Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, this Framework encourages ARF Participants to enhance women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation, promote gender equality and integrate gender perspectives in prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace within the ARF by:

- 2.1 Enhancing and empowering the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making in prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding in the ARF;
- 2.2 Encouraging the input and meaningful participation of accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations – including women’s organizations – implementing the WPS agenda, and contributing where appropriate, to the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding in the ARF, building on Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”;
- 2.3 In the design, approval, and implementation of relevant concept notes and relevant ARF statements in prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding in the ARF, acknowledging the roles and experiences of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, applying gender analyses, and integrating, where relevant, gender perspectives to promote and enhance the full, equal, and meaningful participation and protection of women and girls;
- 2.4 Encouraging and promoting ARF activities on advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the regional and international levels, where appropriate;
- 2.5 Enhancing collaboration and information sharing with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations implementing the WPS agenda and EEPs through consultation on ARF activities across areas of cooperation on peace and security issues of common interest and concern to facilitate consistency with the WPS agenda, and building on Sections 1.1.6, 1.2.20, 1.3.11, 1.4.12, 1.5.9, 3.6, and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”;
- 2.6 Promoting equal opportunity to access assistance and support to women- centered projects that contribute to the expansion of women’s roles in peace and security processes and the prevention and resolution of armed conflict and peacebuilding, as well as projects that contribute to the protection of the rights of women and girls in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas;

- 2.7 Contributing to the process of raising public awareness regarding the importance of the role of women to peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution.

III. Youth, Peace and Security

Building on the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum” and Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, this Framework encourages ARF Participants to deepen their understanding of issues of critical importance to the YPS agenda and enhance the meaningful participation of youth, with consideration of youth facing specific risks in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, in ARF peace and security processes by:

- 3.1 Promoting the representation and participation, where appropriate, of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- 3.2 Empowering youth perspectives by taking into consideration the constructive involvement of youth in ARF activities in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- 3.3 Encouraging the representation of youth perspectives or experts on peace and security issues affecting youth in the ARF EEPs in accordance with the “Terms of Reference of the Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs)” and “Guidelines for the Operation of the Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs)”;
- 3.4 Evaluating avenues of consultation with youth-led organizations to engage in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- 3.5 Incorporating consideration of youth and youth issues when planning, drafting, and negotiating ARF statements, as well as considering the impact of such statements on youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace;
- 3.6 Applying a youth-oriented perspective in the evaluation and approval of concept notes for ARF activities in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- 3.7 Encouraging the development of an ARF consultation process with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations implementing the YPS agenda in the content and implementation of appropriate ARF activities on the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, building on Section 3.6 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”;
- 3.8 Encouraging ARF activities to advance the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda with

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particular consideration of youth facing specific risks in armed conflict and post- conflict situations and to mitigate the conditions that lead to radicalization and involvement in armed conflicts, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and transnational crime;

- 3.9 Enhancing collaboration and information sharing with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations and EEPs through consultation with ARF in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace to ensure consistency with the YPS agenda, and building on Sections 1.1.6, 1.2.20, 1.3.11, 1.4.12, 1.5.9, 3.6, and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”;
- 3.10 Promoting equal opportunities to access assistance and support youth-led projects and activities that contribute to the building of capacity and empowerment of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

IV.Sharing Progress and Best Practices

This Framework may be revisited, when necessary, in intersessional activities to share progress and best practices.

Adopted on the Fifth of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (2022) at the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan for Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2023-2025

CONTEXT

Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) issues continue to represent some of the most pressing and potentially useful areas for cooperation in the ARF region. In part due to the dialogue within ARF, there is a growing regional consensus on the nature of these threats. A large number of international and regional efforts exist towards combating these threats. However, as the region becomes increasingly more integrated and interconnected, there is a need to enhance CTTC cooperation including in the area of border management in order to better safeguard the region from the new and evolving nature of cross-border challenges. ARF needs to make concrete progress on those areas where it can bring the most added value.

ARF has dealt with a wide range of CTTC issues including maritime security, illicit drugs, terrorism, counter radicalization and cyber security. A more focused and coordinated strategy is needed.

The Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement which was adopted at the 17th ARF in July 2010 contains policy guidance for the ARF to develop and implement concrete and practical actions, including work plans under ARF's areas of cooperation. Under the ARF counter terrorism and transnational crime framework, the Hanoi Plan of Action aims to develop a network for regional law enforcement and military agencies to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region.

The 11th ISM-CTTC in 2013 agreed that the Work Plan's priority areas could be better aligned

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with that of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), namely: terrorism; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; arms smuggling; sea piracy; money laundering; international economic crime; and cybercrime.

The 13th ISM-CTTC in 2015 agreed on the extension of the implementation period of the Work Plan from 2015-2016 to 2015-2017, so that all the lead countries can have sufficient time to implement activities under their respective priority area, and the Work Plan on CTTC can be in line with the implementation period of the ARF Work Plans on Disaster Relief and Maritime Security.

The 24th ARF in 2017 agreed on the establishment of the ARF ISM on the Security of and in the Use of Information Communications Technology (ISM on ICTs Security), so that the Priority Area 3 Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication will not be longer included in the work plan of CTTC.

The 16th ISM-CTTC in 2019 agreed on the extension of the implementation period of the Work Plan from 2015-2017 to 2019 – 2021. The Work Plan was further extended until the period of 2023 by the 17th ISM CTTC in 2021 and the 18th ISM CTTC in 2022 due to delays in the implementation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

OBJECTIVE

This Work Plan updates and revises the previous CTTC Work Plan for the 2023 - 2025 period by drawing on experiences of ARF participants based on previous ARF goals, commitments, and efforts in the CTTC field. The Work Plan also draws from a need's assessment of the conclusions from the various ISM-CTTC meetings.

The key objective is to maintain a CTTC Work Plan, which aims to develop regional capacity to respond to terrorism and transnational crime threats, in line with the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement.

The Work Plan creates a vetted, coordinated, and long-term strategy that:

- helps ARF participants meet their CTTC-related national, regional, and international commitments;
- focuses ARF's efforts towards concrete, capacity-building efforts, technical support;
- facilitates information exchange;

- complements existing initiatives; and
- simplifies and consolidates ARF CTTC-related activities to reduce burden.

FRAMEWORK

The Work Plan identifies the Priority Areas for ARF's CTTC efforts. While there are other important aspects of international CTTC cooperation, ARF should focus its own work on the areas where it could bring the most added value given its geographic focus, participation, or past work. In other words, ARF does not need to "do everything," in this vast field during the short term, but rather "do some things very well." CTTC-related efforts in other fields can continue, but progress in initial Priority Areas can serve as models for other CTTC-related areas in the future. Each Priority Area is followed by a brief, but broad explanation of the scope of efforts that will be taken under ARF.

Reaching a general consensus at the ISM-CTTC annual meeting will be important to ensure that Ministers receive a draft Work Plan endorsed by an ARF meeting of CTTC experts. In this sense, the annual ISM-CTTC will serve as a coordinating body for ARF's CTTC work among CTTC experts. However, ultimate approval will rest with the ISG, SOM, and Ministerial process.

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND FUNDING STRUCTURE

Lead Countries will be responsible for coordinating and presenting the input provided by ARF participants in their respective Priority Area, proposing their own projects, coordinating the work of their Priority Area, and seeking out funding and hosts for projects in the Priority Area. All ARF participants are encouraged to input appropriate projects to the respective Priority Areas, and submit proposals for activities ahead of the ISG or SOM of the current inter-sessional year for endorsement and implementation in the next inter-sessional year.

Every Lead Country and Co-Sponsor should set a voluntary goal for introducing and contributing towards one project per year within the framework of the Priority Area during their two-year tenure. Lead Countries will be composed of one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN country, supported by the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. Lead Countries will be responsible for briefly updating each ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG), Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), and annual ISM-CTTC meeting on recent and future progress in their Priority Area. The ARF SOM will monitor the effectiveness of the activities based on reports given by the Lead Countries.

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Co-Sponsors have no limiting factors on either the number of co-sponsors or membership criteria. Co-Sponsors shall submit project proposals and advise Lead Countries on the development of their Priority Area. Lead Countries and Co-sponsors are highly encouraged to actively coordinate outside of ARF plenary meetings in order to manage their Priority Area's efforts. ISM-CTTC Co-Chairs should also be consulted in the development of Priority Area projects. ISM-CTTC Co-Chairs should seek to create an ISM-CTTC agenda and meeting conducive to substantive discussion of and overall guidance to the Work Plan. As the Work Plan progresses in its early stages, ARF should revisit the role of the ISM-CTTC Co-Chairs, perhaps to increase their coordination role and serve as co-chairs for a set period of time.

An essential element of this Work Plan includes expanding the mandate for the ARF Unit towards this effort. In order to effectively implement the Work Plan and specific projects, the ARF Unit will need to play an increasingly important role. The ARF Unit will need to:

- provide administrative and technical support to ISM-CTTC and appropriate project meetings.
- liaise regularly with Lead Countries to ensure adequate coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements.
- serve as a depository of incoming project proposals for countries.
- update the ARF, perhaps quarterly as appropriate, on Work Plan contributions.
- as directed by Lead Countries and in consultation with the ARF Chair, coordinate the implementation of certain projects including financial coordination of ARF contributions, contract services, and, if and as appropriate, project monitoring and evaluation.
- coordinate, as appropriate, with training centers and other regional and international organizations.

Projects will be funded by sponsoring ARF members unless noted otherwise. If necessary, sponsoring nations may seek assistance from donor nations or outside organizations.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

ASEAN as well as other relevant organizations have similar work plans which could serve as useful models for ARF. The participation of some of these institutional representatives, as well as briefings on the ARF work plan in separate, but related areas in ARF CTTC-related meetings would ensure complementarity with the Work Plan's efforts.

TIMELINE

- 21-22 March 2019: An initial draft of the Work Plan was tabled and discussed at the 16th ARF ISM on CTTC in Bali, Indonesia.
- 31 May 2019: An updated draft Work Plan was tabled at the ARF Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 3 August 2019: The Work Plan was adopted by the Ministers at the 26th ARF in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 3 August 2021: The Work Plan was extended until 2022 by the Ministers at the 28th ARF hosted by Brunei Darussalam (via VC).
- 5 August 2022: The Work Plan was extended until 2023 by the Ministers at the 29th ARF in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

PRIORITY AREAS

CTTC Priority Areas should seek to strike a balance between Counter Terrorism (CT) and Transnational Crime (TC) threats. ARF participants may want to begin such cooperation in only a few Priority Areas. ARF can build success off these and then venture into new CTTC-related Priority Areas in future intersessional years. Other work in the CTTC field may be done by ARF outside of these Priority Areas. However, comprehensive cooperation in a new area should be reflected in an updated Work Plan.

A Priority Area is an area of increased focus toward some of ARF's CTTC-related efforts. Under the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2023 - 2025, the ARF will continue to focus on four priority areas, namely:

- illicit drugs;
- chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) matters;
- preventing and countering violent extremism; and
- trafficking in persons;

Proposal for new priority areas and expansion of priority area will be reflected in the Work Plan when at least one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF participants have agreed to co-lead the priority areas before the Work Plan is submitted for the Ministers' endorsement.

It should be noted that in the 2009-2010 Work Plan, the scope of the earlier priority area in bio-terrorism and bio-security was expanded to cover CBRN matters, and the counter-

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radicalization priority area was introduced under this Work Plan. Two other new priority areas were proposed, namely (i) terrorist financing; and (ii) trafficking in persons. The ARF SOM in Yangon, Myanmar, on 9 June 2014, welcomed the offers from Indonesia and the European Union to co-lead the priority area “trafficking in persons”. Since the lead countries for trafficking in persons have been identified and as agreed by the 13th ISM on CTTC, this new priority area is added to the Work Plan.

It should also be noted that the 24th ARF in 2017 agreed on the establishment of the ARF ISM on the Security of and in the Use of Information Communications Technology (ISM on ICTs Security), so that the Priority Area 3 Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication in the 2015 – 2017 Work Plan will not be longer included in the work plan of CTTC.

PROJECT TYPES

These capacity-building projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular assistance needs and nature of the Priority Area. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of events with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary Training Courses from regional training centers (SEARCCT, JCLEC, ILEA, etc.) to provide capacity building in the Priority Area. The proposers of the project, Co-Sponsors, or Lead Countries should consider contributing funds to the training courses. While all ARF participants would be invited to send technical experts to such a course (self-funded), in coordination with the center, sponsors of the training course may plan to fund some participants from interested countries.
- Capacity-Building Workshops that share information on experiences and bring in government, private sector, 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 countries. The ARF Pilot Project should be within the scope of ARF’s Priority Areas and could be implemented by qualified government agencies in cooperation with private sector agencies.
- Multilateral Tabletop or Field Exercises that would test the implementation of international agreements, regional arrangements, or modes of communication, voluntary intelligence sharing and coordination among interested ARF and sub-regional participants.

Future exercises should take into account not only the capacity-building and technical support needs, but also modes of communication and information-sharing among exercise participants.

Each year at the annual ISM-CTTC, the Work Plan will be reviewed in depth to ensure continued relevance, add additional follow-on activities, and revised if necessary. Major changes to the ARF CTTC Work Plan, such as the addition or subtraction of Priority Areas, should be approved by Ministers each year. Thus, the ARF CTTC Work Plan will be considered a living document. As agreed at the 9th ARF ISM-CTTC priority areas should be dropped if no ASEAN and non-ASEAN ARF participants come forward to lead said priority area.

The extensive involvement of all ARF participants is encouraged and the Work Plan will not impose mandatory obligations upon any participants without its consent.

This structure may be revised in accordance with ARF procedures, in particular during the early stages of the Work Plan's implementation.

PRIORITY AREA IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX

PRIORITY AREA #1 ILLICIT DRUGS

Scope: In recent years, there has been a strong shift in the regional drug market from opiates to synthetic drugs, particular methamphetamine. More worryingly, the methamphetamine production and trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) has reached truly alarming levels in 2018, with many GMS countries reporting record amounts of methamphetamine seized in the region. Non-GMS countries are similarly affected due to the falling drug price of methamphetamine resulting from an unprecedented scale of drug production, normalising and growing acceptance of illicit drug use and internet-enabled drug trafficking.

ARF should target the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, and their precursors by complementing existing law enforcement capabilities in the affected countries. This include enhancing cooperation in airport, seaport and land border interdiction and investigation, intelligence exchange and joint operations, strengthening the capacity of the criminal justice system on drug control, preventing and disrupting trafficking routes, support the development

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of national legislations, implementing best practice measures, and increasing coordination among law enforcement and forensic entities in ARF participating countries. In particular, ARF should seek to apply national precursor controls with aim for uniformity effectiveness throughout the ARF participating countries, as a means of avoiding the displacement of diversion points across national borders.

Under this priority area, ARF participating countries may also explore cooperative activities/projects on a broad and balanced approach that includes efforts to significantly reduce the supply and demand of illicit drugs, and reject any efforts that would normalise recreational drug use that goes against our aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN.

Lead Countries:

Co-Sponsors:

Proposed Projects:

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Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Cooperation to Address Challenges Posed by Illicit Drugs by Thailand and New Zealand, 11-12 February 2015, Bangkok, Thailand.
2. ARF Workshop on Precursor Chemicals and Synthetic Drugs by Thailand and Canada, 12-13 February 2015, Bangkok, Thailand.
3. Concept Development Workshop on ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC) (proposed by United States and Thailand), February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand .

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Statement Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of Diversion of Precursors Into Illicit Drug Manufacture, July 2008.
- ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem, August 2017.

PRIORITY AREA #2: CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR (CBRN)

Scope: The enactment and implementation of necessary national measures to address bio-terrorism. This includes increased protection of dangerous biological materials, technology, and expertise which will build the capacities of ARF participants to prevent, or respond to,

acts of bio-terrorism. The dual-use nature of biological science, for both peaceful and non-peaceful purposes, must be addressed to both prevent bio-terrorism and continue biological science development for peaceful purposes. This will also build safe, secure, and sustainable capacity to combat infectious diseases, thereby meshing international security and public health priorities. Efforts should be in support of the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention, the Seventh Review Conference, and related commitments, and be consistent with international law. Following the 9th ARF ISM CTTC, the priority area has been expanded to also cover the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) aspects.

Lead Countries:

Co-Sponsors:

Proposed Projects:

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Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Biological Threat Reduction Workshop by Philippines and United States, June 2009 in Manila, Philippines.
2. ARF Workshop on Bio-risk Management by Philippines, United States and Australia, September 2010 in Manila, Philippines.
3. ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance: Enhancing Public and Veterinary Health Networks to Combat Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism by Philippines, United States and Australia, September 2011 in Manila, Philippines.
4. ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event by Philippines, United States and Australia, September 2012, Manila, Philippines.
5. Workshop on Countering Illicit Trafficking of CBRN Materials by Canada and Philippines, November 2013, Manila, Philippines.
6. ARF Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response by Philippines and the United States, 26 - 28 August 2014, Manila, Philippines.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Statement on Cooperative Counter-Terrorist Action on Border Security, Phnom Penh, 17 June 2003.
- ARF Workshop on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, San Francisco, 14 February 2007.
- ARF Statement on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, Manila, 2 August 2007.
- ASEAN Working Group on Bio-Terrorism Prevention.

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- ARF Best Practices for Implementation of a Bio risk Management System; ARF Best Practices for the Implementation of Disease Surveillance; ARF Best Practices for Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event (by United States, Australia and Philippines).
- ARF Workshop on "Raising awareness and promoting cooperation on CBRN risk mitigation" (proposed by the European Union and the Philippines), 9-10 September 2015, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- ARF Bio-Preparedness Table Top Exercise (TTX) and Workshop (proposed by the Philippines and United States), 11 – 13 August 2015, Manila, Philippines.

PRIORITY AREA #3 PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Scope: The priority area “Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” is aimed at implementing a sustained and proactive approach to prevent and to counter violent extremism in all forms. ARF participating countries may explore cooperative projects including short and long-term initiatives focused preventing violent extremism. The projects can be done through cooperation in promoting dialogue and conflict prevention, strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law, building resilient, inclusive communities able to resist violent extremist ideologies empowering youth, empowering women and promoting gender quality, providing education, skills development, and employment facilitation, and strengthening strategic communications.

Among others, under this priority area, ARF participating countries may explore cooperative activities/projects in identifying and countering the spread of radicalization to violent extremism and terrorism through various channels such as the internet and social media, religious centers, schools, including institutes of higher education, community, social and sports organizations, as well as by inmates in detention centers and by violent extremists from abroad.

ARF countries may also seek ways to cooperate on mitigating the spread of violent extremism by empowering moderate voices and civil society. ARF participants are encouraged to cooperate in exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in addressing radicalization, including sharing of information on the socioeconomic and social drivers of radicalization and violent extremism in their countries, as well as local/community engagement and social support measures that may address these issues, including the

development of counter narratives.

Lead Countries: Indonesia, New Zealand

Co-Sponsors:,

Proposed Projects:

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Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), Bangkok (VC), 2 August 2019.
2. ARF Statement on the Treatment of Children Recruited by or Associated with Terrorist Groups, Hanoi (VC), 12 September 2020.
3. ARF Workshop on Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet by New Zealand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, 7 July 2021, VC.
4. ARF Statement on Promoting Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, Brunei Darussalam (VC), 6 August 2021.
5. ARF Seminar on the Role of Youth in Building Digital Resilience to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), by Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand, 15 March 2022, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
6. ARF Workshop on Anti Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) by Indonesia, Laos PDR, and the European Union, 8-10 March 2023, Bali Indonesia.

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- Symposium on the Dynamics of Youth and Terrorism, 8-11 May 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ARF-related Workshop on Countering Radicalization, 4-5 February 2013, Tokyo, Japan.
- ARF Workshop on Counter Radicalization by Malaysia and Japan, 25-26 March 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ARF Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism (Proposed by Philippines and United States), 22 – 23 September 2015, Manila, Philippines.
- ARF Seminar on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals (Proposed by China and Thailand), 1 - 2 September 2015, Guangzhou, China.

PRIORITY AREA #4: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Scope: Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a serious crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. TIP – particularly those targeting vulnerable groups such as women, children, and migrant workers – is increasingly prevalent where people are trafficked between states the areas of crime have overstepped the boundary of the state and the modus operandi involves international criminal networks.

This new ARF priority area enables ARF participants to explore numbers of projects and activities to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in preventing and combating TIP in comprehensive manner. The establishment of this new priority under the framework of ARF is also considered as complementary to the entering into force and implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). The inclusion of TIP in this Work Plan also reinforces the work of the ASEAN SOMTC in addressing TIP.

Cooperation in preventing and combating TIP under the ARF will continue to increase mutual understanding of the issue, as well as promote intensified capacity building programs and quality cross-border cooperation arrangements to address relevant issues on TIP, especially in prevention, early detection, prosecution and protection of TIP victims. These capacity building activities include, among others, exchange of views and information sharing on relevant migratory flows, trends and patterns, victim identification and protection, border controls and monitoring mechanisms, law enforcement, as well as criminalization of all aspects of TIP.

Taking into account the existing relevant regional and international mechanisms in preventing and combating TIP, ARF recognizes that proposed projects in the Work Plan should complement, and do not duplicate or overlap, the work of other regional and international mechanisms and fora dealing with TIP.

Lead Countries:

Co-Sponsors:

Proposed Projects:

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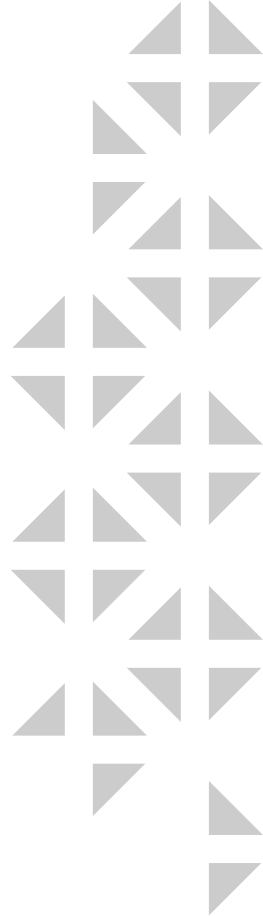
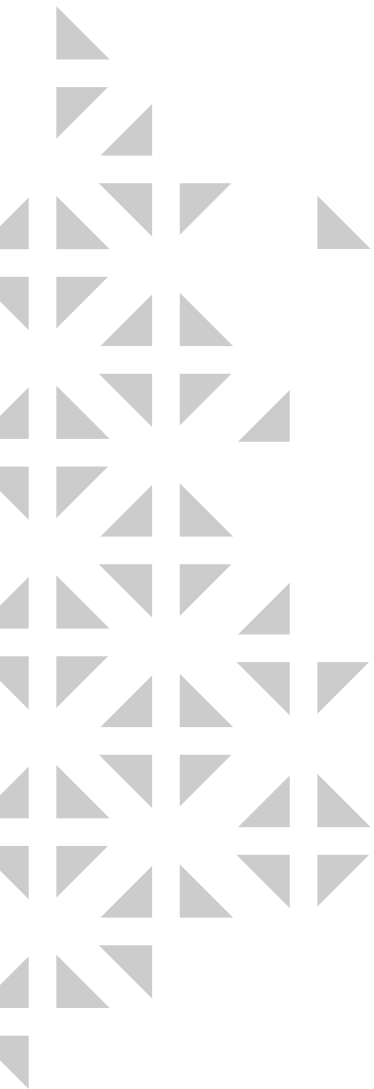
Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Workshop on Security, Stability and International Migration in the ASEAN Region

by Myanmar and United States, 10-11 March 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

2. ARF Workshop on Trafficking in Persons by Indonesia and European Union, 5 April 2017, Semarang, Indonesia.

STATEMENTS



ASEAN Regional Forum Statement to Promote Peace, Stability, and Prosperity Through Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy

The 29th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held on 5 August 2022, in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, under the Kingdom of Cambodia's 2022 ASEAN Chairmanship.

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of all members to uphold the principles of mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and equal rights of all nations as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and calling on all nations to exercise maximum self-restraint and make utmost efforts to pursue peaceful dialogue through all channels, including diplomatic means to reduce tensions and mitigate conflicts;

RECOGNISING the impacts and uncertainties posed by the growing complexities of regional and global security challenges, including traditional and non-traditional security issues, and **ACKNOWLEDGING** that such challenges require a holistic and comprehensive approach to address these challenges;

RECOGNISING the continued relevance of the ARF and the commitment of its members in promoting and maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and its vital role in building confidence and trust amongst its participants;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the ARF in fostering constructive dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues of common interest and concern, enhancing mutual understanding and transparency, accepting and whenever possible reconciling divergent views to reduce the risk to security, promoting respect for international law, including the UN Charter and its related instruments as well as promoting confidence-building and preventive diplomacy to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the region;

REITERATING the basic principles contained within the 1994 ARF Concept Paper, which is

an important foundational document that has guided the development of the ARF since its inception;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance placed by ASEAN on the principles and objectives in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific;

COGNIZANT of the significance of dialogue encompassing interfaith and inter-cultural interaction as well as efforts to promote respect, understanding and tolerance among people of all religions and no religions, beliefs and cultures as an important part of ARF efforts to promote peace and security;

RECALLING all the principles and purposes of the United Nations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations which calls for maintaining the international peace and security; and underlining the necessity of respecting human rights and international humanitarian law in resolving conflicts;

REAFFIRMING the role of ASEAN as the primary driving force of the ARF and emphasizing that the active, and equal participation and cooperation of all ARF participants is critical for the success of the ARF;

UNDERSCORING the importance of Cambodia's ASEAN theme "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together" for 2022, which calls on ASEAN Member States to uphold the spirit of togetherness and to reinforce ASEAN's founding principles, as well as address major challenges with perseverance and fortitude so as to further develop an ASEAN Community where all peoples live in harmony, peace, stability, and prosperity;

EMPHASISING the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes and sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of armed conflict, strengthening of the rule of law, and promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, reconciliation and unity including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice, accountability, good governance, and gender equality while promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms;

CONCERNED that despite the ARF's best efforts and successful endeavours, security threats and challenges that could undermine the peace, security and stability of the region still exist, and that such challenges are increasingly multifaceted in nature which require our

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common resolve and cooperation to address them;

STRESSING the importance of creating a favourable environment for enhancing cooperation among our countries in keeping with the principles of consensus, equality, partnership, consultation, and mutual respect, and the value of ARF as a venue for constructive dialogue, thereby contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and the world at large;

DO HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO:

1. Renew our individual and collective commitment to build upon the achievements of the ARF and strengthen dialogue and cooperation in existing and new areas to promote and maintain regional peace and security;
2. Commit to maintain and promote peace, stability and prosperity through confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy in the spirit of upholding the fundamental principles of international law as reflected in the UN Charter and ASEAN basic principles, and shared values and norms;
3. Deepen cooperation towards a collective and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic; advance regional recovery through effective COVID-19 vaccine rollout management and support the enhancement of ASEAN-led regional cooperation and initiatives, including the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, in ensuring equitable access to safe, effective and quality-assured COVID-19 vaccines;
4. Work jointly to encourage constructive dialogue and partnerships to build common ground for cooperation in areas of mutual concern and shared interest and peaceful settlement of international disputes;
5. Exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would and affect peace and stability, to refrain from the threat or use of force, to adhere to the principles of preventive diplomacy and to resolve differences and disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law;
6. Further strengthen cooperation among ARF Participants in the response to emerging traditional and non-traditional security challenges, including through information sharing, awareness raising, as well as capacity building measures;
7. Commit to concrete and practical cooperation to address issues of common interests, with the view to build capacity, develop expertise and enhance coordination in areas that can contribute to the region's collective security objectives;
8. Conduct more concrete and effective confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy (CBMs and PD), so as to promote mutual respect, dialogue and

consultation, and a culture of peace and non-violence, which can contribute to avoiding misunderstanding and miscalculation, promote the purposes and principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, and support multilateralism founded on the principles stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations and on the basis of international law;

9. Support ASEAN Centrality as driving force in upholding an open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture based on the principles of international law;
10. Explore new possible areas of cooperation in accordance with the objective of ARF to promote mutual trust and respect and mutual benefit, thereby contributing to regional peace, stability, and long-term prosperity and sustainability;
11. Support the enhanced role of the ARF Chair in facilitating dialogue and consultation among ARF Participants to promote confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy (CBMs and PD) in the ARF process;
12. Promote cooperation in peacebuilding initiatives including through encouraging the participation of women and youth in peace processes, foster the sharing of experience, best practices, capacity building, and collaboration on political and security issues of common interest and concern, including in humanitarian assistance and demining actions towards achieving peace, stability, prosperity, and sustainability in the region and beyond.

Adopted on the Fifth of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (2022) at the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

Statement Ends

2002 ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Measures Against Terrorist Financing

Issued in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30 July 2002

H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

In the interest of global peace and security, the participants in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) are determined to stop the financing of terrorism. In October 2001 the Chairman issued a statement on behalf of the participants that stated that we will address ways and means to cooperate together in the fight against terrorism. The fight against terrorist financing is a shared responsibility of the international community. We have therefore today endorsed a statement of our intention to work individually and in concert to prevent terrorists and their associates from accessing or using our financial systems and to stop abuse of informal banking networks.

These recommendations arise from the work done by senior officials of ARF participating states, notably the ARF Workshop on Financial Measures Against Terrorism hosted by Malaysia and the United States in Honolulu from March 24-26, 2002.

We agree that ARF participants will implement quickly and decisively measures that the United Nations has identified as mandatory to combating terrorist financing. We will block terrorists' access to our financial system. We will work with other relevant international bodies, including the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), FATF-style bodies, and the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) to prevent abuses to the financial system and threats to its integrity through the promotion of international standards relevant to terrorist financing, money laundering and financial sector regulation and supervision. We welcome the conclusions of the FATF extraordinary plenary on terrorist financing and its eight special recommendations on terrorist financing. Above all, we will enhance our ability to share information domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against terrorism. We call on all ARF participants to make every

effort to provide assistance to those countries who require assistance in accordance with this statement. In pursuing our goals, we have agreed to the following concrete steps:

Freezing Terrorist Assets

- Each ARF participant will implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly UNSCR 1373, to stop the financing of terrorism.
- In accordance with UNSCR 1373, each ARF participant will, within its jurisdiction, freeze without delay the assets of terrorists and their associates and close their access to the international financial system.
- Each ARF participant will, consistent with its laws, make public the lists of terrorists whose assets are subject to freezing, and the amount of assets frozen, if any.

Implementation of International Standards

- Each ARF participant will aim to approve, accept, ratify or accede to and implement the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism as soon as possible.
- Each ARF participant will aim to approve, accept, ratify or accede to and implement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- We will work co-operatively and in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, FATF and FATF-style bodies, FSF, Basle Committee of Banking Supervisors (BCBS), and other relevant international and regional bodies to promote the adoption, implementation, and assessment of international standards or recommendations to combat the abuses of the financial system, including in respect of terrorist financing, financial regulation, and money laundering.

International Cooperation: Exchange of Information and Outreach

- We will enhance our cooperation on the international exchange of information, including regarding actions taken under UN resolutions. ARF participants will promptly implement such measures as are necessary to facilitate this exchange.
- Each ARF participant should establish promptly, or maintain, a Financial Intelligence Unit or its equivalent and will take steps to enhance information sharing among them, including through promoting increased participation in groups of such units.
- An important element of this effort is the work of the regional FATF-style anti-money laundering bodies. Accordingly, the ARF participants call on these regional bodies to meet promptly and to expand their mandates to include terrorist financing.

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Technical Assistance

- We are committed to providing, where possible, technical assistance to countries that need help in developing and implementing necessary laws, regulations and policies to combat terrorist financing and money laundering.
- We welcome the efforts of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other multilateral and regional organizations to provide technical assistance, including by expanding existing programs and training centers.

Compliance and Reporting

- To promote implementation and compliance with international standards, and to share information regarding our respective laws, regulations, and best practices to address terrorist financing, we will support the activities of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee. We will also actively support surveillance and voluntary self-assessment through the IFIs, FATF and relevant international bodies.
- ARF participants should respond to the FATF's invitation to participate in a self-assessment of the eight special recommendations on terrorist financing.
- We encourage the FSF to continue its work respecting the actions of financial sector regulators in the fight against terrorism.
- We will ensure that our financial institutions and citizens comply with measures to combat the financing of terrorism and other financial crimes, and will assist them to do so, including through informing financial institutions of their obligations and new developments.
- We welcome the active contribution of the regional FATF-style bodies to the FATF's worldwide self-assessment program.
- We will review progress on our efforts to combat the financing of terrorism at our next Ministerial meeting.

2003 ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Cooperative Counter-Terrorist Action on Border Security

Adopted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 June 2003

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the ARF participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

Recognizing that:

Terrorism constitutes a grave threat to stability, peace and security in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. It has links with transnational organized crime, such as money laundering, arms smuggling, people smuggling, and the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs. It is also associated with the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological, and other deadly materials. Because terrorism has multiple dimensions, manifestations and causes and respects no national boundaries, it is a complex phenomenon that requires a comprehensive approach and unprecedented international cooperation. More than ever, it is important to ensure the secure flow of goods and people, to create and reinforce sound border infrastructures, and to coordinate information sharing and enforcement.

The fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach and unprecedented international cooperation.

In this regard, we recall the Statement by the ARF Chairman dated 4 October 2001, which stated "The threat of international terrorism to international peace and security requires concerted action to protect and defend all peoples and the peace and security of the world. It is important that the underlying causes of this phenomenon be addressed to resolve the scourge of international terrorism."

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Critical to such an approach and to effective international cooperation are the control of states over their borders and the denial of cross-border movement to terrorists and that of their goods, funds and material.

It is imperative therefore that borders should not be thought of only in terms of land frontiers between nations. Airports and seaports are also border crossing points so that air transport and maritime transport need to figure in the overall concept of border security.

If one is not simply to encourage the threat to move from one mode of transport to another then progress needs to be made in parallel across the entire spectrum of modes of border-crossing transport.

We stress the leading role of the UN in the fight against terrorism and call upon ARF participants to become parties as soon as possible to the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism fully implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 1373, and remain fully committed to supporting the work of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and other pertinent UN bodies. Acknowledging that terrorism and its linkage with transnational organized crime form part of a complex set of new security challenges, we stress the necessity to address them urgently in all aspects and in all fora, including the ASEAN Regional Forum.

We reject any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, ethnicity, race or nationality, and stress that in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and in other parts of the world, the need to also strengthen dialogue and promote mutual understanding between cultures and civilizations is greater than ever before.

We acknowledge that terrorism, including its links with trans national organized crime such as money laundering, armstrafficking and the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, people smuggling, as well as illegal movements of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, forms part of a complex set of new security challenges, which have to be addressed urgently in all aspects and in all fora, including the ASEAN Regional Forum.

In this regard, we welcomed the recent establishment of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The challenge for ARF participating states is to implement effective border security and

documentation practices while facilitating the cost-effective and efficient flow of people and goods for legitimate economic and social purposes and without undermining the principles and policies that promote our common security, and well being. The ARF has already joined other multilateral fora in taking substantive steps to enhance information sharing.

The ARF notes the significant progress that has been made by ARF participants in addressing counter-terrorism aspects of border security and encourages ARF governments to further enhance their efforts and commitment to combat terrorism in a more comprehensive manner on a voluntary basis and taking into account resources and capacity of ARF participants, in particular their efforts:

- to strengthen the capability of law enforcement and intelligence agencies;
- to ensure that border security forces are carefully screened, receiving good initial and ongoing training and motivated both by a desire to protect the community and by an adequate wage structure.
- to strengthen cooperation in sharing of intelligence in order to effectively deal with terrorism and transnational crimes such as illicit arms trafficking, drug trafficking and human and cargo smuggling.
- to strengthen cooperation in, and the legal framework for, where possible, prosecuting and extraditing terrorists, and to ensure that terrorist acts are established as serious criminal offences in domestic laws and regulations and that the punishment duly reflects the seriousness of terrorist acts;
- to cooperate, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements, to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks and take action against perpetrators of such acts;
- to ensure that the free flow of people and goods across borders is secure and not subject to exploitation by terrorists, drug traffickers, arms smugglers, people smugglers and other criminals.

The challenge for ARF and its participants is to implement border security and documentation practices that confront the terrorist threat without undermining these basic principles that promote our common security, including respect for human rights and the rule of law.

In this light, ARF participating states undertake to carry out the following cooperative actions for strengthening border security:

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Movement of People

- Support the expeditious implementation of a common global standard based on UN EDIFACT for the collection and transmission of advance passenger information (API) where possible.
- Support international efforts to achieve agreement on minimum standards for the issuance of travel and identity documents.
- Support efforts to develop means for sharing data on individuals of terrorist and trans-national criminal concern in accordance with laws and regulations of each country, for the purpose of incorporating that data into national and/or regional alert systems.

Movement of Goods

- Support work, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to develop and implement an improved container-security regime for identifying and examining high risk containers and ensure their in-transit integrity, bearing mind that some countries would encounter problems of high financial costs and the difficulty in acquiring the appropriate technology.
- Take note with interest of support work within the World Customs Organization and other relevant international organizations to implement common standards for electronic customs reporting by 2005, wherever possible, and require advance electronic information pertaining to containers, including their location and transit, to the extent feasible and as early as possible in the trade chain, with due regard to the difficulty in acquiring the appropriate technology for this purpose.
- Encourage major trading nations and relevant international organizations to extend effective assistance to ARF participating states in their efforts to improve the security and facilitation of the international trade chain.
- Support the development, in the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, of an effective and proportionate security regime for the inter-state overland transport and distribution of hazardous cargoes that present significant security risks.
- Support relevant provisions of the document "Cooperative GS Action on Transport Security" adopted in Cananascis on 26 June, 2002.

Document Security

- Support international work in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) towards developing minimum standards for the application of biometrics in procedures and documents, with due regard to the difficulty of some countries in bearing the cost

and acquiring the appropriate technology for this purpose.

- Improve procedures and practices for sharing data on lost or stolen passports and denied entries.

