

Information Note¹

- Event:** Fourth ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Intersessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM/NPD)
- Organizers:** The Governments of Australia, Japan, and the Philippines
- Date and Venue:** 8-9 March 2012, Sydney, Australia
- Participants:** *States:* Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States, and Vietnam
Organizations: 1874 Panel of Experts, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), European Union, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the 1540 Committee
Other Expertise: Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

1. Objectives of the workshop

- Present information on the status of measures taken by ARF Members or that they intend to take to implementing various nonproliferation conventions, resolutions, and so forth, including resolution 1540.
- Agree on a work plan to recommend for adoption by the ARF for the June 2012 ARF Summit.

2. Background

At the Fifteenth Ministerial Meeting of the ARF in July 2008, the ARF decided to establish an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM/NPD), building on two earlier meetings. In February 2007, the ARF, Canada, Singapore, and the United States hosted a workshop on implementing resolution 1540 in San Francisco, in which a Committee vice-chair (UK – Samantha Job) and expert (Berhan Andemicael) participated. The primary purpose and outcome of that was to help raise awareness about resolution 1540 among ARF members. China, Norway, the European Union and UNODA also hosted a resolution 1540 outreach event, the Seminar on Implementing Resolution 1540 in the Asia and Pacific Region, in Beijing in July 2006. Canada and Singapore also organized an experts meeting on export controls in 2005.

Conclusions from the first ISM/NPD in 2009, sponsored by China, Singapore and the USA, were that States in the region vary considerably in how they implement nonproliferation export controls, but that the region was trending toward the strengthening of nonproliferation export controls. As part of a planned three year cycle, the next two ISM/NPDs examined issues less involved with resolution 1540,

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with the fourth ISM/NPD returning to the core issues of resolution 1540. In addition, the ARF Hanoi Plan of Action of July 2010 included policy guidance on nonproliferation and disarmament in support of resolution 1540.

3. **Highlights**

Participants heard presentations by the institutions providing implementation support for several major nonproliferation conventions, the 1540 Committee and the 1874 Panel of Expert, as well as statements from most of the ARF Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. Almost all States in the region provided evidence that they have taken recent measures that to implement these obligations, including those of resolution 1540. Moreover, the goals of the ISM/NPD likely will continue to include “promoting implementation of resolution 1540” and it appears that implementation of resolution 1540 remains a priority area for projects for their new Work Plan.

In addition to information on new or anticipated measures taken in the fields of nuclear, chemical, biological nonproliferation and on export controls on trade in related materials, participants also discussed the emerging issue of proliferation financing and the convergence of biological and chemical proliferation threats.

Many participants joined in a visit to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO) to gain insight on the transition of ANSTO to full low-enriched facility, which make the facility more proliferation resistant while enhancing their capacity as a non-power reactor facility to engage in significant nuclear research and meet medical or commercial demands for their services. The visit included a demonstration of “complementary access” in an IAEA inspection by the IAEA and ANSTO representatives.

4. **Additional comments**

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