ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS’ MEETING-PLUS
(ADMM-PLUS): MODALITIES AND PROCEDURES

Introduction

1. The Second ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (herein after referred to as “ADMM”) held in Singapore on 14 November 2007 approved the “ADMM-Plus Concept Paper” which provides for the ADMM’s engagement and interactions with ASEAN’s friends and Dialogue Partners. The Concept Paper also articulates the objectives establishing the ADMM-Plus, which serves to guide the evolution of the ADMM-Plus. The Concept Paper further outlines a set of principles and broad modalities to guide the establishment of the ADMM-Plus.

2. Following the decision of the Second ADMM, the Third ADMM held in Pattaya, Kingdom of Thailand, on 26 February 2009 approved the paper on “ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership” which outlines a set of criteria that governs membership to the ADMM-Plus by countries outside ASEAN.

3. Pursuant to the decisions of the Second and Third ADMM that the modalities of the ADMM-Plus be finalised, this paper builds on the “ADMM-Plus Concept Paper” and the “ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership”. This paper outlines the modalities and procedures for the implementation of the ADMM-Plus, and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying paper on “ADMM-Plus: Configuration and Composition”. The ADMM-Plus will be established when there is consensus amongst ASEAN Member States, and at a pace comfortable to all.

Membership to the ADMM-Plus

4. The Chair of the ADMM, with consensus of ASEAN Member States, shall invite the Dialogue Partners that meet the membership criteria as stipulated in the paper on “ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership” adopted at the Third ADMM to join the ADMM-Plus.

Frequency of ADMM-Plus Meetings

5. The ADMM-Plus may be held once in three years. The frequency of the meetings can be revised when the ADMM deems the need to increase the interactions with countries in the ADMM-Plus.

6. Retreats, special or emergency meetings of the ADMM-Plus may be held as necessary.

Structure and Working Mechanisms of the ADMM-Plus

7. Guided by the set of broad modalities enshrined within the “ADMM-Plus Concept Paper” adopted by the Second ADMM, the Chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus shall follow the Chairmanship of the ADMM. The ADMM-Plus shall be held back to back with the ADMM, where appropriate. The ADMM, as the driving force of the ADMM-Plus, shall report to the ASEAN Heads of State/Government through the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council on the outcomes of the ADMM-Plus, in line with the procedures established by the ASEAN Charter.
8. The ADMM-Plus, when implemented, shall be supported by the ADMM-Plus Working Group (WG), which shall be chaired by the ADSOM Chair. As the ADMM-Plus may be held once in three years, the ADMM-Plus WG shall meet in the intervening years in order to sustain the momentum of cooperation within the ADMM-Plus. The ADMM-Plus WG shall coordinate the implementation, agreements and decisions of the ADMM-Plus.

9. The ADMM-Plus shall authorise the establishment of Experts’ Working Groups, where appropriate, to address specific security issues of mutual concern affecting the region. The Experts’ Working Groups shall focus on facilitating cooperation amongst the militaries and armed forces. The Experts’ Working Group could be dissolved when the ADMM-Plus assesses that the task has been fulfilled.

10. The processes of the ADMM-Plus shall be consistent with those of related ASEAN processes, including the ASEAN Charter. As a basic principle, decision-making in the ADMM-Plus shall be based on consultation and consensus. The ADMM-Plus shall also uphold ASEAN’s principles as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter.

**Agenda of the ADMM-Plus**

11. Consistent with the principle that ASEAN is at the centre of the ADMM-Plus, the ADMM shall determine the areas and levels of interaction with defence establishments of extra-regional countries, with a particular focus on practical cooperation.

12. The agenda for the ADMM-Plus, for a start, shall be broad and flexible and the issues have already had consensus among ASEAN Member Countries, but not limited to the following:

a. Exchange of views on regional and international security and defence issues;

b. Voluntary briefings on defence and security policies.

c. Discussion on possibile areas of practical cooperation for key security issues affecting the region, especially non-traditional and transnational security challenges such as terrorism, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR); and

d. Progress reports on practical cooperation within the ADMM-Plus.

**Conclusion**

13. The ADMM-Plus will allow the ADMM to cooperate with the relevant Dialogue Partners so as to build capacity and better prepare ASEAN to meet the non-traditional and transnational security challenges in the changing strategic environment. In this regard, the ADMM needs to consider the modalities of implementing the ADMM-Plus carefully to ensure that the ADMM-Plus possesses the necessary structural framework and procedural support to conduct its affairs in an effective manner and facilitate the attendance of non-ASEAN Member States of ADMM-Plus. This will maximise the potential benefits and returns from the meetings of the ADMM-Plus.