Introduction

1. The ADMM was established in 2006 and its operating principles are guided by the *Concept Paper for the Establishment of an ADMM* (thereafter referred to as the Concept Paper) adopted at the inaugural ADMM in Malaysia in 2006 and the Protocol to the Concept Paper adopted at the 2nd ADMM in Singapore in 2007.

2. Since then, the ADMM has made good progress and evolved significantly, including the formal establishment of the ADMM-Plus in 2010 with an ADMM+8 configuration which brought together the ASEAN Member States as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States. The operating principles of the ADMM-Plus are set out in the *Concept Paper on ADMM-Plus* adopted at the 2nd ADMM in November 2007; *Concept Paper on ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership* adopted at the 3rd ADMM in February 2009; *Concept Paper on ADMM-Plus: Configuration and Composition* and *Concept Paper on ADMM-Plus: Modalities and Procedures* adopted at the 4th ADMM in May 2010; as well as the Attachment Paper adopted at the ADMM Retreat in October 2010. In addition, the Experts’ Working Groups (EWGs) were established by the ADMM-Plus to promote cooperation between defence and armed forces within the ADMM-Plus in the area of mutual interests. The working principles of the EWGs are guided by the *Concept Paper on Establishing an Experts’ Working Group* adopted by the ADSOM-Plus in April 2011.

3. In addition, the ASEAN defence and military meetings, which included the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force Informal Meeting (ACDFIM), ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM), ASEAN Navy Chief Meeting (ANCM), ASEAN Air Force Chiefs Conference (AACC) as well as the ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM), have gathered momentum in the last few years with the conduct of more activities to promote cooperation amongst ASEAN militaries. The ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM) and ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference (ACMMC) were also established in 2011.

4. The evolution of the ADMM, the ADMM-Plus as well as the ASEAN military meetings has necessitated a refinement and clarification of working mechanisms and procedures. This will ensure that ASEAN continues to remain at the centre as the various fora grow and as we engage our friends and Dialogue Partners. The following areas need to be addressed, and should be read together with previously adopted concept papers on the ADMM and ADMM-Plus:

   a. The working processes of ADMM and related meetings.

   b. The relationship between the ADMM and ASEAN defence related meetings.

   c. The relationship between the ADMM and its external partners.
d. The participation of non-military/defence and non-governmental organisations in ADMM-Plus activities.

e. The participation of non-ADMM-Plus countries in ADMM-Plus activities.

f. The numbering of EWG activities.

**Working Mechanisms and Procedures**

5. Initiatives or events that are to carry the ADMM or ADMM-Plus label shall (a) strictly abide by existing formats of participation and (b) seek approval through due processes, as follows:

a. **Formats of Participation:**

i. ADMM/ASEAN activities will involve only ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

ii. ADMM-Plus activities will involve ASEAN Member States, the eight Plus countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. There is no other endorsed format of external engagement. All deviations will have to seek the ADMM’s approval through the ADSOM.

iii. Applications to participate in the ADMM-Plus shall be submitted to the Chair of the ADMM who will then consult the other members of the ADMM.

iv. ASEAN military meetings will involve only ASEAN Member States. They do not have external relations with ASEAN’s friends and Dialogue Partners at this juncture.

b. **Approval Processes:**

i. ADSOM is tasked by the ADMM to facilitate the work of the ADMM. ADSOM is the main coordinating mechanism for the different defence and military interactions. All proposals and initiatives intended for under the ambit of the ADMM shall first be discussed and considered by the ADSOM Working Group and ADSOM, before submitting it to the ADMM for adoption.

ii. ADSOM-Plus is the key mechanism to carry out activities of cooperation within the framework of the ADMM-Plus under the decisions and directions of the ADMM-Plus and to take preparations for the contents as well as the activities of the ADMM-Plus. In line with the principle of ASEAN centrality, all new proposals and initiatives of the ADMM-Plus shall be discussed and considered by ASEAN member states before being considered by the ADSOM-Plus Working Group and ADSOM-Plus.
iii. Activities conducted under the ambit of the EWGs can be surfaced for consideration through the EWG Work plans which are approved by ADSOM-Plus.

iv. Any other ad-hoc activities held under the ADMM or ADMM-Plus banner shall seek the ADMM’s or ADMM-Plus’ approval through ADSOM or ADSOM-Plus.

Relationship with ASEAN Military Meetings

6. The Concept Papers adopted in 2006 and 2007 noted that the ADMM is at the apex of all defence-related meetings within the ASEAN framework. All ASEAN defence and military meetings and cooperation, including the ACDFIM, ACAMM, ANCM, AACC, AMIIM, AMOIM and ACMMC shall be convened under the purview of the ADMM. The progress of the ASEAN military meetings is reported to the ADMM through the ACDFIM.

7. To ensure alignment in goals and objectives, it is important for ASEAN military meetings to consult the ADMM on major issues, such as its external engagement with ASEAN’s friends and Dialogue Partners. This will ensure a considered and consistent policy decision across all ASEAN military meetings.

Engaging ASEAN's Friends and Dialogue Partners

8. The ADMM-Plus is the primary platform for the ADMM’s external engagement. The broad-based configuration of the ADMM+8 facilitates greater openness and transparency as well as a balanced representation of views, which is necessary for us to effectively address the range of complex and transnational security issues. At the 7th ADMM in Brunei in 2013, the ADMM stressed the importance to consolidate and build on the initial success of the ADMM-Plus. The issue of expansion of the ADMM-Plus could be considered at a later stage.

9. The ADMM also recognises that ASEAN’s friends and Dialogue Partners are keen to engage the ADMM and to deepen relations with the ADMM. Several Plus countries have commenced separate engagements with the ADMM. The ADMM agreed at the ADMM Retreat in Brunei in August 2013 that the ADMM-Plus is the ADMM’s main platform of external engagement. Therefore, all engagement of individual Plus countries shall be kept informal as multiple ADMM+1s could lead to a proliferation of meetings with separate agenda. It would also reduce the overall transparency of the ADMM-Plus, thereby limiting opportunities for open dialogue and mutual consultation between countries.

Participation in ADMM-Plus Activities

10. The first cycle of the EWGs from 2011 to 2014 saw the participation of non-military/defence government agencies, non-governmental organisations and international organisations given that the EWGs addressed non-traditional and transnational security challenges that cut across sectoral bodies. The Co-Chairs of the EWGs shall have the flexibility to determine if the participation of non-military/defence government agencies, non-governmental organisations and
international organisations would benefit the EWGs. However, it is important to bear in mind that the purpose of the EWGs as encapsulated in the *Concept Paper on Establishing an Experts’ Working Group* is to promote cooperation between defence and armed forces within the ADMM-Plus in the area of mutual interests. Where possible, non-military/defence government agencies, non-governmental organisations and international organisations can be invited if they are able to enrich the discussions of the EWGs. However, it is preferred that participation in exercises and training conducted by the EWGs are limited to the defence sectoral bodies to promote military-to-military cooperation and enhance interoperability.

**Numbering of EWG Activities**

11. The first cycle of EWGs has concluded their tenure and the second cycle would commence following ADSOM-Plus’ adoption of the work plans in April 2014. The number of EWG activities for each new cycle, following the transition of co-chairmanships, shall be based on the work plans that were adopted by ADSOM-Plus. In line with ASEAN’s practice, the numbering of EWG meetings shall continue from the previous cycle.

**Conclusion**

12. The ADMM and ADMM-Plus are important components of the regional security architecture. These fora allow the ADMM to enhance cooperation within ASEAN, and to work with the Plus countries to build capacity to meet the non-traditional and transnational security challenges in the changing strategic environment.

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