

Information Note¹

Event: The Seventh ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Non-proliferation and Disarmament (NPD)

Organizer: The Governments of Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand (co-chairs)

Date and Venue: 15-16 June 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Participants: *ARF Participants:* Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

International/regional organizations and other entities: the ASEAN Secretariat, the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) and United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee expert.

1. **Objectives of Participation of 1540 expert:**

- Make a presentation to highlight the importance and significance of resolution 1540 (2004) in achieving the objective of effective and comprehensive implementation in the region;
- Discuss with possible assistance providers in the region assistance to those States that need it for various areas of resolution 1540 (2004) implementation to facilitate capacity building;
- Get first-hand and updated information about the measures taken by most of the ARF members states in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

2. **Background**

- The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has been consistently engaged on issues of non-proliferation, disarmament, terrorism and international/regional peace and security since its inception in 1994. The ARF, which has 27 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region, provides an effective platform for its members to exchange views and share experiences on international/regional peace and security issues.
- In 2008, the first ARF ISM-NPD was held in Beijing, China, co-chaired by China, Singapore and the United States. The second round of ARF ISM-NPD was co-chaired by Australia, the Philippines, and Japan. The 2015 ISM-NPD, co-chaired by Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand, was the seventh meeting in the series and focused on issues arising from the 2015 NPT Review Conference, international mechanisms to prevent and counter WMD proliferation, as well as WMD threat reduction capacity building.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

Representative from the 1540 Committee/Group of Experts participated in the first and the fourth ARF ISM-NPD.

- On 29 May 2015, Dato' Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Director General of the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia invited the 1540 Committee to designate a 1540 expert to participate in the meeting. The host, Canada, reaffirmed the invitation requesting one of the 1540 Committee experts to participate in the meeting to deliver a presentation on the resolution, its role in preventing WMD proliferation and on the 1540 assistance mechanism and capacity building.

3. **Assessment**

The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight resolution 1540 (2004) as a universal and legally-binding instrument for preventing WMD proliferation to non-State actors among ARF participating States, and the importance of regional coordination to improve its implementation in the region. The discussion on the need for balance between measures designed to prevent proliferation and those meant to facilitate trade in the region was valuable and a booster to regional cooperation and coordination of export and strategic trade controls. It was recommended that the 1540 Committee Group of Experts continues their interaction with the ARF secretariat, the ARF ISM-NPD and the ARF participating States to assist and facilitate the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the ARF context.

4. **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org