



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE SECOND ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING PLUS

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
29 August 2013**

1. The Second ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) was held on 29 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was chaired by Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Defence Ministers and representatives of Defence Ministers from ten ASEAN Member States and eight ASEAN Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
3. The Meeting was briefed on the recent developments in ASEAN by His Excellency Nyan Lynn, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN. The briefing outlined ASEAN's advancement towards an integrated, well-connected and people-centred ASEAN. Significant progress has been achieved in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillars. The date of realization of the ASEAN Community would be on 31 December 2015 as the result of a key decision by the ASEAN Leaders last year in Cambodia. In this endeavor, ASEAN is committed to encourage the participation of the people and all stakeholders in the ASEAN community building process.
4. The Meeting was also briefed on the progress of the ADMM-Plus by Colonel (Retd) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Azmansham Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development), Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam / ADSOM-Plus Chairman. The Meeting expressed satisfaction on the substantial achievements of the five ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs), namely humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, military medicine, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations. The

Meeting commended the inaugural ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex) held in Brunei Darussalam in June 2013, and looked forward for the upcoming ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism, Maritime Security and Peacekeeping Operations Practical Exercises in Indonesia, Australia and Philippines, respectively.

5. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international security and defence issues. The Meeting expressed concerns about non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, maritime security, piracy, climate change, natural disasters and infectious diseases, as well as the emerging challenge of cyber security. In that regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of cooperation within and outside ASEAN in dealing with these issues, especially through the ADMM-Plus process. The Meeting also stressed the importance of ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional security architecture, and the continuing work in addressing non-traditional security challenges such as in the area of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
6. The Meeting also emphasized the strategic importance of the ADMM-Plus in enhancing the peace, stability and development in Southeast Asia and beyond, and in promoting closer cooperation to address common security issues and challenges. In view of this, the Meeting welcomed the Sixth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting's (ADMM) decision held on 29 May 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to increase the frequency of ADMM-Plus meetings from once in three years to once in two years. This will foster greater momentum in dialogue and cooperation, and reinforce the positive commitment of the ADMM-Plus countries to enhance regional peace and stability in a cooperative manner.
7. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. The Ministers stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Ministers welcomed the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States and China to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC, and to work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC).
8. The Meeting underlined the importance of peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting also encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with its obligations to all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. To this end, the Meeting expressed its support for all

efforts to bring about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

9. The Meeting also expressed concerns over worrying reports on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, and several Ministers emphasized the important role of the United Nations and its processes in dealing with the issue.
10. In remaining actively engaged in the ADMM-Plus process to respond effectively to current and future challenges and opportunities, the Meeting encouraged the ADMM-Plus defence and military establishments to establish practical measures that reduce vulnerability to miscalculations, and avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea.
11. The Meeting affirmed the Concept Paper on the Establishment of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action adopted at the Seventh ADMM held on 7 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, which promotes practical and effective cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Plus countries in dealing with the consequences of explosive remnants of war in the region.
12. The Meeting also affirmed the Concept Paper on the Transition of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group Co-Chairmanship adopted at the Seventh ADMM, which serves as an effective guide for future transitions and provides the necessary procedures that will support any additions to the existing ADMM-Plus EWGs, and their co-chairmanship. In this regard, the Ministers tasked their senior officials to develop robust work plans and set appropriate key milestones for the next cycle of the EWGs that begins in April 2014.
13. The Chair welcomed ideas to promote further and build on cooperation in the ADMM-Plus. The Meeting noted new initiatives on promoting capacity building through an HADR Table-Top Exercise, Mine Action Workshop and trafficking in persons conference, as well as exploring cooperation in cyber defence and sharing knowledge in science and technology. The Meeting also noted that these new initiatives will be conducted through close collaboration with relevant EWG chairs.
14. The Meeting adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration on the Second ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, which commits to strengthen defence cooperation in the advancement of the cause of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region based on the enduring principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit and respect for international law.
15. The Meeting also reaffirmed the direction of the ASEAN Leaders during the 22nd ASEAN Summit in May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan to promote synergy between regional mechanisms, including that of the

ADMM-Plus and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). In this regard, the Ministers noted the usefulness to develop procedures to share information between the ADMM-Plus and ARF, to coordinate the schedule of meetings, exercises and activities more effectively.

16. The Meeting also welcomed the convening of Third ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in Malaysia in 2015.
17. The Meeting expressed appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.