

Information Note¹

- Event:** Virtual 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Intersessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament (ISM-NPD)
- Organizer(s):** Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States of America (co-chairs)
- Date and Venue:** 5 April 2022, virtually via WebEx
- Participants:** ARF members (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, DPRK, EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, USA, Vietnam) and 1540 Committee Group of Experts

Background

On 23 March 2022, Mr. Charles Mahaffey, Director, Office of Policy Coordination, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, United States Department of State, invited the 1540 Committee speaker to participate in the virtual ARF ISM-NPD. The ARF meeting will focus on disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy where ASEAN member states will be participating, and invited the 1540 Committee to deliver a presentation on regional 1540 implementation trends.

In a preambular paragraph of resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council recognized the need to enhance coordination of efforts at national, regional, subregional and international levels, as appropriate, in order to strengthen a global response to the serious challenge and threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Resolution 1977 (2011) also encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to continue to participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional and national level.

Resolution 2325 (2016) encourages the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in order to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests.

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

Highlights

The 13th ARF ISM NPD was held on 5 April 2022, of which agenda composed of three sessions, and the 1540 Group of Experts were invited to participate for Session 2 on Non-proliferation. Session 2 was moderated by Mr. Anthony Wier, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional, Global and Functional Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

After Mr. Wier's introductory remark, a 1540 Expert provided a presentation on the basics of the resolution 1540 (2004), including the basic obligations of UN member states, and discussed the Committee tool kit to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) including national report, matrix, assistance mechanisms and voluntary national implementation action plans. The expert updated the participants briefly on the status of the Comprehensive Review.

The ARF has been continuously engaged in deliberating on issues of non-proliferation, disarmament, and regional peace and security since its inception in 1994. The ARF, which has a membership of 27 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. The seminar offered a valuable opportunity for the 1540 Committee to brief the relevant audience in Asia on resolution 1540 (2004) requirement.

Additional Comments

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