

**As delivered under agenda item 5-4
To the 41st CSCAP SCM
5 June 2014**

**Statement Representative of ARF SOM Chair
on
Enhancing ties between Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia and Pacific
(CSCAP) and the ASEAN Regional Forum**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent ARF SOM Chair at this CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting.

ARF SOM Chair is unable to participate today as he is preparing for the series of ASEAN Senior Officials Meetings from 7 to 10 June 2014.

The ASEAN Regional Forum was set up in 1994 to maintain and promote peace and security in the region. The main objectives remain relevant as ever and the forum is actively engaged in by the participating countries.

Being the only security forum in the region, ARF provides venue for participants to discuss and exchange views on security issues, even on issues of a sensitive nature. As you all are aware, this is the only forum in the region where the two Koreas have the chance to exchange views on security issues. The forum serves to mitigate tension and conflict through promoting transparency, enhancing understanding on different security perspectives and interests among its participants in the region.

To ensure the relevance of the Forum in the changing regional security Landscape, ARF is trying to enhance its role by further strengthening its works on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and to advance Preventive Diplomacy (PD).

Throughout the evolvement of the ARF process, Track II plays a very important role both in promoting Confidence Building Measures CBMs and advancing Preventive Diplomacy (PD). The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) is the principal Track-II forum for security issues in the Asia Pacific. Policy recommendations of the CSCAP have been very relevant to the ARF process to build confidence and mitigate tensions among the members.

In order to make the contribution of Track II to the Track I process become more meaningful, we need to ensure the effectiveness of the linkage between the ARF intergovernmental process and Track II.

In this respect, we included the Track II briefing session in the agenda of ARF ISG on CBMs and PD during this year. This provides opportunity for CSCAP to brief on their works and make recommendations to ARF for its consideration from Track II regarding security cooperation. ARF appreciates very much its valuable contribution.

This is a first step that has been initiated to enhance ties between ARF and CSCAP. We are also appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this meeting which provides venue for exchanges of information on the priorities and works of ARF and CSCAP. It will be beneficial for Track II to work in tandem with the work of Track I process.

We recommend the on-going works of CSCAP study groups on Preventive Diplomacy(PD), Regional Security Architecture, Principles of Good Order at Sea and Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific.

Our region is facing a critical challenge of confidence and there is an issue of trust deficit. The tensions in the South China Sea question the relevance of the ARF's role in maintaining peace and security in the region. In this regard, ARF needs to further strengthen the Confidence Building Measures CBMs in the region while exerting efforts on Preventive Diplomacy (PD). Therefore, CSCAP may have to look into this and provide innovative ways to further enhance CBMs and PD. The ARF's adoption of a standardised format in reporting of CBMs in the ARF Security Outlook (ASO) is a first step on a more systematic approach on PD.

Some of the areas identified by the CSCAP workshop held in Yangon in December 2013, such as the need for training in PD were taken up by the track I process and works are underway for it. We expect recommendations from CSCAP on such workable future PD initiatives.

We are of the view that we have to make sure of ARF SOM Chair or his representative's regular presence in the CSCAP meetings to provide inputs on the discussions in CSCAP.

We should also explore ways for better coordination and a close working relationship between the CSCAP and ARF Expert and Eminent Persons in order to avoid redundancy and duplication of work in support of the Track I process.

We are of the opinion that CSCAP should also look into the possibility to serve as the conduit through which other stakeholders and non-governmental organizations can contribute to the Track I process.

I would also take this opportunity to update you on the progress of ARF's work on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy PD since last December. During the cycle year of 2013-2014, 25 CBM and PD activities were successfully undertaken across four thematic

areas of cooperation under ARF: namely, Non Proliferation and Disarmament, Maritime Security, Disaster Risk Management, and Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime CTTC.

For the cycle year of 2014-2015, Sixteen CBM and PD activities are slated to be carried out once they get the endorsement from the 21st ARF to be convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 August. During this cycle year, initiatives on strengthening cooperation and coordination in areas of oil spill incidents and search and rescue will be undertaken.

We look forward to continued cooperation and contribution from the CSCAP in furtherance of ARF's contribution to regional peace and security.

Thank you

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