

Information Note¹

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

Organizers: New Zealand, Canada and Malaysia (co-chairs)

Date and Venue: 8-9 March 2017, Auckland, New Zealand

Participants: *ARF Participants:* Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States and Vietnam.

International/regional organizations: ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations Security Council resolution 1874 Committee Expert and resolution 1540 Committee Expert.

Non-Governmental organisations: Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP), Philippines Foreign Service Institute, University of Auckland (New Zealand), University of Canterbury (New Zealand), Verification Technology Education Research and Training Centre (VERTIC).

Background

The ARF, which has a membership of 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, serves as a platform for its members to exchange views and share experiences on international/regional disarmament and non-proliferation issues. 1540 Experts have participated in the meetings since 2008. The participation of a 1540 Expert was requested by the co-chairs.

Highlights

Among 27 ARF participants, 22 participated in the meeting. There were wide ranging discussions on nuclear disarmament and security as well as on the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials. The meeting provided an opportunity for the participating 1540 Expert to highlight resolution 2325 (2016) the results of the 2016 Comprehensive Review the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and to re-emphasise the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent WMD proliferation to non-State actors among ARF participating States. The participants expressed the need for more capacity building assistance in the Asia and Pacific region to improve implementation and for the 1540 Committee's match-making role to be strengthened.

Additional Comments

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

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.