CONCEPT PAPER ON GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ADMM INITIATIVES

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) has been regularly held on an annual basis since 2006 with the thirteenth ADMM convened on 11 July 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The 11th ADMM held on 23 October 2017 in the Republic of the Philippines adopted the Concept Paper on ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives, which identifies nine (9) initiatives that facilitate practical cooperation among ASEAN defence establishments under the ADMM framework namely: 1) The Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR); 2) ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security; 3) ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network (APCN); 4) ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration (ADIC); 5) ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme (ADIP); 6) ASEAN Logistics Support Framework (ALSF); 7) Establishment of the Direct Communications Link (DCL) in the ADMM Process; 8) ASEAN Military Ready Group (AMRG) on HADR; and 9) ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM). Furthermore, the 11th ADMM adopted the Principles for ADMM-wide Education and Training Exchanges and Concept Paper on the Guidelines for Maritime Interaction. Subsequently, the 12th ADMM held on 19 October 2018 in Singapore adopted three Concept Papers, namely: 1) Concept Paper on Establishment of a Virtual Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) Defence Experts; 2) Guidelines for Air Military Encounters (GAME) and 3) Concept Paper on ASEAN Our Eyes Initiative (AOE).

2. Most initiatives within the ADMM framework are implemented under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2009-2015, which focused on building an ASEAN Community. This Blueprint was further developed into the current APSC Blueprint 2016-2025, which prioritises strengthening and deepening the integration process in order to realise a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community. The APSC Blueprint 2016-2025 allows for the continuation of significant and relevant activities and initiatives under the previous Blueprint. However, these must have clear objectives and be forward-looking in order to be consistent with the present Blueprint and capable of addressing existing and future security threats.

3. The Concept Paper on ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives, lays out initial guidelines to take stock of existing ADMM cooperation, as well as initiatives that may arise in the future, towards streamlining and improving work processes for more economical and efficient outcomes.

4. Several initiatives under the purview of the ADMM have completely fulfilled the objectives as stipulated in their respective Concept Papers and in accordance with the Concept Paper on ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives. However, these accomplishments have not yet been officially announced at the ADMM nor have the proponent countries determined the way forward of the initiatives.
Objectives

5. To ensure that existing and new ADMM initiatives can effectively respond to current and future security challenges in the region.

6. To ensure that the objectives of all ADMM initiatives will be fulfilled.

7. To promote awareness on optimising resources used in ADMM Initiatives for more economical and efficient outcomes and lessen duplication of existing ADMM initiatives without compromising the opportunity for proposals in the future.

Guiding Principles

8. The ASEAN Member States shall annually assess the status of their sponsored initiatives in accordance with the following:

   (a) Has the initiative completely fulfilled its objectives as stated in Paragraph 4 of this document and, it is deemed unnecessary to proceed further;

   (b) Should the proponent countries deem it necessary to proceed with the initiative to achieve objective, the proponent countries should develop a work plan for the initiative, which duration shall not be over three years, starting from the year 2020. This is to support the ADMM Chair of 2020 in crafting the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme for 2020-2022, as well as the succeeding ADMM Chairs henceforth;

   (c) Has any ASEAN Member State expressed no interest in the initiative’s implementation, it is unnecessary to proceed further.

9. The proponent countries shall propose its assessment as stipulated in Paragraph 8 to the ASEAN Defense Senior Officials’ Meeting Working Group (ADSM WG) for discussion and recommendations to the ADSOM. The ADSOM shall decide on whether or not to endorse the recommendations made by the ADSOM WG to the ADMM for approval.

Conclusion

10. This Concept Paper provides guidelines for the ASEAN Member States in assessing their ADMM initiative. This document shall be read together with the related ADMM Concept Papers.