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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Statements

- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Nuclear Risk Reduction
- Statement of the 30th ASEAN Regional Forum on Strengthening Maritime Non-traditional Security Cooperation
- Authorisation to negotiate an NBI

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (18.08.2023)

Delegations will find attached a note on the above-mentioned subject, as received from the European External Action Service.

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



ASIAPAC

Working document of the European External Action Service

of **15/05/2023**

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To [and/or GSC distribution acronyms]	COASI
Title / Subject	Intention to enter into negotiations for ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Statements
[Ref. prev. doc.]	

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REMARKS:

The **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**, established in 1994 with the EU as one of the founding members, is an important platform for security dialogue in the Indo-Pacific. It provides a setting in which members¹ can discuss current security issues and develop cooperative measures to enhance peace and security in the region. Proposed statements and initiatives are endorsed at their annual Ministerial meeting.

The HRVP represents the EU at this meeting, which is expected to take place on 14 July 2023 in Indonesia, which would be only the second physical meeting of the ARF since 2019.

This note is to inform the Council of the EEAS' intention to participate in the negotiations between the Members of the ASEAN Regional Forum on a number of legally non-binding ARF Ministerial Statements as described below.

It is common practice for the ARF Ministerial Meeting to negotiate and adopt statements. Such statements can cover a variety of subjects, which usually relate to one of the six key security themes on which the ARF generally focuses: counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, and preventive diplomacy. They can be proposed by any ARF Participant at any time, but should normally be processed through the ARF's

¹ ARF Participants are the 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, Russia and the United States); Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste.

different layers (relevant thematic inter-sessional meeting, the overarching inter-sessional group meeting, and the senior officials' meeting). After consultation and negotiation with all ARF members, agreed texts will be presented at the ARF Ministerial Meeting (Jakarta, 14 July) for adoption by consensus.

For consultation and negotiation, the ARF Secretariat has distributed to all ARF Members two draft statements for the 2023 meeting: the **ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Nuclear Risk Reduction** and the **Statement of the 30th ASEAN Regional Forum on Strengthening Maritime Non-traditional Security Cooperation**.

A draft **ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Nuclear Risk Reduction** (WK 6449/2023) has been proposed by Russia. It calls for a reduction in nuclear risks through and within the P5 process and other formats, and advocates for self-restraint in international relations. This statement would not involve any financial or other commitment.

A draft **Statement of the 30th ASEAN Regional Forum on Strengthening Maritime Non-traditional Security Cooperation** (WK 6450/2023) has been proposed by China. It highlights the role of maritime security for regional stability and the rise of non-traditional maritime threats, such as piracy. It calls for strengthened international cooperation to protect the marine environment, and to address security threats such as maritime terrorism. This statement would not involve any financial or other commitment.