General/Measures

- Encourage multilateral cooperation on border security among ARF members to combat terrorism.
- Encourage ARF consideration and adoption of new measures for border security proposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other relevant international organizations.
- Provide, where necessary and possible, technical assistance and capacity-building infrastructure to states that need help in developing laws, training, and or in acquiring the equipment to enhance border security.
- Enhance ARF participants' efforts to share information useful on terrorism and trans-national organized crimes such as illegal arms trafficking, drug trafficking, people smuggling, and money laundering, where feasible domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against terrorism.
- ARF participating states are to review the process of these and other efforts to strengthen border security at the 11th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2004.

2004 ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Strengthening Transport Security against International Terrorism

Issued in Jakarta, Indonesia on 2 July 2004

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organization issues the following statement:

Strongly condemning all terrorist acts regardless of objectives or motivations;

Drawing attention to the significant threat to transportation posed by terrorist organizations and criminal groups and their growing coalescence, including those involved in piracy and smuggling;

Recognizing that despite the increased anti-terrorist efforts of the international community terrorism remains a direct threat to international peace, security and stability, and economic prosperity, including in the Asia-Pacific region;

Stressing that the complex, multi-dimensional and global nature of terrorism requires active and concerted actions by the international community, and a comprehensive approach – combining political, diplomatic, economic, legislative, law enforcements and other means – to address its manifestations and its causes;

Recognizing the need to enhance international, regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote counter-terrorist capacity by sovereign states;

Stressing the need for all states to create an environment where terrorism in all its manifestations is resolutely and totally rejected and to establish the necessary legislation and other means to ensure that terrorist offenses are effectively investigated and prosecuted;

Ensuring that all measures to combat terrorism are taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other applicable norms and principles of international, humanitarian and human rights law;

Reaffirming and strengthening the central role of the United Nations, in combating terrorism and shaping a joint and efficient system to address global threats and challenges;

Remaining strongly committed to the implementation of UN conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and fully supporting the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council and other relevant UN agencies;

Recognizing that further efforts aimed at facilitating the earliest possible conclusion of the draft UN Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism and the draft UN International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism would be a significant contribution in that regard;

Acknowledging the need to respect independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states, the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and non-use of force or threat of force;

Rejecting any attempts to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, race or culture;

Noting the vital importance of the safe and efficient operation of transport systems for their proper functioning and successful development of the global, regional, and national economies;

Recognizing the significance of international cooperation stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant international maritime regime in enhancing maritime transportation safety and security as an important contribution to international, regional and national efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crime; Noting the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-terrorism which established two Ad Hoc Working Groups to enhance regional law enforcement cooperation and legal frameworks;

Recalling the ARF statements on Measures Against Terrorist Financing of 30 July 2002, on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security of 17 June

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2003, as well as the ARF Statement on Cooperative Counter-terrorist Action on Border Security of 18 June 2003 which stresses, in particular, that progress needs to be made in fighting terrorism across the entire spectrum of modes of border-crossing transport;

Observing the progress achieved by the Forum participants in combating terrorism in transport;

Taking note of the “Cooperative G8 Action on Transport Security” adopted by G8 in Kananaskis on 27 June 2002 as well as the “Enhanced Transport Security and Control of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)” Action Plan adopted by G8 in Evian on 3 June 2003 and the concerns about the threat posed to commercial and general aviation by MANPADS;

ARF participating states and organization will endeavor to:

1. Enhance wherever possible their efforts and cooperation in fighting terrorism in all modes of transport – on the road, by rail, at sea, in the air, and by pipelines – in accordance with their domestic legislation, international obligations, and this Statement. In this regard, ARF participating states and organization will endeavor to jointly explore new practical measures and initiatives to combat terrorism in the transport sector.
2. Strengthen the legal cooperation framework to counter terrorism in all modes of transport by accession to relevant global anti-terrorist conventions and protocols and the conclusion of appropriate bilateral and multilateral treaties, agreements, and conventions. The ARF participating states and organization will continue, inter alia, their efforts to cooperate on criminal prosecution and extradition of persons suspected of perpetrating terrorist acts.
3. Fully and effectively implement their obligations under the International Maritime Organization(IMO) International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code by the agreed date of 1 July 2004.
4. Strengthen cooperation in the exchange of information, particularly on terrorist activities – planned or being committed – and persons and entities/organizations/ groups involved, as well as appropriately and effectively share information for the prosecution process of perpetrators of terrorist acts, while protecting the confidentiality of individual information, in accordance with domestic laws.
5. Strengthen practical cooperation between law-enforcement bodies, and relevant security and intelligence services, as well as state transportation agencies and

organizations in counteracting terrorism in transport.

6. Explore possible ways of improving interoperable methods of identification of members of international terrorist groups active in international transport routes. The ARF participating states and organization thus, express their intention for respective national authorities to cooperate in improving the security features of travel documents and visa systems, including through the consideration of standards and best practices established in other for a, thus facilitating the identification of individuals suspected to be involved in terrorist activities, while taking into account the need to avoid the violation of the rights of individuals.
7. Hold appropriate simulation and joint exercises, with a view to enhancing institutional capacity building of coastal states, especially with regard to piracy and maritime and aerial terrorism, to ensure effective modal coordination of maritime and aviation security and safety measures.
8. Consider opportunities to plan and implement, as appropriate, coordinated special operations and criminal investigations and set up under the most appropriate jurisdiction, joint operative teams to mitigate the effects of terrorist attacks on transport facilitates and bring the perpetrators to justice.
9. Cooperate, consistent with existing relevant transportation regimes, in preventing transportation systems from being used by terrorist, either as a site to commit terrorist acts or for transporting personnel, arms, explosives and explosive devices, and weapons of mass destruction.
10. Promote cooperation between research institutions to examine terrorism against the transport network, carry out joint research, exchange expertise and recommend methodologies, technologies, and best practices for combating such treats through meetings, seminars and conferences or through exchange of legislative and other legal regulations, and scientific research results.
11. Expand cooperation and enhance participation in international for a and international organizations, in particular, by adherence to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO's) International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code and relevant standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
12. Assist in providing appropriate training and equipment to respective transport security services.
13. Continue to develop and harmonize measures aimed at enhancing necessary security regimes for container shipping, while taking into account national legal systems and the need to avoid unnecessary increase in costs and disruption to trade.
14. Jointly examine and consider means to counter suicide terrorist attacks against

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transportation and transport facilities.

15. Continue to develop concerted efforts to fight piracy and other border crimes such as smuggling of illicit containers, under the aegis of IMO and respective national and regional frameworks, in particular, those relating to enhanced export control measures.
16. Develop and share best practices in the formulation of an intermodal transport security framework that would link air, rail, road, inland waterway and maritime transport, believing that such a framework will provide a coherent, cost-effective, and rational approach to cargo transport security.
17. Encourage constructive interaction between the ARF and other regional and international organizations/fora in this area with counter-terrorism mandates.
18. Cooperate to ensure that terrorists are prevented from using information technology and its applications to disrupt and sabotage the operation of transportation systems.
19. Annually review the progress of these and other efforts to combat terrorism in transport at the following ARF Ministerial Meetings.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange and Document Integrity and Security in Enhancing Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Other Transnational Crimes

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the ARF participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

Recognizing that:

Terrorism and other transnational crimes pose significant threats to the peace, order, and security of our countries and our peoples;

Effective regional and global action requires a comprehensive approach and international cooperation reflecting best practices built upon agreed norms, standards, institutions, and international agreements; in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other applicable principles of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law;

Every state has a duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in other states or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of terrorist acts;

Links between corruption and the generated by transnational crime could undermine and threaten legitimate commerce and finance and support terrorist and other criminal activities;

Effective information and intelligence exchange among states is an essential contribution to efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crime and must be carried out in a well-managed, responsible and systematic manner, including appropriate protections for sensitive and national security information obtained from other and adequate respect for and protection of personal privacy and other human rights;

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The integrity and security of national identity, travel and other documents is a vital contribution to ensuring the security of our citizens and to identifying, apprehending and prosecuting terrorist and other offenders.

Committed to:

Further strengthening effective cooperation among ARF participants in these efforts while noting the progress that has already been made, encourages ARF governments to further enhance their efforts and commitment to combat terrorism and other transnational crimes on a voluntary basis in a more comprehensive manner, taking into account resources and capacity of ARF participants and in accordance with international law and their respective national laws through information-sharing and intelligence exchange, cooperation in combating document fraud, and law enforcement cooperation. In particular, through the following efforts:

Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange

- to better exchange relevant information and intelligence in a timely, effective systematic manner on the basis of bilateral, sub-regional, regional or other information-sharing agreements, bearing in mind that such information and intelligence shall not be further disclosed or disseminated without the official authorization of the originator;
- to strengthen cooperation for the effective and appropriate sharing and exchange of information, particularly on terrorist and other transnational criminal activities for the prosecution of the perpetrators of such activities, while protecting the confidentiality of individual information, in accordance with domestic laws;
- to ensure that adequate national protections for sensitive and other information obtained from foreign partners are in place and effective;
- to ensure that the privacy and other rights of individuals about whom personal information is exchanged between states are respected and protected;

Combating Document Fraud

- to implement more secure and fraud-resistant national documents based upon internationally-agreed standards and containing appropriate biometric identifiers and to foster cooperation on adoption of Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTD), with biometrics if possible;
- to criminalize, investigate, and prosecute the possession or creation of fraudulent national identity, travel and other documents from any country;

- to actively participate in the elaboration and implementation of new international document standards through ICAO and other international, regional and functional organizations;
- to actively contribute on an ongoing basis to the INTERPOL database of lost and stolen travel documents, bearing in mind other effective channels of cooperation that exist;

Law Enforcement Cooperation

- to strengthen ARF law enforcement cooperation on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements and through the use of existing mechanism, in particular INTERPOL and its I 24/7 communications network for the exchange of information;
- to further strengthen international capacity building cooperation and assistance including through existing regional centers, such as inter alia the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) and the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

ARF participating states and organization are to regularly review the progress of these and other efforts to further strengthen cooperation against terrorism and other transnational crimes at the 4th and subsequent ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

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Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

Strongly condemning all acts of terrorism regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

Reaffirming the imperative to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Rejecting any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, race, or culture;

Ensuring that all measures to combat terrorism are in accordance with the United Nations Charter and other applicable principles of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law;

Acknowledging that terrorist misuse of cyber space is a destructive and devastating form and manifestation of global terrorism whose magnitude and rapid spread would be exacerbated by the increasing cyber interconnectivity of countries in the region;

Recognizing the serious ramifications of an attack via cyber space to critical infrastructure on the security of the people and on the economic and physical well-being of countries in the region;

Recognizing the detrimental impact of fear which can be enhanced by the terrorists in conjunction with attacks in physical space;

Further recognizing that terrorist misuse of cyber space is a form of cyber crime and a criminal misuse of information technologies;

Acknowledging that the proceeds from cyber crime may be laundered and/or used to fund terrorist activities;

Emphasizing the importance of ARF countries acting cooperatively to prevent the exploitation of technology, communications, and resources, including Internet, to incite support for and/or commit criminal or terrorist acts, including the use by terrorists of the internet for recruitment and training purposes.

Recalling the ARF Statement on Strengthening Transport Security against International Terrorism of 2 July 2004, which mentions, in particular, that ARF countries will endeavor to cooperate to ensure that terrorists are prevented from using information technology and its applications to disrupt and sabotage the operation of transportation systems;

Stressing the need for cooperation between governments and the private sector in identifying, preventing, and mitigating cyber-attacks and terrorist misuse of cyber-space;

Believing that an effective fight against cyber-attacks and terrorist misuse of cyber space requires increased, rapid and well-functioning legal and other forms of cooperation.

1. ARF participating states and organization endeavor to enact, if they have not yet done so, and implement cyber crime and cyber security laws in accordance with their national conditions and by referring to relevant international instruments and recommendations/guidelines for the prevention, detection, reduction, and mitigation of attacks to which they are party, including the ten recommendations in the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/63 on Combating the Criminal Misuse of Information Technologies.
2. ARF participating countries and organization acknowledge the importance of a national framework for cooperation and collaboration in addressing criminal, including terrorist, misuse of cyber space and encourage the formulation of such a framework that may include the following proposed courses of action:
 - Identify national cyber security units and increase coordination among national agencies;
 - Develop national watch, warning, and incident response capabilities;
 - Collaborate/cooperate with international and regional agencies for cyber investigation and collection and sharing of cyber evidence and, effective management of resources for mutually beneficial partnerships that foster international cooperation, interoperability, and coordination in fighting criminal and terrorist misuse of cyber space;

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- Conduct training/ technology transfer and counter-measures, especially digital forensics;
 - Reinforce capabilities to protect and recover critical infrastructure, minimize loss, track and trace the sabotage activities on such infrastructure;
 - Encourage private sector partnership with the government in the field of information security and fighting cyber crime, including the protection of critical infrastructure;
 - Increase public awareness on cyber security and cyber ethics with emphasis on safety and security, best practices, the responsibilities of using information networks and negative consequences from misuse of networks.
3. ARF participating states and organization agree to work together to improve their capabilities to adequately address cyber crime, including the terrorist misuse of cyber space by:
- Endeavoring to identify national cyber security units and joining and participating in established networks of cooperation;
 - Endeavoring to establish an ARF-wide network of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) concerning cyber- crime to facilitate the real time exchange of threat and vulnerability assessment and issuance of required warnings and patches and which would join existing cyber and incident warning and response networks;
 - Leveraging on existing cooperation among different CSIRT networks and collaborating with other international and regional organizations with similar concerns;
 - Providing, where and when possible, technical assistance and capacity-building programs to countries that request help in developing laws, extending training (in forensics, law enforcement, legal and technical matters), and when and where possible, providing hardware and software;
 - Within the framework of applicable data protection regulation, information and intelligence sharing between law enforcement, partners, and regional agencies, and community;
 - Enhancing efforts towards training and awareness among the masses to bring about a culture of cyber security.
4. The ARF participating countries and organization also commit to continue working together in the fight against cyber crime, including terrorist misuse of cyber space, through activities aimed at enhancing confidence among different national CSIRTs, as well as formulating advocacy and public awareness programs.
5. ARF participating countries and organization commit themselves to adopting such measures as may be appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under

international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, including through computer networks.

6. The ARF participating countries and organization decide to annually review the progress of these and other efforts to combat cyber attack and the terrorist misuse of cyber space at subsequent ARF Ministerial Meetings.

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Statement on Promoting a People-Centred Approach to Counter Terrorism

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organisations, issues the following statement:

RECOGNISING THAT:

The overwhelming majority of people in the region, and around the globe, are peace-loving; Terrorism, irrespective of its origins, motivations or objectives, constitutes a serious threat to human security, regional and international peace, stability and security. There is no justification, whatsoever, for any act of terrorism which should be unequivocally condemned;

Any measures to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations (UN), international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, where applicable; United Nations Security Council Resolutions; and UN Conventions and Protocols related to counter-terrorism which individual participating states are a state party to;

Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture, race or nationality;

Successfully combating terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, that includes addressing causes and factors conducive to the spread of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for terrorist and/or criminal activities;

Supporting initiatives currently undertaken by regional and international organizations on counter terrorism, including efforts to resolve conflicts, promote respect, understanding and tolerance among people of all religions, beliefs and cultures, forms part of the overall ARF efforts to counter terrorism;

Strong cooperation exists within the ARF framework in the fight against international terrorism

and desiring to undertake further measures to prevent, disrupt, combat and respond to terrorism;

It is vitally important to engage all levels of society including academia, the media, non-governmental organizations, community groups and other relevant institutions in the efforts against international terrorism;

COMMITTED TO:

Implement the principles laid out in this Statement, in accordance with their respective domestic laws and their specific circumstances, with the view to the full implementation of any or all of the following measures:

1. Identifying counter terrorism strategies and measures that promote greater tolerance, understanding, conflict resolution including inter-cultural dialogues, as well as those aimed at winning the “hearts and minds” of the people and their unequivocal condemnation of terror in all its forms and manifestations and regardless of its alleged motives in order to ensure their effectiveness;
2. Inculcating people’s awareness of the threat from terrorism to their safety and well-being and enhancing preparedness in their response to the threat;
3. To undertake all necessary measures in accordance with international law;
4. Developing initiatives and programmes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international laws and relevant rules of procedure of the United Nations, to promote public participation in counter terrorism measures, by, encouraging the comprehensive input of academia, media, non-governmental organizations, community groups and other relevant institutions;
5. Strengthening information sharing, exchange of best practices and joint-capacity building efforts on both preventive measures and emergency response mechanisms;
6. Identifying ways to enhance partnerships between, and among participating states, with international organizations, regional fora and other relevant institutions to promote the above measures in the efforts to counter terrorism; and
7. Reviewing the progress on these efforts to further strengthen cooperation to counter terrorism.

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Promotion of Inter-Civilization Dialogue

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of its participants, issues the following statement:

Acknowledging that the world continues to face both opportunities and challenges for promoting sustainable peace and security, as well as harmony and understanding among the people,

Cognizant of the significance of inter-civilization dialogue encompassing interfaith and intercultural interaction as well as efforts to promote respect, understanding and tolerance among people of all religions, beliefs and cultures as an important part of ARF efforts to promote peace and security,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated or identified with any specific religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Recalling their obligation as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Charter, and underlining the necessity of respecting human rights in resolving conflicts,

Recognizing the significant contribution of efforts to enhance dialogue and understanding among the people of different faiths, cultures and civilizations, and recalling in this regard relevant UN Resolutions calling for international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among and within civilizations,

Underscoring the importance of various international forums aimed at advancing inter-civilization, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue,

Believing that dialogue among cultures and civilizations as one of the important means for resolving problems and conflicts, as well as countering the threat of terrorism, is conducive to

maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region and the world;

ARF participants:

Strongly condemn terrorism in all forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes including terrorist actions committed under the pretext of religion, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

Support the work undertaken by the ARF participating states and completed work of the ARF such as a recent Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM-CTTC) which focused on Inter-Civilization Dialogue as well as the UN to promote inter-civilization dialogue, with an aim to implementing such global frameworks as the “Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations” and its Programme of Action adopted by the UN General Assembly and initiated by the UNESCO as a lead agency, the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy;

Welcome the report of the High-Level Group of the “Alliance of Civilizations” established by UN Secretary General, which seeks to establish a paradigm of mutual respect between civilizations by building a comprehensive coalition able to avert any further deterioration of relations between societies and nations that could threaten international stability;

Support efforts aimed at addressing the conditions that may be conducive to the spread of terrorism, and efforts made on the basis of consolidating principles of peace and tolerance as well as of the rule of law and respect of human rights;

Consider it vital to intensify the role and involvement of government and parliamentary bodies, as well as non-governmental, religious and other public organizations in enhancing inter-cultural and interfaith understanding;

Will encourage the international community to take practical steps directed at improving inter-civilization, inter-cultural and interfaith cooperation, including identifying and implementing activities in order to address common challenges threatening shared values, universal human rights and achievements of human society in various fields, and to explore the establishment of principles to facilitate meaningful interaction between cultures based on mutual respect for one another’s traditions;

Work to expand, where appropriate, channels of information exchange among the ARF

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participants with a view to sharing national experiences in promoting respect, understanding and tolerance among cultures and faiths in the interests of peace, security, human rights and prosperity of Asia Pacific nations.

