

**3rd EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Agenda Item 3.1 Council Session**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Background

1. The Executive Committee (EC), since its organization in July 2007, has steered the progress of PEMSEA and led the latter's transformation from a project to a self-sustaining regional mechanism. The EC continuously provided guidance to the PRF in this undertaking as well as in implementing EAS Partnership Council decisions and key activities. Transforming PEMSEA, however, is a continuous and focused process that requires extensive consultation with the EC. This means a greater role and involvement for the EC members.

The Executive Committee

COMPOSITION

2. The current EC is composed of the elected Chair of the EAS Partnership Council and the Intergovernmental and Technical Session Chairs, with the PRF Executive Director as ex officio secretary. Considering the weight of the EC's responsibilities, particularly in directing the transformation of PEMSEA, EC is requesting the EAS Partnership Council to consider strengthening the EC by increasing its membership. Counterparts of the Chair and Session chairs can be invited to join EC.

POSTPONEMENT OF EC ELECTIONS

3. The current members of the Executive Committee have been providing guidance and direction to PEMSEA particularly on the transformation. To avoid disruption, it may be best that the current EC, finish all pending activities relating to transformation.

Actions for consideration by the Council Session

4. The Council is invited to discuss and consider the following:
 - a) election of counterparts for the Chair and the two Session Chairs, bringing the EC membership to seven (7), under the same terms;
 - b) adopting a turnover mechanism to ensure continuity, whereby only three members will be elected during EC elections at the EAS Partnership Council Meeting while the other three will remain until the next immediately succeeding EC elections;
 - c) directing the PRF to develop the qualification and guidelines for nominating the counterparts and facilitating the process of selection; and
 - d) postponement of the EC elections until July 2011, when the implementation plan for the transformation of PEMSEA will be presented for adoption by the Council.
