2015-2017 ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORK PLAN FOR COUNTER TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015

2015-2017 ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORK PLAN FOR COUNTER TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME 2

CONTEXT 2

OBJECTIVE 2

FRAMEWORK 3

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND FUNDING STRUCTURE 3

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS 4

TIMELINE 4

PRIORITY AREAS 4

PROJECT TYPES 5

PRIORITY AREA IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX 7

PRIORITY AREA #1 ILLICIT DRUGS (2015-2017) 7

PRIORITY AREA #2: CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR (CBRN) (2015-2017) 8

PRIORITY AREA #3 SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS) (2015-2017) 10

PRIORITY AREA #4 COUNTER RADICALIZATION (2015-2017) 12

PRIORITY AREA #5: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (2015-2017) 13

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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 values.

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 will continue to be updated to reflect forthcoming inter-sessional calendars. It also agreed on a longer timeframe for the implementation of activities. It further agreed that the Work Plan's priority areas could be better aligned 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.

OBJECTIVE

This Work Plan updates and revises the 2014–2015 CTTC Work Plan for the 2015-2017 period by drawing on experiences of ARF participants and receiving guidance from ARF documents including the "ARF Cooperation Framework on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime," a comprehensive document prepared by the ARF Unit based on previous ARF goals, commitments, and efforts in the CTTC field. The Work Plan also draws from a needs 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 and 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. The positions for ASEAN Lead Countries of the ARF CTTC Work Plan will be filled by the relevant ASEAN Lead Shepherd under the ASEAN framework of cooperation in order to improve coordination between ARF and ASEAN efforts. 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.

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:

14 May 2015: An initial draft of the Work Plan was tabled and discussed at the 13thARF ISM on CTTC in Nanning, China.

10 June 2015: An updated draft Work Plan was tabled at the ARF Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Kuching, Malaysia.

6 August 2015: The Work Plan was adopted by the Ministers at the 22nd ARF in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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 inter-sessional 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 2015-2017, the ARF will continue to focus on the four priority areas underlined in the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2014–2015 and one new priority area, namely:

(i) illicit drugs;

(ii) chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN);

(iii) security of and in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs);

(iv) counter radicalization; and

(v) 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-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.

As the terrorist financing will remain a sub-topic of discussion for future ISM CTTC meetings, the ARF participants are encouraged to consider their availability to volunteer as co-leads of this new priority area.

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 centres (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 centre, 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 (2015-2017)

Scope: ARF should target the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, including synthetic drugs and their precursors, enhance law enforcement capacity in affected countries, enhance cooperation in border management to prevent and disrupt trafficking routes, support the development of national legislations, implement best practice measures, and increase coordination among law enforcement and forensic entities in ARF countries. In particular, ARF should seek to apply national precursor controls with uniform effectiveness throughout the world, as a means of avoiding the displacement of diversion points across national borders.

Lead Countries: Thailand, United States

Co-Sponsors: no limit or designation

Proposed Projects:

1. Concept Development Workshop on ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC) (proposed by United States and Thailand), February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

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

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Seminar on Narcotics Control, 17 – 19 September 2007, China

- ARF Statement Promoting Collaboration on the Prevention of the Diversion of Precursors into Illicit Drug Manufacture

PRIORITY AREA #2: CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR (CBRN) (2015-2017)

Scope: The enactment and implementation of necessary national measures. 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: Philippines, United States

Co-Sponsors: Philippines, European Union and United States

Proposed Projects:

1. 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

2. ARF Bio-Preparedness Table Top Exercise (TTX) and Workshop (proposed by the Philippines and United States), 11 – 13 August 2015, Manila, Philippines

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

- 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)

PRIORITY AREA #3 SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS) (2015-2017)

Scope: The work of the ARF in this priority area is intended to promote a peaceful, secure, resilient, open and cooperative ICT environment and to prevent conflicts and crises by developing trust and confidence between states in the ARF region, and by capacity building.

This includes the prevention of terrorist use of ICTs with a view to enhancing the response capacity and technological infrastructure of ARF participants to deter and prevent the misuse of the internet by terrorists or terrorist groups, including recruitment, campaign, financial transfers, and incitement to violence and terrorism.

Lead Countries: Malaysia, Russia, Australia

Co-Sponsors: Vietnam, United States

Note: At the 19thASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 12 July 2012, ARF Ministers adopted an "ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security". Ministers also agreed to task their relevant Senior Officials to develop an ARF work plan related to cyber security.

Proposed Projects:

1. Draft ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) (prepared by Malaysia, Australia, Russia)

2. ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building (proposed by China and Malaysia), 29-30 July 2015, Beijing, China

3. ARF Seminar on Operationalizing CBMs in the ARF (proposed by Singapore and United States), 21 – 22 October 2015, Singapore

4. ARF Workshop on Operationalising Confidence-Building Measures for Cooperation During Cyber-incident Response (proposed by Malaysia and European Union) – March 2016

Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Seminar on Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace by Republic of Korea and Malaysia: 11-12 September 2012, Seoul, Republic of Korea

2. ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Incident Response by Australia and Singapore: 6-7 September 2012, Singapore

3. ARF Workshop on Proxy Actors in Cyberspace by United States and Vietnam: 14-15 March 2012, Hoi An, Vietnam

4. ARF Cyber Security Workshop on Measures to Enhance Cyber Security-Legal and Cultural Aspects by China and Malaysia, 11-12 September 2013, Beijing, China

5. ARF Workshop on Cyber Confidence Building Measures by Australia and Malaysia, 25-26 March 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Past ARF/ASEAN Work:

- ARF Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 12 July 2012

- ARF Cybercrime Capacity-Building Conference by United States and Viet Nam, April 2010, Brunei Darussalam

- ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts on Cyber security 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, Philippines, 6-8 September 2006, New Delhi, India, 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

PRIORITY AREA #4 COUNTER RADICALIZATION (2015-2017)

Scope: The priority area "counter radicalization" is aimed at implementing a comprehensive approach to tackle the spread of violent extremist ideologies, especially among the youth, which possibly lead to terrorist attacks, while taking into account the frequently changing modus operandi of extremist groups.

Among others, under this priority area, ARF participating countries may explore cooperative activities/projects in identifying and countering the spread of radicalization to violence and terrorism through various channels such as the internet, religious centres, schools, including institutes of higher education, community, social and sports organizations, as well as by inmates in detention centres 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 share 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: Malaysia, Japan

Co-Sponsors: TBC

Proposed Projects:

1. ARF Workshop on First Response Support for Victims of Terrorism (Proposed by Philippines and United States), 22 – 23 September 2015, Manila, Philippines

2. ARF Seminar on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals (Proposed by China and Thailand), 1 - 2 September 2015, Guangzhou, China

Implemented Projects:

1. ARF Workshop on Counter Radicalization by Malaysia and Japan, 25-26 March 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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

PRIORITY AREA #5: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (2015-2017)

Scope: Trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) – particularly those targeting vulnerable groups such as women, children, and migrant workers – is increasingly prevalent where 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 a 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.

The establishment of cooperation in preventing and combating TIP as a new area of priority under the ARF will increase a greater mutual understanding of the issue, as well as enhancing capacity to combat all forms of 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: Indonesia, European Union

Co-Sponsors: TBC

Proposed Projects:

1. ARF Workshop on Trafficking in Persons (Proposed by Indonesia and European Union)

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