

CONCEPT PAPER ON PROPOSED NETWORK OF ASEAN-RUSSIA THINK-TANKS (NARTT)

I. Background

- a) The ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations started in July 1991. Subsequently, Russia was elevated to a full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in July 1996 at the 29th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta;
- b) For the past 20 years, the partnership between both sides has been consistently broadened and deepened in three main areas of mutual interest, namely political and security, economic and socio-cultural;
- c) The ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit held in Sochi, Russia on 19-20 May 2016 was an important milestone for both sides as it charted the future direction of the partnership towards new heights, with a view to work towards a new strategic level of relations;
- d) With a view to realise such engagement, it is important to establish a mechanism to provide support, where appropriate, to the process of building a strategic partnership between ASEAN and the Russian Federation.

II. Functions

The functions of the NARTT will be as follows:

- a) To serve as a Track 1,5 mechanism and provide intellectual support for the process of building ASEAN-Russia strategic partnership;
- b) To set up a network of ASEAN and Russia institutions to promote academic exchanges and expert dialogues;
- c) To integrate the research potential of ASEAN and Russia for conducting joint studies;
- d) To initiate feasible and mutually beneficial joint programmes/activities and recommend measures to enhance ASEAN-Russia Partnership.

III. Composition

- a) Each ASEAN Member State and the Russian Federation is to designate one (1) institution from their respective Research Centres, Think-Tanks, NGOs or government agencies concerned as the NARTT Coordinators responsible for domestic and external communication and coordination;
- b) The NARTT Coordinators will nominate participants for NARTT activities. The List of NARTT Coordinators appears in Annex 1;

- c) Participants of NARTT activities will act in their individual capacity, not as official representatives of their respective countries.

IV. Meetings

- a) The NARTT could meet at least once a year with the dates and venues to be agreed by the NARTT Coordinators. Additional meetings may be convened, if and when necessary, as determined by the NARTT Coordinators;
- b) Participation in the NARTT meetings would take up to five (5) representatives from each ASEAN Member State and from the Russian Federation, with two (2) representatives each to be funded by the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund (ARDPFF). The NARTT Coordinators are to provide the Host NARTT Coordinator with a list of participants in advance before each meeting;
- c) The NARTT meetings will be co-chaired by an ASEAN and a Russian representative to be determined by the NARTT coordinators. The agenda of the meetings will be drafted by the Co-Chairs in consultations with the NARTT Coordinators;
- d) The secretariat services for each NARTT meeting will be provided by the Host NARTT Coordinator;
- e) On the basis of the substantive discussions at each meeting, its Co-Chairs will prepare concise recommendations to be submitted to the ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials' Meeting for consideration.

V. Funding

- a) All NARTT activities will be funded by the ARDPFF in accordance with the Guidelines for Appraisal, Approval, Financing and Reporting on ASEAN-Russian Federation Joint Activities and Cooperation Projects. Funds could also be raised from other sources, with agreement from the NARTT coordinators;
- b) The ARDPFF funding arrangement will be determined by the relevant Project Proposals to be drafted by the Host NARTT Coordinator in consultation with the NARTT Coordinators for the NARTT meeting it intends to host.

VI. Approval and Review Process

- a) This Concept Paper and the List of NARTT Coordinators are to be endorsed by the ASEAN and Russia Senior Officials and submitted for approval at ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences (PMC) Plus One Session with the Russian Federation;
- b) The Terms of Reference of the NARTT will be drafted by the NARTT Coordinators;

- c)** ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials' Meeting has the authority to review the need to continue the NARTT on a biannual basis, and submit its recommendations to PMC Plus One Session with the Russian Federation for approval.
