



**STATEMENT BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY DATO' NAIMUN ASHAKLI MOHAMMED,  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MALAYSIA TO INDIA /  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INCOMING ARF SOM CHAIR  
AT THE 42<sup>ND</sup> CSCAP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
NEW DELHI, INDIA  
10 DECEMBER 2014**

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**AGENDA ITEM 6: ENHANCING TIES BETWEEN THE COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN  
THE ASIA AND PACIFIC (CSCAP)  
AND THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, I take this opportunity to record our sincere appreciation to CSCAP for inviting His Excellency Datuk Othman Hashim, ARF SOM Leader of Malaysia to participate in this meeting. He is unable to be with us today and has requested me to attend in his stead so that we could still share our thoughts on enhancing ties between CSCAP and ARF in particular during Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015.

**Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN and the ARF**

2. In 2015, ASEAN's new era begins with the establishment of an ASEAN Community. As such, Malaysia's main priority in 2015 will be two-fold to work towards the completion of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community and to develop the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision that would chart ASEAN's journey forward for the next 10 years. During our watch, Malaysia will work tirelessly towards the promotion of regional peace and security through moderation as a shared value in addressing conflict and finding solutions to issues concerning regional peace and security. It is in this context that the ARF plays its role as a vehicle for promoting regional peace and stability.

3. In the early days of the ARF, many were sceptical of the evolution of the ARF as a regional framework against the varying political and security interests in the region. The ARF had very little to show of its progress apart from the Annual Ministerial Meeting. But after 21 years of existence, the ARF has grown in its importance and now it has become the primary forum for political and security dialogue for cooperation in the Asia Pacific. The ARF Ministerial Meeting is now accompanied with a host of initiatives that contribute to confidence building measures and confidence level of the region. A case in point would be the outcome of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 10 August 2014, which among others approved the implementation of 35 initiatives/meetings for the inter-sessional year 2014-2015. Indeed, it will be a very busy inter-sessional-year for the ARF as there will be more or less 3 activities per month before the convening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015.

4. In relation to this and as Chairman of the ARF, Malaysia together with several non-ASEAN ARF Participating Countries will be co-hosting several key initiatives to address non-traditional security challenges confronting the region such as:-

- 4.1. ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (DiREx) 2015
- 4.2. ARF Workshop on Combating Wildlife Trafficking in Asia
- 4.3. ARF Seminar on Counter-Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia
- 4.4. ARF Workshop on Multi-Year Strategic Exercise Planning for Disaster Relief Exercises
- 4.5. ARF Workshop Cyber Security Capacity Building
- 4.6. ARF Workshop on Counter-Radicalisation
- 4.7. ARF Workshop on Maritime Security

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## Moving Towards Preventive Diplomacy

5. Last week, Malaysia discharged its first duty since taking the helm of the ARF from Myanmar by hosting the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) together with its Co-Chair, Japan. The meeting discussed development in the four pillars of cooperation, namely disaster relief, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, non-proliferation and disarmament, and maritime security. The meeting also exchanged views on impending current issues such as the rise of the self-proclaimed Islamic State, the outbreak of Ebola, ongoing conflicts in the Korean Peninsula and also about the progress of the unabated South China Sea issue.

6. One of the very important outcomes of the Meeting was that there was a clear interest by the ARF Participating Countries to make the ARF a more strategic and action-oriented platform in particular in implementing preventive diplomacy. This is very much related to the decision taken at the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting whereby the ARF Ministers ***“stressed the need to exert greater effort in advancing the ARF process from Stage One of Promotion of Confidence Building Measures to Stage Two of Development of Preventive Diplomacy through action-oriented activities and implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy and abiding by the ASEAN Regional Forum Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy.”***

7. For the Inter-Sessional Year 2014/2015, 3 initiatives have been endorsed in line with the implementation of the 2011 ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy namely:-

- 7.1. ARF Roundtable on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Training, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 7-10 October 2014;
- 7.2. ARF Training Course on Preventive Diplomacy, Beijing, 13-19 October 2014; and
- 7.3. ARF Track 1.5 Preventive Diplomacy Symposium that will be held in the second quarter of 2015.

