



“ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations”

44th AMM/PMC/18th ARF

INDONESIA 2011

Chair’s Statement

18th ASEAN Regional Forum

23 July 2011

Bali, Indonesia

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held on 23rd July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, was chaired by His Excellency Dr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers and Representatives of all ARF Participants. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.
3. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the ARF as a primary forum to discuss political and security issues in the region. They underlined the role of ASEAN as the main driving force within the ARF to uphold its significant role in the evolving regional architecture. The Meeting also underscored the need to pursue actively the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020 in a consistent and

the appropriate engagement of Indonesia, as current Chair of ASEAN. In this regard, the Ministers expressed their support to Indonesia, Chair of ASEAN, to continue to undertake consultations with Cambodia and Thailand on the above matter, including on the early assignment of the Indonesian Observer Team (IOT).

15. The Ministers discussed recent developments in Afghanistan. They expressed support for reconstruction efforts and peaceful transition to democratic governance in Afghanistan. The Ministers also highlighted the need to advance economic development in Afghanistan, particularly within the framework of capacity building, such as occupation training programs and other technical assistance in order to improve the welfare of local communities and develop Afghanistan's human resources.

16. The Ministers supported the international efforts in non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy. They stressed the importance of moving toward the universalization of the Additional Protocol. In working toward the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world, Ministers underscored the importance of implementing the consensus outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and expressed their support for the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit to be held in the Republic of Korea. Ministers also called on all ARF Participants to start immediately the Conference on Disarmament, within the agreed context of the comprehensive and balanced programme of work negotiations on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT). They encouraged those ARF participants that have not done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Ministers called on Iran to take steps to resolve international concerns about its nuclear program and abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 1737, 1747, 1803 and

1929. Ministers supported increased efforts on international nuclear safety, including through the work of the IAEA. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Biological Weapons Convention and called on States Parties to work constructively towards strengthening the regime at the seventh Review Conference to be held in Geneva in December.

17. The Ministers re-emphasized the importance of preserving the region of Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ Treaty. The Ministers noted their support for ongoing efforts designed to secure the signing of the SEANWFZ Protocol by the Nuclear Weapon States, which would strengthen the Treaty's contribution to regional and international stability and security.

18. The Ministers reiterated their calls for a peaceful solution in managing conflicts in the Middle East. Regarding the recent developments in Northern Africa, the Ministers stressed the need for all parties concerned to work towards a peaceful solution and the respect for popular aspiration for peace and justice. Furthermore, they welcomed the growing political will to pursue good governance as the foundation for a sustainable environment of stability and perpetual peace in many countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

19. The Ministers followed with continued concern developments in Fiji, including especially the human rights situation. They reiterated their expectation of the return to democratic life in Fiji. The Ministers expressed readiness to support such an outcome. The Meeting urged continued engagement between Fiji and the Pacific Islands Forum's Ministerial Contact Group (MCG) and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG).