1. The Third ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (3rd ADMM-Plus) was held on 4 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by Dato' Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia. The meeting was the final event organised by Malaysia as the ADMM Chair before handing over the chairmanship to Lao PDR.

2. The Meeting was attended by the 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.

Report of Recent Developments in ASEAN by ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General

3. The Meeting was first presented with the recent developments in ASEAN by the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, H.E. Hirubalan VP. The Meeting listened on the progress of the cooperation under ASEAN across different ASEAN Community 2015’s pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
(ASCC). The meeting commended the initiatives executed by ASEAN under these pillars which underscored the growing importance of the region and the need to deepen cooperation for the mutual benefit of ASEAN and its partners.

4. The Meeting noted the various activities undertaken under the ADMM platforms such as the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network, Logistics Support Frameworks, Direct Communications Link, ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration, ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine. These initiatives took into regard what is important to this region and in themselves, are opportunities to bring the existing cooperation to another level.

**Briefing on the Progress of the ADMM-Plus by ADSOM-Plus Chairman**

5. Next, the Meeting was briefed on the progress of the ADMM-Plus by Dato’ Sri Abdul Rahim bin Mohamad Radzi, ADSOM-Plus Chairman and Malaysia’s Secretary General, Ministry of Defence Malaysia. The progress of the six Expert Working Groups (EWGs), namely humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security (MS), military medicine (MM), counter-terrorism (CT), humanitarian mine action (HMA) and peacekeeping operations (PKO) was presented to the Meeting.

6. The Meeting noted the persisting threat and the vulnerability of this region to the natural disasters and the opportunity for more coordinated cooperation especially among the Member States. Malaysia thanks the Member States for their support and the commitment pledged to establish the implementing mechanisms for the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR.

7. The meeting noted the various activities carried out and planned in 2015 under the EWGs, such as seminars, workshops, exercises, and conferences. The Meeting commended the developments and initiatives under the EWGs and also encouraged for more activities to be conducted in the future. The meeting expressed its gratitude to the Dialogue Partners for their cooperation and contributions under the EWGs.
Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security and Defence Issues

8. Members of the Meeting then exchanged views on regional and international security and defence issues. Some of the main focus topics during the exchange of views were on maritime security, the proliferation of terrorist groups especially the Islamic State, cyber security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

9. The meeting noted the joint efforts of the ADMM-Plus countries in promoting practical cooperation and collaboration on maritime security. The Meeting also noted the importance of the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), in order to build mutual trust and confidence and maintain peace, security, and stability in the region.

10. The Meeting also took note of the developments happening in Syria where the protracted conflict is triggering a humanitarian catastrophe causing an exodus of refugees to the neighbouring countries and Europe. Some member countries also expressed concerns on the escalation of tension in the Korean Peninsula and pushed for peaceful conflict resolution through diplomatic means.

11. The Meeting agreed that cooperation within ASEAN and with its dialogue partners are necessary in order to address these issues, especially through the ADMM-Plus framework.

12. The meeting also agreed that there is a need to intensify efforts at realising an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible in order to take advantage of current and future opportunities and to equip the region with the necessary capabilities to respond effectively to regional and global issues.

13. Due to the growing complexity of regional and international security challenges, the Meeting recognised that ASEAN must continue to engage with external partners through various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ADMM-Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) while maintaining ASEAN centrality.
14. The Meeting also commended various initiatives carried out under the ARF mechanism such as the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) held from 24 to 28 May 2015 in the states of Kedah and Perlis, Malaysia, jointly organised by Malaysia and China. This year, Malaysia also conducted the ARF Defence Officials’ Dialogue (ARF DOD) and ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) held in Kuching, Malaysia last June, among other various ARF activities held throughout 2015.

**Hand Over Ceremony of ADMM Chairmanship to Lao PDR**

15. The Hand Over Ceremony of ADMM Chairmanship from Malaysia to Lao PDR took place after the 3rd ADMM-Plus meeting. In the Hand Over speech, the Minister of Defence Malaysia reflected the achievements of the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus and congratulated Lao PDR for becoming the next ADMM Chair. He encouraged all ASEAN Member States to unite and support Lao PDR in carrying out its responsibilities as the incoming Chair while maintaining ASEAN Centrality.