1. **Name:**

ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

1. **Short description:**

The inter-sessional meeting is the primary forum for the discussion of transnational crime in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Its purpose is to promote dialogue regarding challenges and threats that ARF members face and concrete cooperation.

1. **Formality:**

Mixed. It has a small unit within the ASEAN secretariat but no dedicated secretariat of its own.

1. **Regional coverage:**

Indo-Pacific

1. **Members (including states and non-states):**

10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam); the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and the United States); Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste; and one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea).

1. **Includes non-state actors?**

Yes, but there is a degree of separation. The ARF has a 1.5 track body called the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons group (the EEPs), which meets annually to provide advice and recommendations to ARF officials. Second-track (i.e. non-official) institutions, such as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN ISIS) and ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) also generate ideas and input for the ARF's consideration. The second-track institutions and networks conduct a number of seminars and working groups on regional security issues, involving academics, security specialists and officials participating in a personal capacity.

1. **Date created:**

2002

1. **Date visibly started to engage with maritime security (e.g. first document that refers to it):**

Explicitly focused on maritime security as a theme in 2012.

1. **Brief History and Description:**

The establishment of the ARF Inter Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime was in 2002. It encourages commitment to cooperation through information sharing and capacity building to address the common threat of terrorism and crime activities in the region. Training and transfer of technologies to enhance capacity of the law enforcement agencies is one explicit measure they take. However, it primarily focuses on terrorism, including counter-radicalization and threats from returning foreign fighters. However, they have held thematic meetings on maritime security, where they exchanged experiences of tackling transnational crime at sea.

1. **Maritime Security Issues Covered:**

Drugs Trafficking, piracy, illegal migration, and arms trafficking. Other illegal activities mentioned include oil spills and illegal dumping of toxic and chemical waste and illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It primarily focuses on counter-terrorism, however.

1. **Noteworthy documents and strategies:**

ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

ARF Annual Security Outlook

Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Tenth ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

Hanoi Plan of Action

1. **Intensity:**

1 meeting per year, though with workshops held relatively regularly on distinct issue areas

1. **Ongoing projects and activities:**

Unclear

1. **Funding structure:**

Unclear

1. **Challenges:**

As it takes place within the ASEAN structure, an ongoing challenge is its perception as a talking shop, tied into broader regional limits to cooperation.

1. **Cooperation or link with other arrangements:**

ARF ISM on Maritime Security

ADMM+

EAMF

East Asia Summit

1. **Institutional contacts:**

N/A

1. **Noteworthy literature**:
2. **Knowledge gaps to follow up on:**

They have explicitly discussed their overlap with the ARF ISM on MS, and in 2012 called for greater coordination to ‘prevent redundancy’. It is, currently, unclear how this coordination operates beyond ‘Co-Chairs will send their statement of this meeting to the ISM on MS to inform discussions at that Meeting’.