8. Recognizing the diversities as well as peculiarities of the region, the recent meeting ARF ISG on CBMs and PD considered several recommendations on the progression of preventive diplomacy in the region. At the meeting, it was suggested for the ARF Participating Countries to concentrate on having more initiatives towards building capacity of officials in conducting preventive diplomacy in the region with the view to create a pool of experts that is *au fait* with the subject matter and at the same time, appreciates the peculiarities of this region. There were also suggestions made for some time-bound objectives and elements be included in the 2011 ARF Work Plan on PD to inject further dynamism in implementing the Work Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## The Role of Track 2 in the ARF Process

9. The ARF Ministers in recent meetings have underscored the need for the ARF to become a more “action-oriented” forum, with deeper engagement in preserving peace and stability in the region. Towards this end, enhancing ties between Track I and Track II has been accepted as means to strengthen the ARF process. While to a certain extent there has not been any institutional arrangement for Track 2 to engage with the ARF, there were, however, several ARF Ministerial decisions that have provided the window of engagement between Track II and the ARF such as the decision made during 18<sup>th</sup> ARF in Bali, Indonesia whereby the ***“Ministers stressed the need to involve Track II in every ISM and ISG meetings, and this involvement shall be carried out as appropriate”***. This is proven with the representation of CSCAP at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD meetings.

10. The ARF Ministers have also repeatedly called for closer relations between ARF and the Track II Process, which includes the Experts Eminent Persons (EEPs). The ARF EEPs is one of a particular novelty of the ARF process as it is considered as a Track 1.5, which serves as a platform for Track I

EEPs as well Track II EEPs to provide ***‘Non Binding’ and “Professionals” views and policy recommendations*** to advance the ARF Process.

11. In implementing the ARF Ministers' decision, Malaysia and the European Union co-hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ARF EEPs in Kuala Lumpur on 17-18 February 2014. Apart from discussing the implementation of preventive diplomacy in the region, the meeting also touched on the feedback to the host of recommendations that have been submitted by previous meetings. The meeting also called for a more detailed feedback to the recommendations submitted to the ARF and the issues that the ARF EEPs should look into.

12. The Meeting also observed that the composition of the ARF EEPs has been heavy on the experts and less on the eminent persons. The ARF EEPs also suggested that having more eminent persons, such as former heads of state or foreign ministers in the ARF EEPs will provide more weight to the ARF EEPs, considering the stature of these eminent individuals.

13. Further integration of the ARF EEPs into the ARF framework in view of implementing their recommendations was also discussed. This notwithstanding, it would be at the ARF's discretion to utilise the ARF EEPs. In line with this, Malaysia had suggested for the strengthening of the work of the ARF EEPs by ensuring the participation of at least 27 ARF EEPs representing 27 ARF Participating Countries at the annual meeting of the EEPs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **Conclusion**

14. These are just some of the key developments within the context of the ARF towards enhancing and strengthening the ties with Track II. The way forward is for ARF and Track II institutions such as CSCAP and ISIS to continue the practise of cross reporting such as my presence here so that we could have a better coordination and develop a close working relationship between the two. In particular, we find that having a CSCAP Working Group Meeting prior to the ISG on CBMs and PD such as the Working Group on Preventive Diplomacy that met prior to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD on 10 December 2013 is an arrangement that should be continued.

15. As Chair of the ARF in 2015, we count on the unstinting support of ARF Participating Countries for the effective implementation of the ARF Work Plans as well as to exert more efforts in conducting preventive diplomacy initiatives in the region. Malaysia stands ready to work closely with all ARF Participating Countries to significantly contribute to efforts towards promoting confidence building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. We look forward to be working closely with Track 2 institutions such as CSCAP and ISIS as we try to deliver a 'people-centred' ASEAN approach in 2015 with greater involvement of the ASEAN people.

Thank you

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