

**RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE ARF EXPERTS AND EMINENT PERSONS**

1. To sustain and deepen discussions and dialogues on regional security issues of common interest and concern that may have a destabilising impact on Southeast Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific and threaten ASEAN Centrality.
2. To further promote security of and in the use of ICTs, particularly in the area of digital security, recognising its growing relevance not only in the context of transnational crime - including scams and crypto-related threats - but also across the broader digital ecosystem, such as its implications for AI, economic resilience, and diplomacy. A more integrated framework would enhance coherence towards further strengthening regional efforts in the field of security of and the use of ICTs and better support regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA).
3. To revitalise the approach and activities of the ARF and EEP group to ensure that its constructive, research-driven approach is developed with increasing relevance and value for senior officials and leaders. This includes further clarification from the ARF Chair and ARF Ministers as to how best to utilise the EEP group, which will further contribute to enhancing longstanding work on CBM and PD and the concrete measures identified in these earlier works, reinforcing ASEAN Centrality at a time of increasing strategic uncertainty.
4. To explore means of collaboration with subject matter experts, both in existing and emerging focus areas for the EEP group. This can be done by directly engaging the EEP group through the establishment of EEP virtual study groups that would meet in between the annual EEP session. Possible topics for examination could start from identifying ways forward for the ARF and/or EEPs.
