1. **Name:**

ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security

1. **Short description:**

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

1. **Formality:**

Mixed. It has a small unit within the ASEAN secretariat.

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:**

2008

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

2008

1. **Brief History and Description:**

The establishment of the ARF Inter Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security was approved in the Fifteenth Meeting of the ARF in July 2008. Prior maritime cooperation within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) began in 2003 with the release of the ARF Chairman’s Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security. This document underlined ARF’s increasing concern and commitment to develop a legal framework for regional cooperation against piracy and armed robberies against ships. It aims to improve MDA and develop effective measures to help address maritime security challenges. The ISM on MS also explores issue areas in the region to develop capacity building and practical cooperation between various agencies related to maritime security. It shares best practices, encourages information-sharing, and establishes confidence building measures.

1. **Maritime Security Issues Covered:**

Conventional maritime security and non-traditional security issues, including piracy, terrorism, natural disasters, climate change, smuggling of drugs, people and goods, as well as search and rescue.

1. **Noteworthy documents and strategies:**

ARF Chairman’s Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security

Concept Paper for the Establishment of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security

ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security Work Plan

1. **Intensity:**

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

1. **Ongoing projects and activities:**

Recent activities include: an ARF workshop on implementing UNCLOS; workshop on the ISPS code; Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation; Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness; Workshop on Maritime Law Enforcement Promoting Comprehensive Approach to Address Maritime Crime; Workshop and Table-Top Exercise on Enhancing Law Enforcement, Preventive Measures and Cooperation to Address Complex Issues in

ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Community Information-Sharing Portal (AMSCIP).

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:**

Unclear

ADMM+

East Asia Summit

1. **Institutional contacts:**

N/A

1. **Noteworthy literature**:

Coordinating Ministry for Maritime (2019) Buku Putih Diplomasi Maritim. Jakarta. (Keputusan Menteri Koordinator Bidang Kemaritiman Nomor 128 Tahun 2019 tentang Buku Putih Diplomasi Maritim)

1. **Knowledge gaps to follow up on:**