2008 Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Statement Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of Diversion of Precursors Into Illicit Drug Manufacture

Adopted in Singapore on 24 July 2008

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF),

Recalling:

- the purpose of the ASEAN Charter of 2007 article 1 paragraph 8 which highlights the importance to respond effectively, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security, to all forms of threats, transnational crimes and transboundary challenges;
- the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, in particular article 12 on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances;
- the Political Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twentieth special session on the World Drug Problem, in which Member States established 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly, among others, the diversion of precursors,
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution S-20/4 B adopted on 10 June 1998 in which Member States decided to promote the exchange of experience relating to police, customs and other administrative investigation, interception, detection and control of diversion of precursors,
- the Bangkok Political Declaration in Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 adopted at the International Congress "In Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the Vision, Leading the Change" held in Bangkok, Thailand from 11 to 13 October 2000, which declared continued political will and commitment to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, particularly Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS);

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- the Beijing Declaration adopted at the Second International Congress of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operation in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) held in Beijing on 18 -20 October 2005, which among others, notes with deep concern that the illicit manufacture, traffic, distribution of ATS is spreading rapidly and endorsed the Regional Joint Action against ATS-related Crimes Initiative;
- the Siem Reap Declaration adopted in May 2005 which notes with concern the rapid increase of ATS abuse among children, the youth, and persons in labour-intensive activities;
- the Resolution 50/5 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted at its 50th Session in March 2007 entitled "Identifying sources of precursors used in illicit drug manufacture", which among others invites the International Narcotics Control Board, with Member States, relevant international bodies and existing initiatives such Project Prism, to continue to identify the main sources of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and 1-phenyl-2-propanone supplied to the main regions manufacturing ATS, the methods of diversion employed and the trafficking routes used;
- the Resolution 50/6 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted at its 50th Session, "Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of Diversion of Precursors", encouraging the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control (ACoG) and the International Forum on Control of Precursors for ATS (IFCP) to take forward the ACoG/IFCP Work Program;
- the Resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (50/10) adopted at its 50th Session on the "Prevention of Diversion of Drug Precursors and Other Substances Used for the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" which emphasized the heightened concern about the diversion of non-controlled substances to circumvent legal controls;
- the 2007 Report of the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular recommendations 12, 13 and 14 in which the board calls upon all competent authorities effecting seizures or intercepting shipments of precursors to investigate those cases; encourages governments to register for and use the PEN Online system; and requested all competent authorities to provide information on annual legitimate requirements of the precursor chemicals as stipulated in article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; and

- the ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on Narcotics Controls on 19-21 September 2007 and the Sixth ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime on 21-22 February 2008 in which this Statement was proposed and discussed.

Recognizing that different challenges in reducing the supply of ATS are faced by ARF participants, but that common characteristics of the manufacture of ATS exist among ARF participants, principally the reliance of the illicit manufacture of ATS on the availability of precursor chemicals used also in licit manufacture, as well as the increased misuse of non-controlled substances in the illicit manufacture of ATS;

Reaffirming the importance of applying national precursor controls with effectiveness throughout the region and the world, as a means of avoiding the displacement of diversion points across national borders;

Acknowledging the role of ACCORD and ACoG in striving to improve the control of ATS precursors in the region through enhanced collaboration on regulatory, administrative and legislative controls and practices;

Notes with concern the continued availability of precursors for illicit drug manufacture and the illicit supply and demand of ATS, including its spread to other parts of the world;

Calls upon Member States to continue cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board as the principal body and global focal point for the international control of precursors to ATS and illicit drugs such as heroin;

Urges competent national authorities of ARF participants to work in cooperation with each other and with existing mechanisms to strengthen the control of precursors to illicit drug manufacture, including:

- a. the International Narcotics Control Board,
- b. the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime,
- c. the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime,
- d. the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters,
- e. the ASEAN-China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs,
- f. the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and

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- the Pacific and
- g. ACoG;

Calls upon ARF participants to promote the objectives of ACoG in particular to identify opportunities for cooperation and support for building capacity in the region to respond to the threats of diversion of precursors into illicit drug manufacture;

Calls upon ARF participants to promote the ACCORD Plan of Action and its four pillars as well as to implement the follow-up activities related to the Regional Joint Action on ATS and Their Precursors;

Decides to promote collaboration among ARF participants on activities implemented by existing mechanisms including ACCORD and ACoG.

ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem

Promoting a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based approach to address the World Drug Problem;

Realizing that illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have been undermining the political stability, economic and social development of the region and posing a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all people in the region;

Recognizing drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature with social causes and consequences that can be prevented and treated through, inter alia, effective scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes;

Reaffirming the commitment to promoting comprehensive demand and supply reduction efforts that include preventive measures addressing, inter alia, the relevant factors that may facilitate, drive, enable and perpetuate organized crime and drug-related crime;

Noting with grave concern the rebound of opium poppy cultivation in many parts of the world, including in the Golden Triangle and the growing production, trafficking and use of synthetic drugs, especially methamphetamine in the Asia Pacific;

Recognizing that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially developing countries among them, continue to face multifaceted challenges resulting from illicit drug trafficking, and emphasizing the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable support to such States in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

Reiterating that the three international drug control conventions constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

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Reaffirming the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations Systems for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and reaffirming also the drug treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization;

Emphasizing that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the World drug problem, which represents the most recent consensus, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing countering the world drug problem”, as the basis to build on our work towards the 2019 UN-CND Ministerial Segment. These documents represent the commitment made by the international community over the preceding decade to addressing and countering, in a balanced manner, the world drug problem, and recognizes that those documents are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

Acknowledging the contribution made by ASEAN and relevant ASEAN drug control mechanisms such as ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and Safe Mekong Operation Project in combating the drug problem and promoting regional cooperation, and supporting the efforts made by countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific and Europe to counter the drug problem;

Taking note of ASEAN’s Drug Free Vision and supporting the efforts of ASEAN to contribute to promoting a society free of drug abuse and ensure, that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity;

Fully aware of the fact that addressing the drug problem is a common and shared responsibility of the international community and the need to accelerate collective efforts, including through enhanced international and regional cooperation, and demands integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approaches based on scientific evidence and experience, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

To this end, ARF participating countries commit to, in the spirit of solidarity, enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to effectively address and counter the drug problem in

the following ways:

1. Fully respecting purposes and principles of Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the sovereignty of States in choosing their approaches for countering the drug problem, in line with the international drug control conventions, and also taking into account relevant regional documents and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.
2. Fully respect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms while addressing the drug problem, paying special attention to protecting the safety, interests and rights of vulnerable groups including women, children and youth.
3. Promote the policies and the principle of the rule of law of states in addressing the drug problem, adopt an integrated, comprehensive and balanced strategy, in order to reduce the supply and demand of the illicit drugs, while ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, while effectively preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking according to the three UN conventions and national legislation.
4. Address the drug problem using evidence-based practices in a transparent and effective way, especially focused on poverty reduction, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, education and information dissemination among the youth, adapting policies and measures to the specific needs of drug-affected or at-risk populations, raising public awareness of the dangers and risks associated with drug abuse as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.
5. Continue efforts to mobilize relevant social sectors, if possible, and invite relevant national authorities to consider, in accordance with their national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measure aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including, appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, as well as consider ensuring access to such interventions, including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the technical guide for counties to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations

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Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

6. Encourage the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, with informed consent, where consistent with national legislation, and develop and implement outreach programmes and campaigns, involving drug users in long-term recovery, where appropriate, to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encourage drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity.
7. Significantly strengthen the cooperation between competent authorities, including judicial and law enforcement authorities, as relevant, in countering drug-related criminal activities, especially in combating transnational organized drug trafficking including suppressing illicit traffic by sea, diversion of precures or chemicals and money laundering, improve information exchanges. Commit to address the drug problem from its root.
8. Promote effective measures capable of addressing the links between drug-related crimes and corruption, as well as obstruction of justice, including through the intimidation of justice officials, as a part of national anti-corruption and drugs control strategies.
9. Strengthen actions to address the new trends in drug trafficking and new challenges such as illicit trade of international or state controlled substances and new psychoactive substances through the Internet, as well as the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine in the region and the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking.
10. Support research, data collection, analysis of evidence and sharing of information and strengthen law enforcement, criminal justice and legal responses, as well as international cooperation, to prevent and counter drug-related criminal activities using the Internet, consistent with relevant and applicable law.
11. Call on all members to continue to identify and monitor trends in the composition, production, prevalence and distribution of new psychoactive substances, including through use of early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment and rehabilitation models and supporting scientific evidence-based review, and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances.
12. Call on all members to share experiences in the legislation on countering the abuse and trafficking of new psychoactive substances, promote its incorporation into the regulatory of international conventions of the substances which are socially harmful, of high abuse risk, and endangering public security.
13. In line with national legislations, consider the development, adoption and

implementation of alternative measures to conviction and punishment and promotion of proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, consistent with the three UN drug control conventions, international law and taking into account relevant UN standards, and regional documents.

14. Support development efforts, including to work to help resolve the social and economic problems related to illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production, manufacturing and trafficking, and promote sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies.
15. Enhance the role and function of regional drug control and prevention systems, and under the international drug control system based on the three international drug control conventions, improve the coordination and synergy among regional and international mechanisms.
16. Promote exchanges and sharing of experience, intelligence and technology, as well as capacity building in countering the drug problem among ARF participating countries and consider providing appropriate assistance to less developed members in terms of funds, technology and capacity building.
17. Encourage the international community to pay more attention to and consider putting resources into addressing the worsening drug problem in the region.
18. Recognize that the supply and demand of drugs reinforce each other and drug trafficking has multiple and severe negative impacts on the development of all countries and call to continue to develop and implement effective prevention strategies, in accordance with national legislation and national requirements, and while simultaneously developing and implementing supply reduction strategies, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT)

(Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand)

REAFFIRMING that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed, and remaining determined to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight this scourge on a global level,

STRESSING that human rights and the rule of law should be upheld in preventing and countering terrorism and VECT in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and applicable rules of international law, and consistent with relevant UN Resolutions, as well as the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by UN General Assembly in 2006, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance collective efforts at local, national, regional and international levels to fully implement relevant UN Resolutions, as well as the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

STRESSING that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations in partnership with civil society and the private sector, when appropriate to prevent, impede, impair, isolate, and incapacitate the terrorist threat, while acknowledging the leading role and responsibility of States and their competent agencies in preventing and countering terrorism and VECT at the local, national, regional and international levels and the critical need for a “whole of society” approach.

ALARMED by the acts of terrorism and VECT in various parts of the world including in the region, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people,

UNDERLINING that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion,

nationality and or civilization,

REAFFIRMING that ARF Participants should ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism are in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law;

UNDERSCORING that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures, are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort and noting the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and counter terrorism,

NOTING with concern that terrorists craft distorted narratives, which are utilised to recruit supporters and foreign terrorist fighters, mobilise resources, and garner support from sympathisers, in particular by using information and communications technologies (ICTs), including the internet and social media, for terrorist purposes,

CONSIDERING the scale and complexity of the terrorist threat faced by the Asia-Pacific region which continues to grow with the influx of returning or relocating foreign terrorist fighters, recruitment of new fighters and cross border movement of terrorists,

REAFFIRMING the significant role of ARF as one of the main multilateral forums for political and security dialogue in the region which supports ASEAN Centrality in the ARF,

RECOGNISING the 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement which envisions ARF by 2020 will be able to develop an effective network for regional law enforcement and military agencies to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to the threats posed by terrorism and transnational organised crime in the region,

RECALLING the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the 2017 Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism,

NOTING the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) as adopted by the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime on 31 October 2018 in Naypyidaw, Myanmar,

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RECALLING UNSCR 2178 (2014), which encourages engagement, with local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter terrorist and VECT narrative, including by empowering youth, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and other concerned groups of civil society and adopt tailored approaches to countering recruitment and promoting social inclusion,

RECALLING UNSCR 2396 (2017), which focuses on foreign terrorist fighters returning from conflict zones and builds on UNSCR 2178 (2014), which expresses grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, and in this regard noting that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters may affect all regions and States, even those far from conflict zones,

RECALLING also that UNSCR 2396 (2017) emphasises that women and children associated with returning foreign terrorist fighters may have served in many different roles, including as supporters, facilitators, or perpetrators of terrorist acts, and require special focus when developing tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies,

EXPRESSING concern about the danger of recruitment and radicalisation to terrorism, including in prisons and online,

UNDERLINING the importance of strengthening international and regional cooperation, in addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including strengthening transnational information sharing on associated terrorist movements, border security, criminal investigations and judicial processes, including extradition and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and countering the spread of terrorist and VECT ideology and propaganda and incitement to commit terrorist acts, preventing radicalisation to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, disrupting, preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, developing and implementing risks assessments on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families, and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, consistent with applicable international and domestic laws,

EMPHASIZING the importance of domestic agencies and international assistance and cooperation, consistent with applicable international and domestic laws, to support our efforts

aimed at effectively bringing to justice, extraditing, or prosecuting any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing and fundraising, planning, facilitation, or commission of terrorist acts, and at denying terrorist safe havens,

STRESSING the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in accordance with applicable international law as a fundamental basis of any strategy to prevent and counter terrorism and VECT,

RECOGNISING that foreign terrorist fighters may be travelling with family members underscoring the need for ARF Participants to assess and as appropriate, investigate such family members for any potential involvement in criminal or terrorist activities, including by employing individualised risk and needs assessments, and to take appropriate action consistent with applicable international and domestic laws and noting that children are especially vulnerable to being socialised to violence and therefore may be in need of particular social support, such as post-trauma counselling, while stressing that children need to be treated in a manner that respects their rights and dignity, in accordance with applicable international law,

RECOGNISING the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and the drivers of VECT, both internal and external, while ensuring national ownership in accordance with applicable international and domestic laws,

REITERATING the need to consider engaging, where appropriate, with religious authorities, community leaders and other civil society actors, who have relevant expertise in countering narratives used by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, and their supporters,

AFFIRMING the importance of education as a tool to help to prevent terrorism and VECT,

DO HEREBY:

1. Call upon ARF Participants to cooperate and support each other in efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and VECT;
2. Urge ARF Participants to intensify efforts to effectively implement UNSCRs 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2242 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2354 (2017), and 2396 (2017), and 2462 (2019), as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

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3. Call upon ARF Participants to continue to take measures, consistent with international law, including applicable international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law to address all drivers conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, in a balanced manner as set out in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
4. Stress the significance of a sustained and comprehensive approach, including through stronger efforts, where necessary, to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, by enhancing collaboration, consistent with applicable international and domestic laws, with relevant key stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society, to promote a culture of prevention and to counter the ideological challenges of terrorism and terrorist narratives and propaganda, including through the use of ICTs with the view to support, foster and contribute to local, national, regional and global efforts against terrorism;
5. Call upon ARF Participants to engage with domestic financial institutions and share information on terrorist financing risks to provide greater context for their work in identifying potential terrorist financing activity through multiple authorities and channels, including law enforcement, intelligence, security services and financial intelligence units, underscoring in this context the essential role of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in setting global standards for preventing and combatting terrorist financing, of its Global Network of FATF-style regional bodies, while taking note with appreciation of the “FATF Consolidated Strategy on Combatting Terrorist Financing” and its operational plan and also call upon ARF Participants to improve the integration and utilisation of financial intelligence to more effectively counter terrorist financing threats;
6. Call upon ARF Participants to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, to deny safe havens to persons who support or engage in terrorism, including by prosecuting such persons, as appropriate, and to cooperate at the international level;
7. Emphasise that tolerance, pluralism, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural dialogue and respect among peoples, including at the national, regional and global levels, while avoiding the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation, in preventing terrorism and in countering VECT, and welcome the various initiatives in the region to this end;
8. Urge all ARF Participants to unite against VECT and encourage efforts aimed at countering incitement and recruitment to commit terrorist acts, and effective criminal

investigation and prosecution of any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing and fundraising, planning, perpetration, or commission of terrorist acts, or provides safe havens;

9. Encourage ARF Participants to promote community-based discussion on the drivers of VECT and to develop strategies to address them, and underline that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, academia, civil society, the private sector and the media play an important role in promoting tolerance and facilitating dialogue and respect for religious, political and cultural diversity and human rights;
10. Express concern at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, notes that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings, call upon ARF Participants to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable international and domestic laws, and encourage ARF Participants to cooperate, as appropriate, when responding to incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;
11. Express concern that terrorists continue to use information and communications technologies (ICTs), in particular the Internet and social media, for terrorist purposes, including to commit, incite, radicalize and recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts, and encourage ARF Participants to urge online platforms to step up the ambition and pace of their efforts to prevent terrorist and VECT content from being streamed, uploaded, or re-uploaded;
12. Stress to this end, that it is essential to address the threat posed by terrorist and VECT ideology and propaganda to incite and recruit individuals to commit terrorist acts, and in this regard, the ARF Participants should continue to develop an accurate understanding of how terrorists recruit and motivate others to commit terrorist acts and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda and to develop effective alternative narratives in collaboration with civil society partners, including through the Internet, in compliance with applicable international and domestic laws, while promoting an open, reliable and secure internet;
13. Encourage ARF Participants, to consider instituting mechanisms to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes that could

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- discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, VECT, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination;
14. Encourage also ARF Participants to promote the positive role of youth through the promotion of media and information literacy and considering practical ways to include youth in the development of relevant programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing VECT, and urge ARF Participants to take effective measures, in conformity with international and domestic laws, to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism or VECT;
 15. Call upon ARF Participants, to highlight the important role of women in countering terrorism and VECT, and urge ARF Participants to consider the impacts of counter-terrorism strategies on women's enjoyment of their human rights and on women's organization while taking into account national perspectives;
 16. Call upon also ARF Participants, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing and countering radicalisation and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing their borders, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and implementing, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies as part of their national counter-terrorism strategies for returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters accompanying and in this regard encourage ARF Participants to develop effective strategies to deal with returnees, in accordance with relevant international obligations and national law;
 17. Urge ARF Participants to provide full coordination and afford one another the greatest measure of assistance, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in criminal investigations or criminal proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorism for any purpose, regardless of against whose citizens terrorist acts are committed, including by sharing evidence useable in courts of justice to support proceedings involving terrorist organizations, terrorist entities or foreign terrorist fighters, and urge all ARF Participants to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, encouraging the enhancement of their efforts to strengthen implementation of existing extradition and mutual legal assistance mechanisms, including where applicable, on the basis of obligations to extradite or prosecute under applicable international counter-terrorism conventions and domestic laws;
 18. Encourage ARF Participants to promote the participation of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these strategies for addressing returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying families;
 19. Acknowledge that, given their potential status as victims of terrorism, every child

alleged as, accused of or recognised as having violated the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with applicable international law, including any international obligations relevant to the administration of justice, urge ARF Participants to take appropriate measures to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with terrorist groups, in accordance with domestic law in each State;

20. Encourage ARF Participants to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors, where appropriate, in developing tailored strategies to counter terrorist and VECT ideology and propaganda that can incite recruitment to terrorist groups to prevent the commission of terrorist acts, to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and VECT, and to share experience and best practices on the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks;
21. Stress the need to continue to provide tangible capacity-building assistance to ARF Participants in prevention and counter-terrorism matters, and recognise in this regard the need to contribute more resources for capacity-building projects, upon request, and to this end encourage ASEAN mechanisms, ASEAN led-mechanisms and ASEAN Dialogue Partners to coordinate and integrate their work in preventing and countering terrorism and VECT;
22. Welcome the adoption of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019 – 2021 which among others focuses on prioritising the region's effort to prevent and counter terrorism and VECT, look forward to the effective implementation of the Work Plan, and request ARF Participants to contribute to the Work Plan.

Adopted on the Second of August in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen (2019) at the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok, Thailand

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on the Treatment of Children Recruited by or Associated With Terrorist Groups

WE, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants, namely Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United States, Viet Nam and the High Representative of the European Union, gathered today, at the 27th ARF on 12 September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam,

ACKNOWLEDGING that recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist groups are serious forms of violence against children, and expressing deep concern for its harmful, widespread, and life-long traumatic impact on the physical and mental well-being of the child as well as for its consequences on families, the community and society at large,

STRONGLY CONDEMNING all recruitment and use of children to perpetrate terrorist attacks, as well as the violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children, including killing and maiming, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, attacks against schools or hospitals, in contravention of applicable international law, and denial of humanitarian access for children and noting that such violations and abuses may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, and recommending ARF Participants, within their respective jurisdiction, to investigate duly any such violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups and to hold perpetrators accountable,

RECOGNISING that it is the primary responsibility of States to protect children from the threats associated with terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in accordance with applicable international and domestic laws,

ACKNOWLEDGING that children are especially vulnerable to radicalization to violence, and

further acknowledging that in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration,

STRESSING the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in accordance with applicable international and domestic law as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter-terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, taking into account, inter alia, the rights, dignity and needs of the child,

ACKNOWLEDGING also that given the status of children as potential victims of terrorism, as well as of other crimes, every child accused of having or legally recognised as having violated the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, children should be treated in a manner consistent with his or her human rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with applicable international and domestic laws,

RECOGNISING that States should take appropriate measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse,

RECOGNISING that foreign terrorist fighters may be traveling with family members, underscoring the need for ARF Participants to assess and investigate such individuals for any potential involvement in criminal or terrorist activities, including by employing evidence-based risk and needs assessments,

FURTHER RECOGNISING that children are especially vulnerable to radicalization to violence and therefore may be in need of particular social support, including trauma-informed, age and gender sensitive post-trauma counselling, and should be treated in a manner that respects their rights and dignity, in accordance with applicable international law,

RECOGNISING that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism have a detrimental effect on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

REAFFIRMING that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

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REAFFIRMING the significant role of the ARF as one of the main multilateral forums for political and security dialogue and cooperation in the region which supports ASEAN Centrality,

RECOGNISING the 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement which charted a vision for the ARF to develop an effective network for regional law enforcement and military agencies by 2020, to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to the threats posed by terrorism and transnational organized crime in the region, as well as the 2019 ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT),

RECALLING relevant UN Security Council and UN General Assembly Resolutions, especially the UN Security Council (SC) Resolution 2396 (2017) “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts”, UNSC Resolution 2427 (2018) “Children and Armed Conflict”, UNSC Resolution 2143 (2014), UNSC Resolution 2225 (2015), UNSC Resolution 2242 (2015), and UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES72/284 (2018) and A/RES/71/291 (2017),

RECALLING the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, the 2017 Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, and NOTING the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (PCRVE) (2018-2025) and the Work Plan on ASEAN Plan of Action to PCRVE (the Bali Work Plan),

ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING the works of various ASEAN-led mechanisms in countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus,

ACKNOWLEDGING activities and recommendations of the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict as well as the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict of the UN Security Council within their respective mandates to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict,

TAKING NOTE OF the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its Countering Violent

Extremism Working Group, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia,

TAKING NOTE OF efforts undertaken by all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies in accordance with their existing mandates in emphasising the role of education and of the justice system to prevent and address the recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist groups,

ACKNOWLEDGING the possibility of non-judicial measures as alternatives to the prosecution and detention that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration for children recruited by or associated with terrorist groups,

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of strategies and measures to prevent recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist groups and encouraging the ARF Participants, to invest in such strategies and measures, with a view to building peaceful and sustainable societies,

DO HEREBY:

1. Call upon ARF Participants to continue efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism through national legislation, and to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures at the national and local level, consistent with international law, to protect children from all forms of physical, sexual or psychological violence associated with terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including the recruitment of children by terrorist groups.
2. Urge ARF Participants to develop and implement, if needed, national comprehensive strategies and tailored risk and needs assessments, effective rehabilitation and effective reintegration strategies for children accompanying their family members who have joined terrorist groups, or are associated with terrorist groups, consistent with international and domestic law, taking into account, where appropriate, gender and age sensitivities, and to take appropriate action consistent with relevant international and domestic laws, including by prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration measures, where appropriate and to cooperate, where appropriate, with local communities, mental health and education professionals and other relevant civil society organizations and actors, with the best interests of the concerned children as a primary consideration.
3. Encourage ARF Participants to develop appropriate safeguards in cases involving children accused of terrorism-related offenses so that prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies developed are in full compliance with their international law

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obligations and that no child should be deprived of liberty, unlawfully or arbitrarily, and the arrest, detention or imprisonment of the child should be in conformity with the law and be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

4. Emphasise the particular importance of providing, through the whole of government and whole of society approach, timely and appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to children associated with foreign terrorist fighters returning or relocating from conflict zones, through access to health care, gender and age-sensitive, and trauma-informed psychosocial support, family and parenting support and education programs and that contribute to the well-being of children and to sustainable peace and security, consistent with relevant international and domestic law;
5. Underscore the importance of targeted training on a voluntary basis, including through bilateral and multilateral programmes and sharing of information and experiences among the ARF Participants, aimed at developing a better understanding of the threats and providing an effective response to the current statement;
6. Call upon ARF Participants to invest in capacity building, and to this end, encourage ASEAN mechanisms, ASEAN-led mechanisms and ASEAN Dialogue Partners to strengthen efforts in preventing the recruitment and exploitation of children associated with terrorist groups.

Adopted on the Twelfth of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty (2020) at the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum in Ha Noi, Viet Nam

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the participating countries, issues the following statement:

Expressing condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families, the Government and the people of the countries that suffered significant human, social and economic losses and damages from the unprecedented tsunami disaster and earthquake as well as typhoons, cyclones/hurricanes, floods and landslides in various ARF participating countries;

Recalling the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004 issued at the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami in Jakarta, 6 January 2005; the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe, 18-22 January 2005 to effectively tackle disaster reduction; the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangement in Phuket, 29 January 2005; the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, 26 July 2005; the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction in Beijing, 27-28 September 2005; as well as international conferences concerning natural or other disasters, including manmade, under the auspices of the United Nations;

Deeply concerned about the additional socio-economic burden borne by the ARF participating countries, particularly the developing countries, due to the number, scale and increasing impact of natural disasters and other disaster situations;

Noting with appreciation the solidarity, brotherhood, sense of humanity, generous outpouring of support and constructive cooperation shown by the international community, including ARF participating countries, to help affected communities with humanitarian assistance in response to recent natural disasters, including the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian ocean and the 2005 South Asia earthquake;

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Reaffirming that humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality;

Mindful of the importance of encouraging regional and international cooperation to enhance preparedness and support the efforts of affected countries to mitigate and respond to natural disasters in all their phases and to reduce loss of life and other social, economic and global environmental assets;

Emphasizing the importance of civil-military cooperation in meeting regional peace and security challenges as well as identifying possible areas of cooperation in developing civil-military cooperation as an effective tool in disaster relief operations, at a pace comfortable to all, consistent with internationally agreed principles;

Recognizing the need for common understanding of civil-military cooperation, and the development of standardized civil-military coordination procedures consistent with existing international guidelines;

Recognizing also the need for appropriate and people-centered early warning and the dissemination of information and disaster management plans at all levels, including at the community level, which has thus far received rather limited attention from the international community and national governments;

Noting the importance of the availability of funds in the region for immediate disbursement, and the appropriateness of contributions to support timely and effective responses to humanitarian emergencies and noting international efforts to increase the pool of resources available;

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to protect the people and property on their territories from natural disasters;

Recalling that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of states must be fully respected in accordance with the charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country;

Emphasizing the importance of developing and strengthening institutions, mechanisms and

capacities at the sub-national, national, regional as well as the international levels to support community capacities to reduce disaster risk;

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in providing leadership and coordinating the efforts of the international community;

Acknowledging the importance of the ASEAN Standby Arrangements for Disaster Relief and Emergency Response, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, ASEAN Disaster Information Sharing and Communication Network, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and other regional instruments on disaster management and emergency response, including UN bodies, and recognizing the need for close coordination between regional and international bodies;

Recognizing the importance of the national sovereignty and integrity as well as the international law in the process of disaster management and emergency response.

ARF participating countries will endeavor to enhance cooperation that support and complement existing regional and international disaster management and emergency response mechanisms in the following areas:

A. Risk Identification and Monitoring

- (1) to take appropriate measures to identify regional disaster risks and risk management capacities and conduct disaster risk assessment covering among others; natural hazards, risk assessment, monitoring vulnerabilities and appraisal of disaster management capacities and the inputs/resources required to appropriately reinforce these;
- (2) to share information with regard to forecasting and monitoring hazards and disasters to interested ARF participants; information transmission, feedback and action (particularly relating to populations at risk).

B. Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

- (1) to develop an ARF Virtual Task Force on multi-hazard Disaster Response Management in order to promote ARF cooperation in disaster-related issues;
- (2) to support the work of UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in building up an Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System and to link up with other regional efforts to create a global multi-hazard early warning system;

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- (3) to call upon all ARF participating countries to integrate disaster risk reduction efforts into their national legislative frameworks, policies and strategies in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015;
- (4) to establish a directory of specialized experts/groups of experts in disaster relief and emergency preparedness in the ARF Net and share it with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- (5) to maintain an updated regional database of emergencies response and disaster management contacts, and to develop a joint database of assets and capabilities available to be shared with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities and the Register of Military, Civil Defense and Civil Protection Assets (MCDA);
- (6) to compile ARF participating countries' disaster management procedures/manuals and capabilities in order to enhance common understanding of respective countries' emergency preparedness procedures through sharing of lessons learned and best practices;
- (7) to work towards the development of ARF regional standby arrangements for immediate humanitarian assistance including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (of non-binding nature) in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- (8) to allocate adequate resources for the development and implementation of disaster management policies at all levels of administration;
- (9) to collaborate with international partners to clarify their possible roles in supporting national disaster response plans;
- (10) to consider, as appropriate, the development of bilateral/regional/multilateral legal arrangements/framework to facilitate and in line with disaster management and emergency response related international assistance;
- (11) to improve communications protocols with international data warning providers (in terms of 24 hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week notification and verification data input and warnings with all critical international data providers);
- (12) to provide early warning information to ARF participating countries, which include seismic and sea level data, data on seismic origins and to link with other warning systems and to exchange data in the case of an emergency.

C. Emergency Response and Disaster Relief

- (1) to consider, as appropriate, the development of ARF general guidelines on disaster management and emergency response for the use of both civilian

and military personnel within the ARF participating countries and to ensure consistency with existing UN guidelines and ASEAN mechanisms on disaster management and emergency response, civil-military cooperation and other international capabilities;

- (2) to enhance networking and coordination between national Search and Rescue (SAR) and other relief agencies of ARF participants, and with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG);
- (3) to promote coordination among donors, relief agencies, and the international community in carrying out short, medium and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk-reduction efforts led by the Governments of disasters-affected countries, in cooperation with the International Recovery Platform co-organized by the UN (UNDP, ISDR, OCHA and ILO), the World Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC);
- (4) to receive warning information and to coordinate with national disaster warning center of each country to maximize efficiency in emergency response and disaster relief.

D. Capacity Building

- (1) to undertake research and education, as well as sharing of knowledge and expertise among ARF participating countries with a view to strengthening capacities in the field of disaster risk reduction;
- (2) to strengthen national/regional preparedness and disaster management capability through education and training, sharing of expertise, desktop disaster relief simulation exercises and combined joint exercises in civil military operations;
- (3) to promote networking, enhance coordination and establish exchange/attachment programs between and among ARF participants' emergency management agencies;
- (4) to welcome and make use of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, which has been established on 26 September 2005 under UNESCAP administration for the establishment of an effective early warning system in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

ARF participating countries are to regularly review the progress of these and other efforts

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to further strengthen cooperation in disaster relief at the subsequent ARF Intersessional-Meeting on Disaster Relief as well as other ARF meetings.

Kuala Lumpur

28 July 2006

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation

Expressing sadness over the significant loss of life and property caused by natural and man-made disasters in ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants and other countries in recent years; honoring the victims and the affected people and showing appreciation to all first responders and rescuers involved and **expressing** deep concern over the catastrophic consequences of disasters and their negative impact on sustainable development of the economy, society and the environment in affected countries;

Recalling the principles of the various disaster management documents of the ARF and other regional and international organizations, including the *2006 ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response*, *2007 ARF General Guidelines for Disaster Relief Cooperation*, *2010 ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief*, *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)*, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, *ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management*, *2016 ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region*; *2017 ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management*, and the recommendations made therein, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognising the humanitarian assistance provided by the international community, including ARF Participants, in response to major disasters in the region in recent years as well as the **spirit of solidarity and humanity reflected therein**;

Reaffirming active support for disaster management and risk reduction efforts by the UN and its relevant agencies, donors, the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and stressing importance of the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, and the value added by ASEAN-centered mechanisms including the ARF, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the East Asia Summit, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre);

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Reiterating that disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation are priority areas of cooperation for the ARF, and that ARF Participants should better leverage the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief and strengthen disaster risk management;

Recognizing the primary role of governments of ARF Participants in enhancing and coordinating disaster management capabilities in their countries and safeguarding the safety and welfare of their peoples, and commending their efforts in recent years to establish and improve disaster management mechanisms and institutions, including National Disaster Management Organizations as well as their progress in capacity building and development;

Acknowledging the importance of addressing gaps and weaknesses in ARF Participants' capacity to reduce disaster risks, manage major disasters, make coordinated responses, and providing timely, effective and needs-based humanitarian assistance in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as set out in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182;

Realizing the importance of improving the disaster response capacity of ARF Participants, promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in international assistance, information and experience sharing, voluntary technology exchange on mutually understood terms, personnel training, joint training and exercises, and enhancing communication and coordination among regional mechanisms;

Recognizing that the effects of climate change may exacerbate natural disasters in the region, and the need to encourage the formulation of policies to mitigate its negative impact; Acknowledging that environmental factors can either exacerbate or reduce impacts of natural disasters and must therefore be managed for disaster risk reduction;

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of disasters on vulnerable groups, including women, boys and girls, persons with disability, older persons, indigenous people, poor people and migrants, and emphasizing the importance of their equal, full and effective participation at all stages of disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation;

Encouraging, in this regard, the integration of age, gender and other vulnerable sectors' perspective in all disaster risk reduction initiatives and strategies, and ensuring the full

participation of women in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation;

Emphasizing the importance of civil-military coordination and cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM HEREBY ENDEAVOR TO:

1. Support the development, or improvement, of comprehensive and integrated national strategies covering contemporary best practice including disaster management, disaster risk prevention, monitoring and early warning, preparedness, emergency response, protection of civilians, recovery and reconstruction, and assist in incorporating these elements into countries' national disaster plans, as appropriate.
2. Address causal reasons of vulnerability and promote adequate risk monitoring and assessment systems.
3. Promote synergies and coherence with climate change adaptation strategies, including those in line with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement for those countries determined to implement it.
4. Step up efforts to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.
5. Integrate climate change adaptation strategies, as appropriate, into relevant legislation and policies on disaster management.
6. Foster the implementation of recommended disaster risk reduction measures in key regional and international documents on disaster management, according to national priorities.
7. Support ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in regional disaster relief cooperation, in partnership with relevant regional and international agencies and centers on disaster management, and the strengthening of coordination with them to promote rapid regional disaster response.
8. Pay special attention to capacity building for disaster risk reduction and management of developing and least-developed countries, and provide them, as appropriate and relevant, with support in funding, technology, personnel training and other aspects.
9. Support efforts to build the knowledge and capacity of local and national government officials, civil society, communities and volunteers to monitor hazards, exposure and social vulnerabilities.
10. Enhance national and regional capacities on disaster risk reduction and management, including through joint exercises and other initiatives to increase the capacities of humanitarian personnel.

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11. Support and reinforce the active participation of local communities and promote adequate access to information and the opportunity to contribute to disaster risk reduction and management efforts.
12. Promote the development and implementation of innovative strategies for disaster risk awareness-raising involving the whole of the society, including vulnerable groups, research communities, governments, emergency managers and other stakeholders.
13. Promote sharing of knowledge, experience and technology pertaining to disaster monitoring and early warning, preparedness, emergency response, disaster relief, disaster damage and loss assessment, post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, environment protection, preparedness for trans-boundary disaster, and other aspects in order to encourage sustainable development.
14. Improve civil-military coordination and cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capability through training and exercises, and the engagement and inputs into the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise, including by enhancing its coordination with other disaster relief exercises in the region.
15. Explore the possibility of establishing regional risk information systems and early warning mechanisms.
16. Develop among ARF Participants the capacity for resilient and efficient communication in disaster management and response.
17. Enhance the capacity of existing Track 1.5 and Track 2 mechanisms, including the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), in the field of disaster management.
18. Encourage concerned ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and external partners, including the UN and other relevant inter-governmental and regional organizations, to support the implementation of this Statement.

2003 ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Cooperation against Piracy and Other Threats to Security

Issued in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 June 2003

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

1. Recognizing that:
 - a) Piracy and armed robbery against ships and the potential for terrorist attacks on vulnerable sea shipping threaten the growth of the Asia-Pacific region and disrupt the stability of global commerce, particularly as these have become tools of transnational organized crime;
 - b) ARF Countries represents approximately 80 percent of the world's GDP and trade, and even more of maritime or container shipping trade;
 - c) Maritime security is an indispensable and fundamental condition for the welfare and economic security of the ARF region. Ensuring this security is in the direct interest of all countries, and in particular the ARF countries;
 - d) Most maritime armed-robberies in the Asia-Pacific region tend to occur in the coastal and archipelagic waters. Trends over the last few years indicate that piracy and armed-robbery against ships continue to threaten to be a significant problem in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - e) To deal with this increasingly violent international crime, it is necessary to step up broad-based regional cooperative efforts to combat transnational organized crime, including through cooperation and coordination among all institutions concerned, such as naval units, coastal patrol and law enforcement agencies, shipping companies, crews, and port authorities;
 - f) Such efforts must be based on relevant international law, including the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention;
 - g) It is important that there be national and regional cooperation to ensure that

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- maritime criminals and pirates do not evade prosecution;
- h) Effective responses to maritime crime require regional maritime security strategies and multilateral cooperation in their implementation;
 - i) National, Regional and International efforts to combat terrorism also enhance the ability to combat transnational organized crime and armed-robberies against ships.
2. The Participants of ARF endeavour to achieve effective implementation of the relevant international instruments and recommendations/guidelines for the suppression of piracy and armed-robbery against ships, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf; and the International Maritime Organization's recommendations and guidelines for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed-robbery against ships at sea; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 particularly the new Chapter XI-2 and the International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS Code); and to enhance their coordination and cooperation to that end. The members of ARF express their commitment to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelves as soon as possible, if they have not yet done so.
 3. The ARF Participants will work together to protect ships engaged in international voyages by:
 - a) Enhancing cooperation on fighting piracy and armed-robbery in the region between ARF participants' shipping and organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Piracy Reporting Center of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB);
 - b) Early implementation of the comprehensive amendment to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and the new ISPS Code adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Security in December 2002; as called for in Conference Resolution 6.
 - c) Affirming their responsibilities to prosecute, in accordance with relevant domestic laws, perpetrators of acts of piracy and armed-robbery against ships.
 - d) Endorsing the development by the International Maritime Organization of the

following instruments and recommendations/ guidance for use in preventing and suppressing piracy and armed-robbery against ships:

- Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed-robbery against ships, MSC/Circ. 622/Rev. I, 16 June 1999;
- Guidance to ship-owners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed-robbery against ships, MSC/Circ. 623/Rev. 3, 29 May 2002; Directives for Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs), MSC/Circ. 967, 6 June 2000;
- Interim Procedures for MRCCs on Receipt of Distress Alerts, MSC/Circ. 959, 20 June 2000;
- Resolution A. 922 (22)- Code of Practice for the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed-robberies against ships;
- Resolution A. 923 (22)- “Phantom” ships and registration process; and
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

4. The ARF participants commit to undertake the following actions:

- a) Encourage bilateral and multilateral maritime cooperation among ARF members to combat piracy, including at the present increased personnel contact among personnel, information exchanges and anti-piracy exercises on the basis of respecting territorial integrity, sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction and in accordance with the principles of voluntary participation and agreement in line with the respective applicable international conventions.
- b) Encourage ARF consideration and future discussion of new IMB proposals (10/23/02) on prescribed traffic lanes for large supertankers with coastguard or naval escort whenever and wherever possible on the high sea upon the consent of all ARF countries concerned. If considered feasible, forward to IMO for adoption as appropriate.
- c) Provide, where and when possible, technical assistance and capacity-building infrastructure to countries that need help in developing necessary laws, extending training, and where and when possible, providing equipment.
- d) Enhance ARF participants' ability to share information domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against maritime piracy and armed-robberies.

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- e) Institute regional ARF cooperation and training in anti-piracy and security. Cooperate with the world maritime university (under the IMO) as regards education and training of personal engaged in anti-piracy and security.
- f) Encourage greater ARF member states' transport industries and shipping community to report incidents to the relevant coastal states and to ships' flag administration for follow up action by the proper authorities as prescribed in MSC/Circ. 623. In addition to the IMO, ships may also report to secondary reporting centers such as the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Center in Kuala Lumpur.
- g) Encourage the ARF Chair to explore with the ASEAN Secretariat or an ARF participant whether it would be willing to coordinate logging of requests for assistance by ARF participants in implementing the provisions of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms on the Continental Shelf and other relevant instruments.
- h) Review progress on efforts to combat maritime piracy and armed-robberies against ships at the 11th ARF Ministerial meeting, in 2004 and share their experiences with member states of the IMO.
- i) Endorse the ongoing efforts to establish a legal framework for regional cooperation to combat piracy and armed-robberies against ships.
- j) Welcome the discussion in the IMO on various issues relating to the delivery of criminals who have committed crimes on a ship on the high sea or on the exclusive economic zone to the authorities of port state by the master of the ship, and hope to reach a conclusion as soon as possible. (IMO document "LEG 85/10")
- k) Nothing in this statement, nor any act or activity carried out in pursuant to this statement, should prejudice the position of ARF countries with regard to any unsettled dispute concerning sovereignty or other rights over territory.

ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Statement on Strengthened Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation

Building on the decision of the 21st Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar to issue the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration from Marine Oil Spill Incidents,

Acknowledging that healthy marine ecosystems and resources are vital to food security, human health, and economic well-being in the Asia-Pacific region,

Recognizing that prompt and effective action at the local, national, regional, and international level is essential to minimize the impacts resulting from various threats to the marine environment, including marine pollution, ocean acidification, and unsustainable fishing practices,

Consistent with ARF Participants' commitment to cooperation and the preservation of the marine environment for the benefit of their citizens and future generations, we endeavor to work toward:

- *Reducing* pollution, including from excess nutrients to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- *Significantly* reducing the input of debris, especially plastics, into the marine environment so as to achieve measurable reductions of marine debris.
- *Curbing* the increase in ocean acidification by taking ambitious mitigation action.
- *Achieving* worldwide coverage of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network and significantly increase the number of trained monitors and managers.
- *Conserving* coastal and marine areas – especially areas of particular importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services – through supporting existing and establishing new effectively managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, based on the best scientific knowledge available. Strengthening cooperation on coastal

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and marine protected areas through exchanges of experiences and techniques on establishment and management.

- *Conducting* cooperation and exchanges of experiences and techniques on marine ecosystem restoration, and conservation of coastal and marine species as well as their habitats.
- *Reducing* the rate of loss of all natural habitats, and significantly reducing degradation and fragmentation.
- *Maintaining* or restoring stocks of fish at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis, based on the implementation of science-based management plans and the minimization of bycatch, discards, and waste.
- *Cooperating* to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in accordance with international law.
- *Supporting* the effective implementation of the provisions of international instruments related to fisheries, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and its associated International Plans of Action and the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing.

ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies

We, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants, gather today on the occasion of the 23rd ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 26 July 2016 in Vientiane, Laos.

ACKNOWLEDGING that peace, security and stability at sea including the safety and security of sea lines of communication are vital to prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to develop concrete and effective regional responses to maritime security challenges and other maritime challenges as stated in the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement and the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security (2015-2017);

CONCERNED about growing maritime challenges that may affect peace and stability in the region;

RECOGNISING the important role of the maritime law enforcement agencies as the first responders and front-line actors in addressing those challenges;

EMPHASISING the need to enhance cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies with a view to promoting trust and confidence, and strengthening capacity and coordination, thus dealing more effectively with common maritime security challenges and other maritime challenges;

RECOGNISING that a maritime regime in the region based on international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that sets out a legal order for peaceful use of the seas and oceans, has facilitated our region's impressive economic growth;

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COMMITTED to upholding the principles of international law, including those enshrined in the UN Charter and other relevant international instruments in the conduct of activities by law enforcement agencies and in the conduct of cooperation activities among them;

REITERATING the need and importance of promoting trust and confidence and exercising self-restraint by all parties and the collective endeavor to maintain peace, stability, safety and security in all seas and oceans in the region;

EMPHASISING the importance of promoting maritime cooperation through dialogue and cooperation, using opportunities to address common challenges on maritime issues through relevant international and regional mechanisms including ASEAN-led mechanisms;

WELCOMING the on-going work of the ARF and other ASEAN related bodies such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, the ASEAN Maritime Forum, the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, the East Asia Summit, as well as the ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation;

NOTING the efforts of other regional mechanisms such as the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM);

DO HEREBY ENCOURAGE members of the ARF to promote concrete and practical cooperation between their respective Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies of the ARF participants, including by:

1. Actively cooperating, including through sharing experience and building capacity in implementing international instruments on safety of navigation such as the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS);
2. Sharing experience and best practices in managing incidents at sea and dealing with maritime security challenges;
3. Sharing experience and best practices in handling fishing vessels of other countries and their crews;
4. Continuing existing activities, including joint coordinated patrols, intelligence and information exchange, and exercises to combat piracy, armed robbery against ships at sea and other transnational crimes, and exploring new areas of possible cooperation in order to help promote safe and secure sea lines of communication, enhanced maritime

connectivity and maritime tourism;

5. Building regional capacity through training and workshop aimed at combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea, such as the Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training (EAST);
6. Working to ensure that the region is a safe region for the exercise of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, in accordance with international law; and
7. Implementing the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of the 2009 ARF Vision Statement, including developing codes of conduct, guidelines, common standard operating procedures and best practices along with standby arrangements, effective interoperable collective responses and enhanced capability including through joint exercises in specific areas of activity agreeable to all Participants.

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Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

Noting with serious concern the conservation, transnational, and complex impacts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing on the marine environment, sustainability of marine resources, and the well-being of coastal States as a whole;

Noting the concerns of connections, when factually evident, between IUU fishing and other illegal activities, such as document fraud, money laundering, human trafficking, labor exploitation, corruption, and tax and customs fraud;

Recognizing the role of maritime law enforcement in addressing IUU fishing as well as the need to address any illegal activities present in the fisheries value chain;

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS);

Bearing in mind the ASEAN Political and Security Community Blueprint 2025 article B.6.2.vii, mandating ASEAN to expand maritime cooperation, to effectively combat transnational crimes as well as to address trans-boundary challenges, including IUU fishing;

Welcoming the contributions of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) to promote sustainable fisheries and to address the challenge of IUU fishing in the region;

Recalling the commitments made by the Head of State/Government of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Participating Countries, in the EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation, including utilizing relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms as appropriate venues to

ensure that the region is free of various trans-boundary challenges including IUU fishing;

Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly Resolution Number A/RES/70/75 on Sustainable Fisheries, as well as the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1982 UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

Noting the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance and the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing and the recommendations therein;

Noting also efforts at the FAO to establish an “International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing”, with a view to include it in the UN Calendar of International Days in order to increase the awareness of IUU fishing;

Welcoming the recent increase in ARF Participants ratifying, accepting or acceding to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing;

Recognizing that fishing activities in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization are therefore unregulated fishing activities;

Noting that pending a comprehensive and durable settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the Parties concerned may explore or undertake relevant cooperative activities, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the UNCLOS 1982, without prejudice to the positions of the concerned Parties to the dispute;

Recalling also the Sustainable Development Goals Target 14.4 to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science based management plans by 2020, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics;

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Noting the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Product issued on 3 August 2016 in Bangkok;

Building on the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain; the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Statement on Strengthened Cooperation on Marine Environment Protection and Conservation, and the ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017;

Recognizing the important role that fish processing states have in verifying volumes caught and imported, and their source;

Reiterating the ASEAN Regional Forum Participants' commitment to cooperate in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing, the Participants of the ASEAN Regional Forum are invited to work towards:

Preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing through actions in accordance with relevant rules of international law, in particular as reflected in the 1982 UNCLOS;

As a matter of priority, consider ratifying, accepting or acceding to, as appropriate, the 1982 UNCLOS, the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, and the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing;

Implementing effectively the UN FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, by among other means, developing and/or implementing National Plans of Action;

Continue Supporting the existing Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) against IUU Fishing comprising RPOA-IUU States with the aim to promote responsible fishing practices and combat IUU fishing in the region;

Supporting and strengthening the work of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in fisheries management, science, and conservation of living marine resources and encouraging that RFMO governing bodies pass resolutions that provide appropriate measures to deter registered and unregistered fishing vessels conducting IUU fishing within

their respective jurisdictions;

Undertaking comprehensive and effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of fishing vessels subject to their jurisdiction, including standardizing specifications to mark and identify vessels to support inspection procedures taking into account the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing;

Supporting the implementation of port state measures to block the flow of IUU-caught fish into national and international markets, and into the supply chain by parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing;

Taking all necessary steps, consistent with international and national law and in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, to prevent fish caught by vessels identified by the relevant RFMOs to have been engaged in IUU fishing from being traded or imported into their territories;

Cooperating in taking action against cases of IUU fishing and illegal activities, in accordance with existing international and national law, and instruments;

Sharing information, as appropriate, on vessels found to have engaged in IUU fishing beyond their respective Exclusive Economic Zones to RFMOs and relevant countries or organizations dealing with the IUU fishing violation;

To the greatest extent possible, taking measures to ensure that their nationals do not support or engage in IUU fishing;

Encouraging states to cooperate to address IUU fishing cases in accordance with international and national law, including those that relate to the humane treatment of suspected offenders;

Working to ensure that national legislation and enforcement regimes provide appropriate administrative, civil, and/or penal sanctions to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing, and to deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from such activities;

Encouraging states to take responsibility to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures, including engaging

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in or supporting IUU fishing;

Encouraging fisheries cooperation among ARF Participants through bilateral and regional arrangements, relevant industries, and research, based on the principles of sustainable fisheries management and responsible fishing practices;

Encouraging steps consistent with applicable national and international law to explore practical measures that can be used to strengthen existing cooperation including in ASEAN-led mechanisms in addressing IUU fishing in a more comprehensive manner, such as:

- Develop and improve National Plans of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing;
- Exchange data or information, in accordance with any applicable laws, including national confidentiality or privacy requirements, preferably in a standardized electronic format, established by the Participants, from records of vessels authorized by them to fish, as well as in respect of vessels suspected on reasonable grounds to have engaged in IUU fishing;
- Cooperate on the elaboration and implementation of measures to exclude the import of seafood resulting from IUU fishing; Consider increasing information sharing by processing states of statistics related to processed seafood and its supply chain, and cooperate in effective acquisition, management, and verification of relevant data and information from fishing, including scientific assessments of available resources;
- Allow and enable their respective MCS practitioners and enforcement personnel to cooperate in the investigation of IUU fishing, consistent with any applicable national laws;
- Undertake and promote bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation, including cooperation between law enforcement agencies, through when appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, cooperation in investigations and exchange of information, inter alia information on legislation and law enforcement intelligence;
- Cooperate with research institutions on joint research, fisheries stock assessments, exchange of expertise, and recommend methodologies, technologies and best practices for addressing issues related to combating IUU fishing;
- Collaborate on measures that would assist in effectively addressing IUU fishing, and where factually evident, illegal activities associated with IUU fishing;
- Research, review and strengthen where appropriate, national laws and regulations regarding IUU fishing to combat its degrading effects on the environment, and its

possible implications on human rights, fishing markets, and the well-being of coastal States;

- Collaborate to strengthen national efforts on awareness raising and education for fishers in order to secure sustainable fisheries.
- Adopt the precautionary approach and manage fishery and aquatic resources, in a manner consistent with the concept of an Ecosystem-Based Approach to Fisheries Management and integrated coastal area management in specific natural fishery management areas.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Nonproliferation

- 1) The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the ARF participants, issues the following statement:
- 2) Recognizing that:
 - A) The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in all its aspects and their means of delivery constitute a threat to international peace and security and a growing danger to all states;
 - B) The proliferation of WMD and the spread of terrorist groups increase the risk that terrorists may gain access to WMD and their means of delivery;
 - C) A multilateral approach to security, including disarmament and nonproliferation, contributes to maintaining international order, therefore every effort should be undertaken to uphold, implement and strengthen the multilateral disarmament and nonproliferation treaties and agreements to which ARF participants are States Parties.
 - D) The support of international institutions charged respectively with verification and upholding of compliance with these treaties is of key importance.
 - E) It is vital to prevent terrorists or those who harbor them from acquiring or developing WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials, and continued efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.
 - F) In the interest of international peace and security, ARF participants agree that it is vital that we prevent, with utmost vigilance and urgency, the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials.
 - G) The effort to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery requires a comprehensive approach in accordance with international law.
 - H) Critical to such an approach is to encourage all ARF participants to comply with their respective nonproliferation commitments and disarmament obligations under the international treaties to which they are parties. They are also encouraged to adopt new measures as appropriate on effective export controls and on establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.

- I) The ARF has long recognized the threat posed by the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery to the Asia-Pacific region and the need to uphold, implement and strengthen the multilateral disarmament and nonproliferation treaties and agreements to which ARF participants are states parties. These principles were reflected in the 1996 ARF Chairman's Statement, which referred to the ARF Seminar on Nonproliferation in Jakarta on December 6-7, 1996, and in subsequent ARF statements. The ARF commends Canada's proposal to conduct a seminar on export licensing in the next ARF cycle.
 - J) The prevention of proliferation should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
- 3) The ARF supports, in line with Article 25 of the UN Charter, the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (2004) and presumes that all its provisions, having unequivocal supremacy over this Statement, should be effectively implemented. To this end, ARF participants will closely collaborate with each other and duly cooperate with the Committee of the Security Council established under Resolution 1540. This Statement is a contribution at the regional level to achieving the goals of the aforesaid Resolution.
- 4) The ARF notes the progress that has been made by ARF participants in addressing proliferation concerns. The ARF encourages ARF participants to further enhance their efforts and commitments to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery in a more comprehensive manner that takes into account ARF participants' resources and capacities. The ARF encourages ARF participants to make best efforts:
- A) To redouble their efforts to maintain and strengthen the disarmament and nonproliferation treaties, and for all States parties to these treaties to fully implement them in accordance with their obligations under these treaties.
 - B) To enact or improve national legislation, regulations and procedures to exercise effective control over the transfer of WMD and related materials, while ensuring that such legislation, regulations and procedures are consistent with the obligations of States Parties under international treaties;
 - C) To strengthen cooperation in sharing of information among ARF participants and with relevant multilateral and international organizations in order to deal effectively with proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery and related transfers;
 - D) To take cooperative measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials in accordance with national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law; and

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- E) To strengthen national legal measures, as appropriate, for criminalizing the illicit exports of equipment and technology that contributes to the proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems, and related materials.
- 5) To accomplish these goals, ARF participants have decided to carry out the following cooperative actions, as appropriate and in accordance with international law, for strengthening measures against proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery:
- A) ARF participants will implement effective export controls and enforcement measures to control the transfer of materials, technology and expertise that can contribute to the design, development, production or use of WMD and their means of delivery, where necessary reinforcing their national authorities and capabilities toward this end, while ensuring that such policies and practices are consistent with obligations of States Parties to the international treaties. However, efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD should not hamper international cooperation in material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
 - B) To this end, ARF participants recognize the utility of effective national export control lists as well as the need, where necessary, to rigorously enforce and further develop them, without affecting the rights to develop research, production and use of (nuclear, chemical and biological) materials for peaceful purposes.
 - C) Given that safe and secure management of radioactive sources is very important in the current security climate, ARF participants will review their abilities to control radioactive sources and will make a political commitment to work toward following the guidance contained in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, or "Code."
 - D) Agreeing that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would contribute to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, ARF participants will continue to support the Six Party Talks to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue.
 - E) ARF participants will continue to enhance cooperation with the IAEA and the OPCW in order to strengthen international nuclear and chemical safeguards respectively, and to uncover networks that provide WMD-related equipment, materials and technologies illegally.
 - F) All participants will foster regional dialogue and cooperation in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.
- 6) In addition, ARF participants decided that they will:
- A) Work actively with international cooperative mechanisms to provide, when and where possible, technical assistance to strengthen mechanisms against

- proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials and technologies, to ARF participants that request such assistance; and
- B) Encourage the ARF Chair to explore with the ASEAN Secretariat, or, if established, an ARF Unit, whether it would be willing to record requests from ARF participants for assistance in implementing measures to strengthen their respective WMD national authorities and other mechanisms against proliferation of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials and technologies.
- 7) ARF participants will review the progress of these and other efforts to strengthen nonproliferation of WMD in all its aspects and their delivery means at the 12th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2005.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement Supporting National Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the ARF participants, issues the following statement:

Recalling previous ARF commitments, in particular the Jakarta Statement on Nonproliferation, adopted by the 11th ARF on 2 July 2004, to prevent the proliferation in all its aspects of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to support the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540,

Acknowledging the useful exchange of views during the ARF Workshop on UNSCR 1540 Implementation on 13-15 February 2007 in San Francisco as well as the UN Seminar on Implementing UNSCR 1540 in Asia and the Pacific on **July 12-13, 2006 in Beijing**,

Taking note of UNSCR 1673 (2006) as well as the report of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (1540 Committee) of April 2006, which, inter alia, encourages States, if and as appropriate, to provide additional information on national implementation as an ongoing process, including, for instance, the preparation of plans for addressing remaining measures to be taken to fully implement the resolution, taking into account the analysis provided by the 1540 Committee, and notes the important role of regional organizations towards experience- sharing and lessons learned in areas covered by UNSCR 1540,

Acknowledging that implementation of Resolution 1540, including reporting, remains a national responsibility, on the basis of national legislation, arrangements and regulations;

Determined to continue full co-operation with relevant international organizations, including the 1540 Committee, as recommended in UNSCR 1673 (2006) and wishing for ARF participants to serve as a positive example for the international community,

Noting the willingness of ARF participating States to fully implement resolution 1540 at national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing that some ARF participating States may be in need of assistance in implementing the provisions of resolution 1540 within their territories.

