Views of the Republic of the Philippines on
Confidence-building Measures in the regional and subregional context pursuant
to General Assembly Resolution 78/38

The Republic of the Philippines is submitting this document pursuant to General
Assembly resolution 78/38, entitled “Confidence-building measures in the regional and
subregional context”, in which the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report
containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional
and subregional context.

The Philippines has consistently supported efforts to promote confidence-building
measures to prevent States from the use of threat of use of force in the settlement of
disputes. As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the
Philippines proactively engage under the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional
Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ARF ISM on NPD) which is the primary
ASEAN-led mechanism involved in confidence-building measures relating to arms control
and disarmament. Recent Philippine-led initiated/led initiative under the ARF ISM on NPD
are as follows:

- In June 2022, the Philippines co-chaired with the Republic of Korea and the United
  States an ARF Tabletop Exercise on Response Capabilities to Chemical, Biological,
  Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents in Manila;
- In March 2023, the Philippines together with Australia co-chaired the 2nd ARF
  Workshop on Nuclear Risk Reduction in Brisbane, Australia, following a first
  workshop with the same co-chairs in November 2020. The workshops aimed at
  producing a guidance document on nuclear risk reduction measures for
  consideration of ARF members to undertake in their own capacities; and
- In terms of upcoming activities in the ARF, the Philippines has agreed to co-chair
  with Japan a proposed ARF Workshop on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament
  against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. This workshop will aim to contribute towards
  the universalization of The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile
  Proliferation (HCOC).

The Philippines also supports and implements the ASEAN Defense Sector which pursues
confidence-building measures on disarmament through various initiatives under the
ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus.

Under ADMM:

- The Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Defense Experts
  (ASEAN CBRN) was established in 2018 to facilitate greater counter-terrorism
  practical cooperation. ASEAN CBRN has ushered workshops, meetings, and
  table-top exercises to strengthen CBR cooperation among ASEAN Member
  States, including trainings conducted in partnerships with the Organization for the
Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and

- The ASEAN Peacekeeping Centers Network (APCN) was established in 2011 to promote peacekeeping cooperation among ASEAN Member States through joint planning and training as well as sharing of experiences.

Under ADMM-Plus:

- The Experts’ Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action (EWG on HMA) was convened in 2014. It fosters practical cooperation in the area of humanitarian disarmament and mine action, with a particular focus on dealing with explosive remnant of war (ERWs) and their consequences; and

- The EWG on Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) was first convened in 2011 to facilitate peacekeeping cooperation between ASEAN and the eight Dialogue Partners forming the Plus Countries. The EWG on PKO has recently been focusing on mainstreaming the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in peacekeeping as well as the improvement of pre-deployment training and capacity for rapid development.

The Philippines shall persist in closely collaborating with others and participating in confidence-building measures to maintain a stable regional environment and diminish the likelihood of tensions.