ARF participants will endeavour to:

1. Provide, as and when appropriate, additional information to the 1540 Committee on national implementation as part of the ongoing process of UNSCR 1540 implementation, including, inter alia, in the form of a road map or action plan, as recommended in the 1540 Committee Report (S/2006/257);
2. Work toward practical capacity-building activities and cooperation in the ARF region to help participants meet their obligations under UNSCR 1540 and other WMD non-proliferation commitments, in full cooperation with the 1540 Committee, by, inter alia, promoting lessons learned, sharing experiences and facilitating the identification of assistance needs for national implementation.
3. Remain seized of the matter in the ARF in the future and may hold further exchanges of views on the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Reiterating Commitment to Preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

The 29th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in **Phnom Penh on 5 August 2022** under Cambodia's 2022 ASEAN Chairmanship.

NOTING that the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) entered into force on 27 March 1997 and 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty;

REAFFIRMING that the establishment and preservation of SEANWFZ, consistent with the SEANWFZ Treaty, enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, promotes nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and furthers the goal of a world without nuclear weapons;

REAFFIRMING the need for preserving and upholding the foundations of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, and the need for all NPT State Parties to comply with its provisions. Recognizing the SEANWFZ Treaty contributes to the objectives of the NPT;

WELCOMING that the P5 reaffirmed their commitments and willingness to further advance discussions with the ASEAN countries on the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty, as expressed in the Joint Communiqué of the P5 Conference in Paris on 2 and 3 December, 2021;

WELCOMING the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on 17 February 2022, in which ASEAN reaffirms the commitment to continuously engage the P5 and intensify the ongoing efforts of ASEAN Member States and P5 to resolve all outstanding issues consistent with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty;

STRESSING that proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear terrorism would seriously

threaten the preservation of SEANWFZ, jeopardize the lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region, the maintenance of which requires the long-term efforts of all ARF Participants; **REALIZING** that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is an inalienable right of states, to be exercised in conformity with their respective international obligations, including the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) where applicable;

NOTING with concern the risks of nuclear weapons use and need for joint efforts by all states to reduce these risks through practical measures that complement, but do not substitute for, nuclear disarmament, including measures to build confidence and increase mutual understanding within the P5 process and other available bilateral or multilateral mechanisms involving relevant States;

NOTING that the current security context requires more efforts to strengthen the indispensable role of the IAEA in nuclear non-proliferation verification through safeguards implementation and efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards regime including through universalization of the Additional Protocol;

TAKING note of the Joint Statement of the Leaders of China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA, on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races on 3 January, 2022; and further reaffirming the need for those states to act consistent with the statement's intent to taking concrete steps to avoid militarily confrontations, strengthen stability and predictability, increase mutual understanding and confidence, and prevent an arms race, and recognizing actions under the Joint Statement will further the goal of SEANWFZ;

RECALLING the support for the establishment of SEANWFZ in the Final Document of the 10th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, UNGA Resolutions 62/31, 64/39, 66/43, 68/49, 70/60, and UNGA Decisions 72/515, 74/510, 76/517;

RECALLING the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1540 (2004) and the Comprehensive Reviews on the status of its implementation, whose aim is to prevent non-state actors from getting access to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials;

NOTING the efforts made by ASEAN and ARF on the preservation of SEANWFZ, including the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, Declaration on the Zone of Peace,

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Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty on the SEANWFZ (2023- 2027), the Practical Arrangements to promote cooperation in nuclear science and technology, applications, nuclear safety, security and safeguards signed by ASEAN and IAEA in 2019, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in 2022, ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025), and ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and its Work Plans.

DO HEREBY DECIDES TO:

1. Reaffirm the efforts of ARF Participants at the national, regional and international levels to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear non- proliferation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, strengthen nuclear safety and security, and combat nuclear terrorism;
2. Call for the renewed commitment of NPT State Parties to strengthen the implementation of the NPT, and strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of IAEA safeguards regime including through universalization of the Additional Protocol to meet proliferation challenges;
3. Reiterate support to the efforts of preserving Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction consistent with the SEANWFZ Treaty and the ASEAN Charter;
4. Promote efforts that strengthen the security of Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and support nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, encourage efforts to reduce nuclear risks and diminish the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrine;
5. Urge all ARF Participants to commit to the full implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) and encourage the Participants, on a voluntary basis, to provide necessary assistance, by request, for the full implementation of that Resolution;
6. Reaffirm their support for the inalienable right of the ARF Members to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes consistent with their international obligations, including the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) where applicable;
7. Encourage efforts to protect the region from environmental pollution and the hazards posed by radioactive wastes and other radioactive material;
8. Encourage efforts to strengthen coordination with international organizations including the United Nations and the IAEA as well as other Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones.

Adopted on the Fifth of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty- Two (2022) at the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

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Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security

Noting the considerable progress in developing and applying advanced information and communication technologies (ICTs),

Expressing concern regarding the vulnerability of ICTs to threats to their availability, reliability and integrity from a variety of malicious sources,

Recognizing the need for all ARF participants to take systematic steps to protect their national information infrastructures,

Taking into account the UN General Assembly resolutions on the developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, aimed at combating the use of ICTs for criminal or terrorist purposes and purposes inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security,

Recognizing that confidence and security in the use of ICTs are among the main pillars of the information society, and that a robust global culture of cyber security needs to be encouraged, promoted, developed and vigorously implemented,

Bearing in mind that ensuring security in the use of ICTs should be consistent with international law and its basic principles,

Acknowledging the increasing interconnectivity in the use of ICTs by countries in the region, Underlining the need to bolster coordination and cooperation among ARF participants in strengthening security in the use of ICTs,

Highlighting the need for further dialogue on the development of confidence-building and other transparency measures to reduce the risk of misperception, escalation and conflict,

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Stressing the need for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide by2 capacity building for developing countries and exchanging best practices and training in the sphere of security in the use of ICTs,

Consistent with the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attacks and Terrorist Misuse of Cyberspace of July 28, 2006,

Noting the United Nations Consensus Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/65/201),

ARF participants reiterate the need to further intensify regional cooperation on security in the use of ICTs, including through the following measures:

- promote further consideration of strategies to address threats emerging in this field consistent with international law and its basic principles;
- promote dialogue on confidence-building, stability, and risk reduction measures to address the implications of ARF participants' use of ICTs, including exchange of views on the potential use of ICTs in conflict;
- encourage and enhance cooperation in bringing about culture of cyber security;
- develop an ARF work plan on security in the use of ICTs, focused on practical cooperation on confidence building measures, which could set out corresponding goals and a timeframe for their implementation;
- review a possibility to elaborate common terms and definitions relevant to the sphere of the use of ICTs.

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of ICTs in the Context of International Security

WE, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum gathered today on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum on 12 September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;

NOTING that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication;

RECOGNISING the importance of ICTs security as well as the increasingly important role of ICTs security as a driver of global economic growth including in the context of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and further emphasising ARF Participants' resolve to promote secure and resilient ICT, which can contribute to regional security and stability, while noting the role played by the private sector, the technical community, civil society, and relevant international organizations;

UNDERSCORING the aspirations of ARF Participants to the peaceful use of ICTs to promote a secure and stable ICT environment and to further the sustainable development of all countries, irrespective of their scientific and technological development;

STRESSING that an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment is essential for all, and requires effective cooperation among States to reduce risks to international peace and security. Understanding that it is in the interest of all States to promote the use of ICTs for peaceful purposes and to prevent conflict arising from their use;

NOTING the security risks and challenges posed by malicious ICT activities conducted by States and non-states actors, which have become a serious concern for ARF Participants;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the area of security of and in the use of ICTs, including the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN Ministerial

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Meeting on Transnational Crime, ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cyber Security, ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime Working Group on Cyber Crime, ASEAN Cyber Capacity Program, ASEAN Network Security Action Council, Cybersecurity Resilience and Information Sharing Platform for ASEAN Central Banks, East Asia Summit, ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of ICTs, ARF Open Ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures to Reduce the Risk of Conflicts Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies and ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus Experts' Working Group Meeting on Cyber Security;

RECALLING UNGA resolution 70/237 on the Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of International Security, East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Deepening Cooperation in the Security of Information and Communications Technologies and of the Digital Economy, ASEAN Leaders' 2018 Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, ASEAN Information and Communications Technologies Master Plan 2020, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, ARF Foreign Affairs Ministers' 2012 Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, and 2015 ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs, which underline the need to promote international cooperation, ensure security of and in the use of ICTs;

HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. Foster an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment to prevent conflicts and crises by developing trust, confidence and cooperation among ARF Participants. This can be achieved through confidence building measures, information sharing, capacity building, and voluntary and non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour as well as through the work and consensus reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on developments in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.
2. Recognise that COVID-19 demonstrated the international community's growing dependence on ICTs and support efforts to combat COVID-19 as well as post-pandemic recovery stage and other health-related challenges through responsible and effective use of digital technologies while ensuring protection of personal and of consumers data and privacy, improve research and development(R&D) technology capacities and applications, facilitate digitalization of the public and private sectors;

3. Foster cooperation to support a secure, resilient and sustainable digital infrastructure, promote, as appropriate, the synergy between relevant national initiatives and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 to strengthen regional connectivity and lay a solid foundation for cooperation in ICT security;
4. Advance cooperation on security of and in the Use of ICTs through the work of relevant ARF mechanisms, such as Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of ICTs and Open Ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures to Reduce the Risk of Conflict Stemming from the Use of ICTs, and the enhancement of capacity-building to strengthen security of and in the use of ICTs;
5. Promote international cooperation and assistance that can play an essential role in enabling States to secure ICTs and ensure their peaceful use;
6. Encourage regional efforts, promote confidence-building and transparency measures and support capacity-building and the dissemination of best practices;
7. Promote inclusive development of digital literacy and bridge the digital divides and development gap, provide assistance to States that may lack sufficient capacity to protect their ICT networks as well as pay special attention to vulnerable groups;
8. Endeavour to promote ICT security through cooperating in areas such as incident response, raising awareness on threats-related to the security of and in the use of ICTs, and sharing best practices which are relevant for maintaining ICT security and can contribute to the maintenance of regional peace and stability;
9. Promote cooperation, including to develop capacity necessary to respond to criminal and terrorist use of ICTs and for the implementation of confidence building measures.

Adopted on the Twelfth of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty (2020) at the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum in Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Singapore Declaration on the 15th ARF

We, the Ministers of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, India, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, and the United States of America, on the occasion of the 15th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Singapore on 24 July 2008;

Recalling the achievements of the ARF since its inaugural meeting in Bangkok in 1994 in promoting greater trust and confidence in the Asia-Pacific region and bringing together key countries that have an impact on the geographical footprint of the ARF to where it now comprises 27 participants who are firmly committed to enhancing regional peace and stability;

Recognising the continued relevance of the ARF in promoting and maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and its vital role in building confidence and trust amongst its participants;

Reaffirming the role of ASEAN as the primary driving force of the ARF and emphasizing that the active participation and cooperation of all participants are critical for the success of the ARF;

Reiterating the basic principles contained within the 1994 ARF Concept Paper, which is an important foundational document that has guided the development of the ARF since its inception;

Welcoming the recommendations proposed in the Paper on the Review of the ARF and looking forward to the assessment of the recommendations of the Study of Best practices in Preventive Diplomacy in selected regional and international organizations, which can be considered further by the ARF as it pursues progress towards goals set forth in the 1994 ARF Concept Paper;

Concerned that despite the ARF's best efforts and its successful endeavours, security threats and challenges that could undermine the peace, security and stability of the region still exist, and that such challenges are increasingly multi-faceted and non-traditional in nature which require our common resolve to address them; and

Cognisant that the ARF and its working processes should evolve to ensure that it continues to be the main regional security forum in the Asia-Pacific region;

HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **Renew** our individual and collective commitment to build upon the achievements of the ARF and strengthen dialogue and cooperation in existing and new areas to promote and maintain regional peace and security;
2. **Further** the development of appropriate Preventive Diplomacy concepts, in line with our decision in 2005 to move the ARF from the Confidence Building stage to the Preventive Diplomacy phase, while ensuring that future development would continue to be based on the values and roadmap contained in the 1994 ARF Concept Paper, 2001 ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy, and Paper on the Review of the ARF;
3. **Strengthen** the existing ARF's organisational mechanism, including that of the ARF Chair, Friends of the Chair (FOC), ARF Unit and ARF Fund, through the mobilization of more resources, manpower and expertise;
4. **Commit** to undertake concrete and practical cooperation to address issues of common interests, with the view to build capacity, develop expertise and enhance coordination in areas that can contribute to the region's collective security objectives;
5. **Enhance** the cooperation, coordination and operational familiarity among our defence officials and operational agencies;
6. **Enhance** further the engagement between Track I and Track II in the ARF, as well as partnership ties between the ARF and other regional and international organisations particularly by exchanging ideas, experiences and best practices;

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- 7 **Promote** greater awareness and understanding of the ARF's achievements, and its relevance to people in the ARF region as well as enhance the visibility of the forum, its objectives and activities, in promoting regional peace and security; and
- 8 **Further** cooperate to strengthen and develop the ARF, its mandate, and its activities so that the ARF can serve as the premier regional security forum in the Asia-Pacific region.

Adopted in Singapore, this Twenty-Fourth Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

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Statement on Aviation Partnership: Soaring Ahead Together

RECOGNIZING the importance of safe and secure air transport in strengthening the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants' cooperation and ASEAN economic integration;

RECOGNIZING the importance of every State's implementing practices consistent with international norms and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in the realm of aviation;

RECALLING the U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2309 (2016), which calls upon States, as part of their efforts to prevent and counter terrorist threats to civil aviation and acting consistent with relevant international legal instruments and framework documents, to ensure that effective, risk-based measures are in place at the airports within their jurisdiction, including through enhancing screening, security checks, and facility security, to detect and deter terrorist attacks against civil aviation and to review and assess such measures regularly and thoroughly to ensure that they reflect the ever-evolving threat picture and are in accordance with ICAO standards and recommended practices;

RECALLING the decision of the U.N. Security Council in its resolution 2396 (2017) that Member States shall require airlines operating in their territories to provide advance passenger information (API) to the appropriate national authorities, in accordance with domestic law and international obligations, in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted travel to, entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of foreign terrorist fighters and individuals designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), and 2253 (2015), and that Member States shall develop the capability to collect, process and analyse, in furtherance of ICAO standards and recommended practices, passenger name record (PNR) data, and ensure PNR data is used by and shared with all their competent national authorities, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the purpose of preventing, detecting, and investigating

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terrorist offenses and related travel;

RECALLING ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative, which aims at assisting States in effectively implementing ICAO SARPs, policies, plans and programmes in a globally-harmonized manner; addressing significant safety, security, and environmental concerns; and promoting and implementing all ICAO's assistance activities so that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of safe, secure and reliable air transport which supports sustainable development;

The Participants of the ARF Hereby:

1. Affirm our joint commitment to safe, secure, and efficient aviation, our existing partnership on aviation issues, and our intention to continue cooperation generally on aviation;
2. Endeavour to promote aviation safety and security throughout the aviation system in ARF, including aircraft, air traffic control facilities, and local and international airports, including in collaboration with private owners and operators within the civil aviation industry;
3. Reaffirm our commitment to implement UNSCR 2309 (2016) which calls for greater collaboration in ensuring the security of global air services and the prevention of terrorist attacks in accordance with international law;
4. Reaffirm our commitment to fully implement UNSCR 2396 (2017), including our obligations to use and share API and PNR data, and urge ICAO to work with its Member States to establish a standard for the collection, use, analysis, and protection of PNR data;
5. Endeavour to strengthen information sharing, capacity building, and cooperation among ARF Participants to rapidly respond to incidents and emerging threats;
6. Underscore the importance of ICAO SARPs concerned with aviation security, safety, regulatory, efficiency, and environmental performance of air navigation;
7. Endeavour to implement infrastructure upgrades that improve efficiency, safety, and security in line with ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative, where necessary;

8. Endeavour to continue efforts to make regional air connectivity safe, vibrant, and effective;
9. Endeavour to continue enhancing the sustainability of aviation;
10. Endeavour to maintain cooperation among ARF Participants to promote consistency, harmonisation, and coordination of efforts aimed at improving international civil aviation safety, capacity, and efficiency; and
11. Endeavour to sustain investments in improving air traffic management, especially those technologies and procedures that are a part of the minimum path to global interoperability and safety, and increased capacity and efficiency based on the 5th edition of ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan.

Adopted on the Second of August in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen (2019) at the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok, Thailand

Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum

WE, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF), namely Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United States, Viet Nam and the High Representative of the European Union, on the occasion of the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum:

CONCERNED by the increasing threats to regional stability and prosperity posed by armed conflicts, and the increasing numbers of refugees and other displaced persons, particularly women and children;

RECOGNIZING that women's participation in peace and security decision-making leads to resilience against violence and more sustainable peace and security outcomes; the need to increase and promote women's representation and meaningful participation in peace operations, peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction, civilian protection, and military deployments; and that integrating a gender perspective increases the capability of missions and processes;

UNDERSTANDING that peace and security are pre-requisites for the achievement of prosperity and sustainable development;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which recognizes the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the increased occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls, including but not limited to sexual violence, trafficking in persons, and exploitation prior to, during, and after armed conflict; and emphasizes the importance of women's equal, full and meaningful participation at all stages of peace processes given their necessary role in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping, as embodied in relevant United Nations Security

Council resolutions.

RECALLING the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, in particular the intersection of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 and SDG 16.

BUILDING on the regional commitments, as applicable, to the Women, Peace and Security agenda as expressed in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region (2004); the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013); the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (2015); the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010); the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017); the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (2017); and the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN (2017).

HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO COMMIT, IN THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY, TO MAKING PROGRESS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. **INCREASE** the meaningful participation of women, including women's civil society organisations and networks implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, in the prevention, management, and resolution of armed conflict, and post-conflict peace building reconstruction and rehabilitation.
2. **BUILD** the capacity of women as peace builders, including as mediators and negotiators at the international, regional, national, and community levels as appropriate; in particular, through the promotion of the role of women as essential voices and active participants in society.
3. **ENGAGE** men and boys in support of women's empowerment within the broader Women, Peace and Security agenda, and to further engage with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in accordance with its mandate as launched during the ASEAN HeForShe Campaign on 30 November 2017.

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4. **PREVENT**, respond to, and end all forms of violence, sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated in armed conflict situations, particularly against civilians, including women and girls.
5. **SUPPORT** the role of women in promoting a culture of peace that educates and empowers all people; prevents armed conflicts; promotes the rule of law, and sustains peace through approaches that are comprehensive, cross-sectoral, and integrated.
6. **MEET** the specific needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings, including the provision of the full range of accessible and affordable medical, legal, educational, psychosocial, housing, and livelihood services, in accordance with applicable laws and policies.
7. **CONTINUE** to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a way to address causes of armed conflicts, such as poverty; discrimination; social injustice; and the economic and/or social exclusion of persons and communities vulnerable to and at risk of instability and terrorism.
8. **STRIVE TO PROTECT** the rights of women and girls during and after armed conflict, including from discrimination and social exclusion by fostering a culture of inclusion.
9. **STRENGTHEN** the capacity of peacekeeping operations to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including by increasing deployment and meaningful participation of women at all levels, and incorporating the Women, Peace and Security agenda into the relevant planning and implementation of operations.
10. **LEVERAGE** ASEAN-led mechanisms and development partners to support the implementation of global commitments in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda to better support the empowerment of women and girls in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, and post-conflict peacebuilding.
11. **ENCOURAGE** political leadership to promote a greater balance in representation of women and men, and the integration of a gender perspective into the workings of our respective international security efforts addressing armed conflict.
12. **RAISE** awareness of the Women, Peace and Security agenda among policy- makers

as well as the general public, and encourage inter-governmental discussions on issues of critical importance to the Women, Peace and Security agenda so as to share policy experiences, lessons learned and best practices, and identify ways of cooperation.

13. **PROMOTE** women's meaningful participation in all processes of prevention, management and resolution of armed conflicts and decision-making, and strengthen gender equality.
14. **ENCOURAGE** the adoption of national policies, national action plans, and efforts of regional frameworks aimed at raising public awareness of women's rights and the importance of their role and participation in peace processes, the resolution and prevention of armed conflict, and peacebuilding.
15. **SUPPORT** research, training, and sharing of gender-sensitive and disaggregated information within the ARF related to peace operations and/or stabilization initiatives, based upon a solid gender analysis and an integrated gender perspective to encourage best practices on matters of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
16. **TASK** ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to provide recommendations regarding the Women, Peace and Security agenda within relevant ARF workplans, programs and processes, including inter-sessional meetings, workshops and other activities when relevant.

Adopted on the Second of August in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen (2019) at the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok, Thailand

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Enhancing Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Infectious Disease Outbreaks

We, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Participants, gather today on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum on **12 September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.**

EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN over the severe challenges posed by outbreaks of infectious diseases and pandemics, including the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared as a pandemic on 11 March 2020, to the well-being and sustaining growth of our peoples, the development of the global socio-economy and the sustainability, stability and security of our region and the world at large, and **DEEPLY SADDENED** by the loss of lives and sufferings caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

EMPHASISING our gratitude and support to all medical professionals, healthcare workers and other frontline personnel, including volunteers fighting the pandemic;

RECOGNISING the devastating and multi-faceted impact that major infectious disease outbreaks have on our societies and economies, in particular on the most vulnerable as well as on regional security and stability, **and EMPHASISING** the importance of enhancing regional and international solidarity and cooperation at all levels of governance, and strengthening our collective preparedness and response capacities in order to prevent and minimise future outbreaks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that any prevention and response measures would need a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach;

RECOGNISING that the best way to mitigate infectious disease threats is increased prevention and enhanced preparedness and community engagement;

WELCOMING the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2532 on COVID-19 on 1 July 2020, which demands a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations on its agenda and supports the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives and Special Envoys in that respect;

RECALLING the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/74/270 on “Global Solidarity to Fight the Coronavirus Disease 2019” of 2 April 2020 and A/RES/74/274 on “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19” of 20 April 2020;

STRESSING the important role of the United Nations system, in the global campaign to coordinate, control and contain the spread of infectious diseases **and WELCOMING** the adoption of the Resolution WHA73.1 of 19 May 2020 on the “COVID-19 response” at the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly, which includes requesting the Director General of the WHO to initiate, at the earliest appropriate moment, a stepwise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation to review experience gained and lessons learnt from the WHO-coordinated international health response to COVID-19, and taking note of the subsequent establishment of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR);

COMMENDING the concerted efforts and enhanced cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and its partners in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the spirit of a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN to remain united and to act jointly and decisively in a timely manner to control the spread of the disease, which are reflected, among others, in the ASEAN Chairman’s Statement on ASEAN Collective Response to the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 on 15 February 2020, the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 and other related statements between ASEAN and its external partners;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of strengthening national and regional health care systems for promoting universal health coverage and fully implementing and complying with obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005);

REAFFIRMING our commitment to develop concrete and effective regional responses to common challenges as stated in the ARF Vision Statement and the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025);

DO HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO:

1. Work together to prevent and respond to infectious disease outbreaks as well as to mitigate and subsequently eliminate the adverse and multi-faceted impacts in the spirit of solidarity, unity, cooperation and mutual assistance.
2. Strengthen the region's early warning system for outbreaks with pandemic or epidemic potential and encourage the timely exchange of relevant information to rapidly respond, such as measures taken by each country in combating infectious diseases as well as data sharing, expertise and best practices, and encouraging information sharing and knowledge exchange between scientists, clinicians, and policy makers, in a free, open, transparent, systematic, consistent, and timely manner, to enable more comprehensive prevention and preparedness strategies, and rapid detection capabilities in order to facilitate a timely, effective and collective effort to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks, including emerging zoonotic diseases.
3. Contribute to enhancing global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacity, including by strengthening cooperation in bilateral, regional, and multilateral fora, including through the United Nations Systems, including the WHO, and other international organisations as relevant.
4. Facilitate collaboration between environment, animal and public health sectors on specific activities to prevent, detect and respond to zoonotic diseases, and encourage promoting the OneHealth approach.
5. Enhance capacity and preparedness to respond to public health emergencies by strengthening cooperation in preventing, preparing for responding to and controlling major infectious disease outbreaks, including through facilitating the provision of quality and safe deployable medical capabilities such as field hospitals and dedicated clinical services in isolation and mobile anti-epidemic units to support and strengthen national capacities in response to the outbreaks.
6. Call for the full implementation of and compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005), which aim to "prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade".

7. Work in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including through support to the UN systems and build capacity in preparing for and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, including through voluntary joint collaboration and timely and transparent knowledge exchange in epidemiological research, research and development of vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and clinical treatment, as well as sharing of experiences, lessons learned, best practices, and organising training courses and joint exercises, where applicable, building on the application and implementation of digital health technologies.
8. Work to facilitate timely, universal, and equitable access to safe, quality, effective and affordable vaccines to all countries, including ARF Participants, including through multilateral forums and initiatives.
9. Encourage global and regional collaboration including the sharing of best practices and technical expertise and sustained funding for developing and deploying effective antiviral medicines, diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines in order to support the availability for all at an affordable price.
10. Encourage the swift, and unimpeded provision and delivery of appropriate urgent resources and assistance in all possible manners, that is critical in sustaining national health systems in the region, improving the readiness and technical expertise of others and maintaining investment to strengthen and improve the resiliency of health systems to promote pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including essential goods and services, medicines, vaccines, immunisation programs, diagnostic, medical and public health capabilities, supplies, equipment and technical expertise in the spirit of solidarity and mutual support.
11. Encourage swift action against attempts by organised crime groups to exploit pandemics and act jointly against the counterfeiting of personal protective equipment.
12. Reaffirm the importance of keeping markets open, and preserving supply chain connectivity in order to maintain food security and prevent disruption of global and regional supply chains as well as sustainable economic activities, in the context of major infectious diseases outbreaks.
13. Emphasise that emergency measures designed to tackle infectious disease

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outbreaks, if deemed necessary at the national and regional level, should be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, and not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption of global supply chains or essential movement of people which are necessary to maintain supply chains, and be consistent with WTO rules.

14. Encourage stronger coordination on border control measures as appropriate and in accordance with existing national laws and policies, including through timely updates on national measures on border restrictions, sharing of information on epidemic prevention and control, and encouraging cooperation in providing support and appropriate assistance for the repatriation or safe return, of nationals of ARF Participants as may be requested, including consideration of visa extensions and access to essential medical services, and working together to take effective measures to prevent illegal border crossing, etc, so as to maintain border security and stability.
15. Emphasise that States should respect their obligations under international human right laws and that there is no place for any form of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, or stigmatisation in preparing for and responding to infectious disease outbreaks.
16. Promote concrete actions to minimise the negative impacts of any infectious disease outbreak on the most vulnerable.
17. Encourage actions that involve women's participation in all stages of decision-making processes, and mainstream a gender perspective in the COVID-19 response and recovery.
18. Encourage cooperation for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, equitable and sustainable response to any infectious disease outbreak with the full participation of the whole community.
19. Recognise the need to maintain a conducive environment for cooperation and dialogue in the fight against infectious disease outbreaks, including through maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability and respecting the rule of law in the region and the world.
20. Work closely together to resolve and mitigate the multi-faceted impacts of infectious disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote people's

well-being, safe living environment, maintain socio- economic stability, enhance preparedness and capacity and allocate adequate funding to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks in the future, while fostering a strong joined up approach.

21. Support the enhancement of ASEAN-led regional cooperation and initiatives in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the post-pandemic recovery efforts, including the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and the establishment of the Regional Reserves of Medical Supplies and the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Product Working Group, while working in synergy with other regional and global fora to prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as future infectious disease outbreaks, including to facilitate timely global access to vaccines diagnostics and treatments needed to combat pandemic threats.
22. Encourage the sharing of good practices and the strengthening of cooperation in countering misinformation, disinformation and fake news on infectious disease outbreaks.
23. Encourage Senior Officials to work with relevant line agencies to explore the possibility to utilise ARF's and other ASEAN-led existing bodies and arrangements to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks and recover from their effects.

Adopted on the Twelfth of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty (2020) at the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum in Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Joint Statement on Promoting The Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum

The 28th ASEAN Regional Forum held on **6 August 2021**, via videoconference under Brunei Darussalam's 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship;

RECALLING UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2282 (2016), 2419(2018), 2535 (2020), and 2558 (2020); the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security;

NOTING the World Programme of Action for Youth; the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding; the UN's 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals; Colombo Declaration on Youth 2014; the August 2015 Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security; the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security; the September 2015 Global Youth Summit against Violent Extremism; the Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace and the UN Youth 2030 Strategy;

CONCERNED by the increasing threats to regional and international stability and prosperity as well as human rights posed by, inter alia, armed conflict, violence in armed conflict terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism (VECT), and the increasing numbers of displaced persons;

FURTHER CONCERNED that youth, particularly young women, account for many of those adversely affected by the abovementioned threats, and that the disruption of youth's access to education and economic opportunities has a dramatic impact on regional stability and prosperity, and on durable peace and reconciliation;

UNDERSTANDING that peace and security are essential in achieving stability, prosperity, as well as physical, mental, economic and social well-being, sustainable development, and creating an environment that is conducive to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

EMPHASISING the importance of preventing radicalisation to violence, and VECT among

youth, as well as preventing the participation of youth in transnational organised crime, as a way to preserve stability and development, and ensure progress in peacebuilding and stabilisation efforts;

EMPHASISING the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to peaceful settlement of disputes and sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of armed conflict, strengthening of the rule of law, and promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation and unity including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice, accountability, good governance, and gender equality while promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms;

RECOGNISING that the scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace calls for close strategic, innovative, and operational partnerships between the United Nations, national governments and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and sub regional organisations, international financial institutions, civil society organisations, women's groups, youth organisations, and the private sector, taking into account local and cultural contexts, and national priorities and policies;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the important and positive contribution youth can make to efforts for the maintenance, and promotion of peace and security, and **UNDERSCORING** youth's full, effective, and meaningful participation, empowerment, engagement, and involvement in the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of conflicts, as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping, and peacebuilding efforts, and in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation.

STRESSING the importance of investing in, and working with, youth, including those most vulnerable, to build peaceful and inclusive societies, where they can capitalise educational and economic opportunities, and develop a sense of belonging, purpose as well as direction in their lives, in order to strengthen their resilience against peace and security challenges.

CONCERNED by the increased use of new and emerging information and communication technologies and platforms by terrorists and their supporters, targeting youth for the purposes of recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning and preparation of their activities;

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REAFFIRMING the importance of strengthening cooperation at community, national, regional and international levels to prevent terrorists from exploiting information and communication technologies (ICTs) and resources to incite support for terrorist acts while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law;

RECOGNISING the challenges faced by youth, including political, economic and social inequalities, which can perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence, and that persistent inequalities put youth at particular risk, and **REAFFIRMING** the commitment towards the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and promote a life of dignity for all;

NOTING the regional commitments to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda as expressed in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013); the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010); the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017); the ASEAN Youth Declaration on Peace and Tolerance (2018); ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2019-2025); ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration (2019); Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (2019); and the Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing the Rights of the Child in ASEAN (2019); **BUILDING ON** the Joint Statement on Promoting The Women, Peace And Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum (2019); the ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (2019), and the ARF Statement on the Treatment of Children recruited by or Associated with Terrorist Groups (2020);

HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO COMMIT, IN THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY, TO MAKING PROGRESS ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. **CONSIDER** ways to increase inclusive representation of youth, including youth-led organisations, in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, taking into account the views of youth, including when negotiating and implementing peace and ceasefire agreements, recognising youth as important change makers and essential partners, and inclusivity as a key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of

all segments of society are taken into account, and that the marginalisation of youth is detrimental to building sustainable peace.

2. RAISE awareness on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda among policymakers as well as the general public, and encourage inter-governmental negotiations and discussions, where appropriate, with the participation of civil society, including youth-led organisations, on issues of critical importance to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in order to share policy experiences, lessons learned and best practices, and identify ways of cooperation.
3. ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT youth in developing and participating in international, regional, sub-regional, national and local networks to develop partnerships to build inclusive communities and promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue involving youth, including through civic engagement and volunteerism.
4. PROMOTE media and information literacy among youths to enhance digital and critical thinking skills and encourage effective measures, as well as initiatives that help address hate speech, disinformation, and terrorism and VECT, including online, with the involvement of youth in the planning, development and implementation stages, in conformity with relevant international and domestic laws – as part of a wider approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
5. BUILD the capacity and skills of young men and women, with the cooperation of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to ensure their full, effective and meaningful participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
6. PROMOTE policies for, and with the involvement of, youth that positively and meaningfully contribute to conflict prevention, peaceful settlement of disputes, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including social and economic development, supporting projects designed to grow local and sustainable economies, promoting gender equality, tolerance, respect for diversity of, inter alia, different cultures, languages, and religions, and intercultural awareness, and providing youth with opportunities for personal development, including through education and vocational training, generating employment, encouraging entrepreneurship as well as the exercise

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of leadership, and promoting political engagement, where appropriate.

7. TAKE appropriate measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of young survivors of armed conflict, including those with disabilities, and survivors of all forms of violence, sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated in armed conflict situations, as well as youth affected by displacement, by providing, amongst others, access to quality healthcare and education, psychological support, socio-economic support, and skills development such as vocational training, to resume social and economic life.
8. LEVERAGE ASEAN-led mechanisms and entities, including the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, external partners, and other international and regional organisations as well as UN mechanisms to support the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.
9. TASK the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to provide recommendations regarding the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda within relevant ARF work plans, programs and processes, including through, where relevant, inter-sessional meetings, workshops and other activities as well as engaging and collaborating with youth, including youth-led organisations, to understand their particular needs and challenges.

Adopted on the Sixth of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One (2021) on the occasion of the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on the Commemoration of 30 Years of the ASEAN Regional Forum

The 30th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held on 14 July 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia, under Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its establishment.

RECALLING the remarkable contribution of the ARF, as an ASEAN-led mechanism, since its establishment in 1994 to the maintenance of peace, stability, security, prosperity, and cooperation in the region;

RECOGNISING the critical role of the ARF, building on its development over the past 30 years in serving as a key platform to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern, which in turn has made significant contributions towards the efforts of building trust, confidence, and preventive diplomacy and as such further promoting peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

EMPHASISING the leading role of ASEAN in the ARF and **REAFFIRMING** that its success depends on the active, inclusive, constructive, full, equal, and effective participation and cooperation of all ARF Participants;

RECALLING the principal documents that lay the groundwork and guide the work of the ARF, including the 1995 ARF Concept Paper, the 2009 ARF Vision Statement, the 2011 Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy, the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025), and the 2022 ARF Statement to Promote Peace, Stability, and Prosperity through Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy;

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of all Participants to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and calling on all

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nations to exercise maximum self-restraint and make utmost efforts to pursue peaceful dialogue through all channels, including diplomatic means to reduce tensions and mitigate conflicts;

RECOGNISING that the ARF principles and guiding approaches, including decision-making by consensus, have enabled the ARF Participants to move the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all, through ARF's evolutionary approach of promotion of confidence-building measures, development of preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches to conflict resolution;

AFFIRMING the importance of the areas of cooperation in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific to strengthen and give new momentum for the ASEAN-centred regional architecture to better face challenges and seize opportunities arising from the current and future regional and global environments;

RECOGNISING the impacts and uncertainties posed by the growing complexities of regional and global security challenges and **ACKNOWLEDGING** that such challenges require a holistic and comprehensive approach;

UNDERLINING the need to revitalise the ARF and maintain its relevance in the evolving regional security architecture as well as its ability to adapt, exercise flexibility, and respond effectively to emerging challenges that could undermine regional peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region through cooperation on confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy;

DO HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO:

1. Reaffirm ASEAN unity and centrality as the driving force in upholding an open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture, anchored in international law, that maintains and promotes regional peace, stability, prosperity, and peaceful resolution of disputes without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter;
2. Promote constructive dialogue and enhance cooperation among the ARF Participants on political and security issues of common interest and concern, and further contribute to the maintenance of peace, security, and stability in the region, including through managing, addressing, and reducing threats to regional peace and security, as well as

identifying potential areas of cooperation among the ARF Participants;

3. Preserve and enhance the peace and prosperity of the region by enhancing the effectiveness of the ARF and its working process, taking into account the growing complexities of regional and global security challenges impacting the region;
4. Promote active, inclusive, full, and equal participation, as well as constructive contributions of all ARF Participants to the advancement of the ARF and its agreed-upon initiatives;
5. Enhance further the engagement between Track I and Track II in the ARF, as well as partnership ties between the ARF and other regional and international organisations particularly by exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices;
6. Revisit the 1995 ARF Concept Paper with a view to strengthening the ARF as a key platform for dialogue and consultation on regional political and security issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific region, without duplicating the efforts of existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, and support the development of preventive diplomacy in the ARF process while continuing work on the confidence-building measures;
7. Task the ARF Senior Officials to deliberate on the ARF's roles, achievements, and challenges over the past 30 years to provide recommendations for the future direction of the ARF and submit a progress report to the 31st ARF.

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, 14 July 2023

**ASEAN Regional Forum at Thirty:
A Commemorative Collection of Documents for the 30th ARF**